

The Courier

SEPTEMBER 2008

VOL. 43, NO. 4

A quarterly publication of the Manchester Historical Society, Inc. / 106 Hartford Road / Manchester, Connecticut 06040 / (860) 647-9983

No Pane, No Gain

WINDOW RESTORATION DRIVE OFF TO A GOOD START

by Anne Beechler

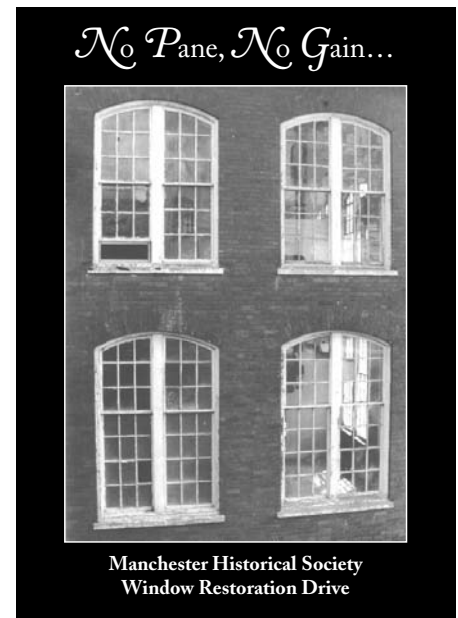
The Historical Society launched its *No Pane, No Gain* windows restoration drive in early May. Since that time, contributions of \$21,445 have been made by 64 donors. Of these donations, 22 have been given in memory of or in honor of designated individuals. (Of note, 5 donations were made by out-of-state members.)

At the Pane in the Sash Level, there were 78 donations while 5 donations were made at the Clinking -Glass Level.

The Windows Restoration Drive is being conducted to supplement the Historic Restoration Fund grant awarded recently to the Society by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. While the grant seems substantial, it will not cover the entire expense of restoring the 168 window openings on the History

Center building. The Society needs the help of individuals as well as businesses and corporations to update the History Center by restoring its windows to improve its appearance in the Cheney Brothers National Landmark Historic District.

The Society's "No Pane, No Gain" Window Restoration Drive gives you the chance to leave your own mark—or as a memorial—on what will be a vital and long-lasting cultural and educational resource. If you have already contributed, we thank you! If you wish to make another contribution, we'll again thank you! If you know of others who would like to see the History Center on Pine Street refurbished by this window restoration, please encourage them to make a donation.



For more information, or to arrange an appointment to visit the History Center, please call 860-647-9983.

You can use the form on the last page of the newsletter to mail in your donation.

DISAPPEARING MANCHESTER

City of Village Charm

by Eileen Jacobs Sweeney

A number of Manchester Historical Society members and local residents have expressed concern regarding the rapid rate of demolition notices targeting local residences, commercial buildings, and public structures throughout our community. In the mid-1960s, a relatively small group of like-minded Manchester citizens joined forces in an attempt to save a local historic property from the wrecking ball. The unsuccessful effort to save the Timothy Cheney house on East Center Street was the

impetus to form a local historical society. These tenacious individuals looked to the future and in 1965 established our town's Historical Society with the purpose of preserving the best of Manchester's past for generations to come.

Over 40 years later, numerous private and public structures of historic significance remain threatened while far too many others have disappeared, continuing to erode Manchester's valued

See **DISAPPEARING**, page 2

From the President

by John Dormer

The Society has been quite busy since the last issue of the *Courier*.

Special events, walking tours, new exhibits at the Old Manchester Museum, investigations of old buildings scheduled for demolition, and work at the Woodbridge Farmstead and at the Cheney Homestead have kept the volunteers and our Preservation Services Officer, Eileen Sweeney, very busy over the summer.

As I review the Society's finances for the 2008 fiscal year, October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008, the outlook is good. We were able to reduce natural gas consumption at the History Center, thanks to the new roof with insulation. Careful attention to operation of the heating and cooling systems in the History Center and in other properties allowed us to contain the utility expenses. The fact that we did not have a paid Executive Director for the 2008 fiscal year is the reason we were able to finish the year with income slightly higher than expenses.

