



GASLIGHT NEWS

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF RIVERTON, INC.

Riverton, N. J. 08077

Feb. - April, 1979

No. 3

February meeting.....

Monday, February 12 8 p.m. Riverton Public School

"Archaeology--What does it have to contribute to local history?"

Richard S. White, archaeologist

We've crossed our fingers that the weather will cooperate, and have scheduled an "extra" meeting that should be a most interesting one.

Richard S. White is the archaeologist for the City of Burlington, and has built up a large collection of slides from his work in many places. He'll bring some of them, and talk about how a dig is made and some of the things that can be learned from one.

After studying at the University of Arizona and Temple University, Mr. White worked in Arizona, Mexico, and Panama, as well as in New Jersey. In Mexico he spent two years as archaeologist for the Mexican government, and his geographic specialty is the Northwestern part of that country. He has had a number of papers published on his work.

Listening to him talk, it is readily apparent that Mr. White loves his work and enjoys talking about it. Come and enjoy a fine program.

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Survey

Work on our survey of Riverton is progressing well. Survey sheets continue to come in and to bring with them delightful bits of our local history. Today about 538 buildings have been recorded, of which 90 were built before 1899. Of these, 48 were built prior to 1875; and of those 48, 5 were before 1850.

There are more buildings to be done, more reports to be written up, and more information gathered--or clarified--on a number of them.

Bill McCrea, from Trenton, and Keith Betten, from Burlington Co., have looked over what has been done to date, and have said nice things about what we are doing, and the way in which we are going about it.

There is a lot yet to be done, but once it is, we will have accomp-

lished something of lasting value.

In December Bill McCrea spoke before our Borough Council on Historic Site Registration, and answered questions put to him. We were pleased to have about a dozen citizens attend, on short notice and so close to the Holidays. Council had invited individuals known to feel negatively about it, but none attended.

Where do we go from here? Well, when all survey sheets are completed, the Nomination form has to be written. Some of the forms are accompanied by fine photographs; other homes will be photographed by Bill McCrea in late March, before foliage makes a clear shot difficult. When the Nomination is completely written, it will be available for public scrutiny for 30 days, after which there will be a public meeting, and then it will be submitted for consideration for State--and then for National--recognition. The State Dept. of Historic Preservation will take care of this latter part--our part is to get that information all gathered and together.

A large "thank you" is due every person who has--and is--helping with this project--workers gathering information, homeowners sharing it, individuals and organizations making records available for research, and photographers (hobbyists) taking and donating pictures.

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Film

Any individual or organization wishing to make a donation to the cost of preserving this record of Riverton in 1926 may contact Harold Zayotti, who is heading a committee to fund the project, or may send a check to Nell Layton, treasurer. It should be marked for this fund, and would be gratefully accepted!

Mark on your calendar today the Doll House Show, which will be held on May 18 and 19 at The Porch Club. The proceeds from it will be donated toward saving this film record.

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Gaslights

Did you see the article in the Jan-Feb issue of The County Bell about Riverton's success in saving the gas lights? And isn't it good to know that we'll be able to continue to enjoy them in our town?

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Reminders

The Historical Society will have 2 more meetings this season:
Monday, March 12, 8 p.m.--a Parade of Fashions of the Past
at Riverton Porch Club; Outfits from our collection, with
original commentaryLenore Probsting, with Ella May Moore
assisting.

May 14--Annual Meeting (slides/talk, on Burlington county)

It is important to attend this meeting, when new Board members are elected, from which Officers are selected for the coming year.

An organization can only be effective if its members and both interested and active. If you would like to serve on the Board, on a committee, or have ideas for helping in any other way, please let us know. Alice Meyers, secretary, is easy to find at the Library--and would be happy to pass along your offers or suggestions.

It's far more fun to be involved and helping than sitting by and watching!

Membership: Dues are modest--\$2.00 per year, or \$1.00 for senior citizens. New members are always welcome. If you have overlooked renewing your membership for this year, please do it now. We're a small group, and we need the support of each one!

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Odds 'n Ends...

Back in 1899 it was 2¢ an ounce for 1st class mail, which was described as letters sealed or unsealed, or any material sealed, nailed, sewed, tied, or fastened in any manner so it cannot be easily examined..... (Gen. Information, pub. 1899 by the Trade)

In 1909 Ada Price advertised fine factory sites on the Pompass canal..a fine location for wharfs...

When Riverton was founded, popular songs were Pop Goes the Weasel, Polly Wolly Doodle, and Listen to the Mocking Bird...

In 1913 55% of Burlington county was farms, with an average size of each, 120 acres. 90% of these were run by "native born Americans." (1913 Farm Journal, Burl. Co. Directory)

Check your "County Bell" for scheduled programs in February...

In 1888 "Receipt Book" of Wm. F. Morgan ... "The Great Blizzard occurred March 12th 1888." (added) "The second occurred Feb. 12 and 13th 1899. It snowed for 52 hours."

...".Cure for Frosted feet--Hydrochloric Acid, $\frac{1}{2}$ fluid ounce, Salt Water, 3 fluid ounces. Apply with a sponge two or three times a day; the cure is certain."

Enrolled in Riverton School (4th & Howard Sts) in 1876/77 were: Sallie and Annie Bishop; Fannie, Lillie and Lizzie Corner; Martha Cheeseman, Annie and Katie Burns; Willie and Millie Slim; Hannah McIlhenny and Mary Faunce. Ten years later found Fred Hemphill, Florence Gest, John Quigley, Robert Farrow, and 2 Hullings' attending, among the 75 children registered that year.

Author unknown.

Betty B. Mahle, ed.

Mrs. M. S. L.