The coming fiscal year will be more difficult for the Society because of the challenging economic climate.

The Board of Directors has discussed ways to increase income to meet the expected increase in operational costs. Increasing membership dues was discussed but was eventually discarded as a way to increase revenue. There will, however, be a change in the dues structure starting October 1, 2008. The Society will no longer offer two (2) year memberships in any of the membership categories. This will provide a more even income stream and with careful attention to expenditures, I am confident that we will complete fiscal year 2009 in good condition.

The past year has been financially successful because of the generosity of our members in response to the Annual Fund, participating in events such as tag/book sales, wreath sales, and special fund raising drives such as the *No Pane, No Gain* window restoration drive currently in progress. I want to thank all of our members for helping the Society to function and prosper. Help us to "preserve the best of times".

Olds-Olmstead house (c. 1776) at 669 Tolland Turnpike (home of John Olds, known as "The Father of Manchester"). Some properties include barns and out-buildings that help recall the town's agricultural and rural beginnings.

Action must be taken before it is too late to preserve historic assets. Without such efforts, townspeople must come to terms with losing resources that greatly contribute to the quality of life and economic vitality of Manchester. The historic fabric created by long-established neighborhoods, retail, commercial, and service businesses, and attractive thoroughfares defines a community's "sense of place." With expertise and ingenuity countless uses for older buildings can be identified—minimizing tax dollar waste and supporting environmentally wise decisions. Integrating unique, existing architectural design and craftsmanship into new projects sustains our cultural heritage. Existing only in memory is Depot Square of North Manchester, a village unto itself and a source of fond recollections for Manchester residents. Without doubt, there are additional examples of tangible treasures that have been removed from the town's landscape.

With thoughtful advocacy, citizens can take steps to preserve older buildings. A case in point is the Bennet Academy, a local landmark that barely escaped planned demolition and survives as a noted anchor linking Manchester's historic downtown and landmark silk mill district. Originally called "Educational Square," this complex of stately public buildings was constructed between 1914 and 1917 and is now a community resource and a source of pride due to coordinated efforts of the Cheney Brothers National Historic District Commission and The Manchester Historical Society. The Society offers preservation services and can act as a liaison for owners of older residential or commercial properties seeking broader sources of assistance. Towns and cities can access funds for saving older buildings by applying for a Certified Local Government designation or Preserve America Community status via state and federal preservation initiatives strengthened by recent legislation.

The Courier

*A newsletter of the
Manchester Historical Society*

Web page: manchesterhistory.org

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Design & Printing: Grames Printing, Inc.

DISAPPEARING, from page 1

"village charm" atmosphere. Among them, regrettably lost forever, are an 1846 cottage version of the Greek Revival style house and barn at 201 Main Street; an 1886 Vernacular style house at 179 Main Street; an 1847 Italianate residence (this had been a "rare survivor from the pre-Cheney period in Manchester") with a cash box addition; five post-war 1920s to 1940s Cape Cod-style homes lining West Middle Turnpike; a 1942 Cape Cod house at 55 Russell Street; a 1924 duplex at 51-53 Russell Street; the 1930s-era Midland Apartments at 295-299 Main Street; and a 1930s-era apartment/medical building on Haynes Street. Applications have been filed for planned demolitions of the Bentley School at 57 Hollister Street (1923 Centennial School), as well as the

Thanks to Our Benefactors/Donors

SEVERAL COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GIVEN SIGNIFICANT HELP TO THE SOCIETY

In the last several months, many companies and organizations have given significant help to the Society through the donation of products, material and money. The Society is extremely grateful to these groups and their members for their thoughtful support of our organization. We would like to recognize the following organizations and thank them for their donations.

Beauregard Corporation

Partition walls for the new museum store

Buick Club of America, Yankee Chapter

Monetary donation from All Buick Car Show
(at Lynch Motors, 8/23/08)

Christian Science Church

Folding chairs, tables, signs, flags, church pew, and other items

FMI Paint Corporation

Paint for Eagle Scout project, used for the preparation of artifact storage area

Grames Printing, Inc.

Design and printing of the *No Pane, No Gain* brochure for the Window Restoration Project

Manchester Fire Dept. 8th Utilities District

Monetary donation from their Peach Festival and Auto Raffle

Royal Ice Cream

Donation of the Royal Wishes sold by the Society at the Cruisin' on Main auto show

Town of Manchester

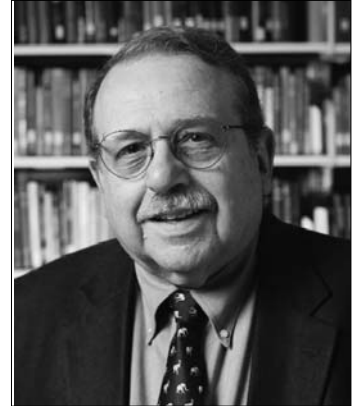
Guidance and help with various maintenance and rehabilitation projects on Society properties.

Lecture on History of UConn

OCTOBER 12, 2008

by Susan Barlow

Bruce Stave will speak about the history of UConn at the History Center, 175 Pine Street, at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 12. Professor Stave wrote "Red Brick in the Land of Steady Habits," the story of the small agricultural college begun in 1881 that became the University of Connecticut. The book was published in connection with UConn's 125th anniversary.



Professor Stave was chair of the UConn Department of History for nine years. He was editor of *The Oral History Review*—the journal of the Oral History Association—from 1996 to 1999, currently serves on its Editorial Board, and is associate editor of the *Journal of Urban History*. He served as a Fulbright Professor in India, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the People's Republic of China as well as lecturing in more than a dozen other nations. He wrote "Urban Bosses, Machines, and Progressive Reformers," and several other books. He and John Sutherland collaborated on "Talking about Connecticut: Oral History in the Nutmeg State," a how-to book on conducting oral history projects.

A local connection to the history of UConn was Manchester's own J. B. Olcott (1830-1910). He served on the committee that reported favorably on establishing a school of agriculture in Storrs. In 1881, Mr. Olcott became a member of the first Board of Trustees of Storrs Agricultural School.

The program is open to the public. Cost is \$3 for non-members, \$1 for members, and free for children under 16. Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available along Pleasant Street and in the small lot to the north of the History Center.

The Beginning of the 'Town of Manchester Fire Department'

by Doug Welch

This is the first of a two-part article.

Originally there were several small villages within Manchester's boundaries and their increasing growth created a need for, among other things, schools. In 1751, "Five Miles" (the area we now know as Manchester) was divided up into five school districts which laid taxes, built school buildings, and hired teachers. As the population grew, more school districts were added. An 1849 map of Manchester shows eight school districts and by 1859 there were nine districts.

At the turn of the century, Manchester's early villages had been absorbed into essentially two separate towns, North Manchester (commonly known as Manchester) and South Manchester. There was even an attempt in 1891 to have the State Legislature proclaim North Manchester a separate borough, but the move failed.

The Eighth School District encompassed most of North Manchester. Following two disastrous fires around "Depot

See **FIRE DEPT.**, page 7

Welcome New Members!

The Society welcomes the following new members who joined between January 11 and August 25, 2008.

From Manchester:

Peggy Ann Boivin	Jeanine McConnell
Mr & Mrs Richard Borden	Marie Mieses
Joan Clapp	Joan C. Pavano
Audrey Cross	Christopher Poulin
Peg DeForge	John Roberts
Marles Deveau	Walter Scadden
Susan A. DeSousa	Lynn & John Sloan
Jennifer DiMauio	Jason Stanizzi
Carol Jensen & Jeffrey Keel	Jonathan Stanizzi
Doris Kennedy	Diane Swanson
John Long	Margaret Wasilieff

From Elsewhere:

Linda Pearson Adams	Lockport, NY
Marion G. Anderson	East Hartford, CT
Paul Barrett	Essex, CT
Michelle Brewer	East Hartford, CT
Lloyd Davidson	Largo, FL
Laurence M. Ford	Redding Center, CT
Joseph F. Greene	Glastonbury, CT
Joan Hallberg	East Hartford, CT
Brenda Hanrahan	Wilton, CT
John Hardin	East Hartford, CT
Donna Indomenico	South Windsor, CT
Very Rev. Charles B. Johnson	Bloomfield, CT
Lynn Coda-Klein	Glastonbury, CT
Joseph P. McCluskey	New York, NY
Robert McCluskey	Ridgewood, NY
Earl J. Parent	Vernon, CT
Brett Swanson	Mooretown, VT
Imogene Toner	Bolton, CT

Visit to the Old Bon Ami Soap Factory

by Susan Barlow

About 30 participants enjoyed a lively presentation about the Hilliard Street structures that housed an electric plant and later the Orford Soap company, makers of Bon Ami products. Bob Bell, owner since the 1980s, describes the old days and the challenges of reusing old buildings. The Manchester Historical Society sponsored this walk on August 9. The two-hour event also included a walk up Regent Street, with commentary about Iona Manufacturing Company, maker of blenders, food mixers, and motors for small appliances. Future walks and events are posted at the Historical Society's web site: www.manchesterhistory.org.

Preserving a 250-Year-Old Barn

by Dave Smith

The Society was recently awarded a grant by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation's Barn Grant program to study the older of the two barns on the Woodbridge Farmstead. According to Todd Levine of CTHP, the Trust awarded 22 grants throughout the State of Connecticut with the aim of preserving historic barns and outbuildings.

Manchester Historical Society hopes to use the barn and the Woodbridge Farmstead to preserve Manchester's agricultural history and to educate the public about this important period in our town's history. Agriculture was the basis of our economy for many generations from the colonial period well into the beginning of the industrial revolution. Now there is very little in Manchester which epitomizes this era of farming and rural living.

The two-part grant enables the Society to engage a consultant to study the structure and condition of the barn and to assess what is needed to preserve it for future generations. It also provides for studying the feasibility of converting the barn to a museum or venue to showcase the many pieces of agricultural equipment the Society owns. Crosskey Architects of Hartford has been engaged to carry out the work, which will be completed this fall.

The Woodbridge barn is the oldest of the 22 barns receiving funding, and retains many of the features of its early construction, which has been estimated to have been in the last half of the 18th century. It is also the site of some interesting history unrelated to the Woodbridge Farm.

In the 1840s James B. Williams made shaving soap in a small building attached to the barn. He sold the soap at the store on the corner of Woodbridge St. and East Middle Tpke., where Papa Joe's Pizza now stands. Yankee Shaving Soap became very popular and Williams moved to larger facilities in Glastonbury. The ~~J. B. Williams company still exists and sells well-known products such as Aqua Velva and Brylcreem.~~

ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2008

The Annual Meeting of the Manchester Historical Society will be held on Sunday October 19, 2008 at 1:00 PM at the History Center, 175 Pine St. Manchester, CT. All members of the Society are welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a presentation by John Spaulding on Tthe Miracle Workers, a recruiting book published by Cheney Brothers in several foreign languages to attract workers from Europe to Manchester.

Roll the Presses!

Part-Time Job Becomes a Successful Second-Generation Business

“The thing we’re proudest of” says president Mark Grames “is that we have customers who have been doing business with us since my father first started printing in Connecticut over thirty years ago.”

The story of Grames Printing dates back to Ohio in 1965. At the time Mark’s dad, Howard Grames, was working in a department store looking for a way to earn extra money to pay his way through college. Thinking back to his part-time high school job working in the print shop of a weekly newspaper, he purchased a small, hand-operated table-top press and began printing and selling envelopes.

The press helped Howard earn the money he needed to complete college. Following graduation, he continued working for the department store and rose through the ranks—eventually becoming a manager. After several years, the company transferred him to Connecticut and he brought the press with him.

In 1976, Howard left his job in retail and started a full-time printing business. At first he worked from the basement of his home in Manchester, but before long the basement wasn’t big enough and he moved into a second floor space in the building at the corner of East Middle Turnpike and Woodbridge Street. Within a few months Mark joined his father and learned to run the presses. The business continued to grow.

In 1979 they moved to a larger space on Purnell Place and four years later to an even larger location on Hartford Road. By this time several other family members, along with some full and part-time employees, were working in the business.

Mark’s wife Cathy joined them in 1986 and has worked with Mark ever since. After five years on Hartford Road, the business moved again to Woodland Street. With each move, they continued to grow and their loyal customers continued to follow them.

In 1996, after twenty years in business, their long-term goal of owning their own building became a reality. They purchased the former Pinewood Furniture building at the corner of East Center and Parker Streets. The building has retail and production space on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor. Howard retired from the business in 1992, and he and his wife live in the apartment upstairs where he still “keeps an eye on things.” He is even occasionally “forced” out of retirement to help out with big projects.



Howard Grames standing in front of the first copier in downtown Manchester, located in his shop on Purnell Place. (c. 1979)

Mark and Cathy are proud to be running the business that started with just a small, hand-operated press. In over thirty years they have seen many changes but the one constant has been their customers. They believe the key to their success has been providing high-quality work and personalized customer service. Technology has brought about tremendous changes but they have kept up with it all—going from the days of typesetting, darkrooms and light tables to desktop publishing, networking, digital printing and high-end graphic design.

Their business started in Manchester and has grown to include customers throughout Connecticut, New England and as far away as Ohio, Florida, and even Scotland.

The business that began with a little 5 x 8 inch press continues to flourish. Mark and Cathy recently purchased a small press like the one Howard had years ago and it’s on display in their shop—a reminder of how it all started. It sits just a few feet away from a new state-of-the-art digital press that now produces much of their work, including *The Courier*.

Grames Printing is located at 379 East Center Street and is open Monday through Thursday 8:30-5:00 and Friday 8:30-3:00. You can contact Mark or Cathy at 643-6669.

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Society

by Dave Smith

Eagle Scout candidate Kevin Fisher of Manchester Troop 123 recently completed a project which will benefit the historical society for years to come. The project consisted of sprucing up one of the storage rooms on the ground floor in the History Center building and constructing new racks for storage of artifacts.

Kevin, a senior at Manchester High School, came to us several months ago asking if we had a need for help and at the same time provide him with an opportunity to carry out work and qualify for his Eagle Scout rank. After some consultation it was decided to fix up a room dedicated to storage of artifacts and to provide new shelving.

After consulting with us, Kevin planned the work to be done and estimated the materials that would be needed. He organized a team of workers consisting of fellow scouts and some family members. Over the course of several weekends the team cleaned, prepared and painted the walls in the storage room, and received a donation of paint from FMI Paint Corporation of Manchester.

The final phase was the purchase of wood for the new shelves, and their construction. To finance the purchase of materials, Kevin organized a fund raising dinner which was held at the Community Baptist Church. Some 80 people attended, thereby ensuring there would be enough money to complete the project.

In August, shortly before leaving for college Kevin was awarded his Eagle Scout rank. The Society is very appreciative of the efforts that went into this project and its successful outcome, and especially thank Kevin, his supporters, and FMI Paint Corp. for a job well done.

Special History Walk Saturday, October 11th

LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS

Enjoy a very special Cheney district walk, including a spiritualism talk at the Cheney Homestead, a walk across the Great Lawn, and a visit to a restored Cheney mansion. We will see a room or two of this large and handsome house, and return to the Homestead for light refreshments. The event is a fundraiser for the Cheney Homestead heating-and-air-conditioning project. We are offering this tour to members at this time, and limiting the tour to 20 participants. The cost is \$16 for members, \$20 non-members, children over 12 are welcome at the same price as adults. The walking, which includes uphill and down, will cover about two miles. Please send your check, payable to the Manchester Historical Society, to 106 Hartford Road, Manchester CT 06040. Please put Cheney Homestead tour in the memo line. Questions may be directed to the Society at 860-647-9983 or to tour leader Susan Barlow at 860-643-9776.

Your Historical Society “Out and About”

by Susan Barlow

We have had so many invitations to talk about Manchester’s history! We recently made presentations at Orford Village Commons, the Senior Center, and the Rotary Club.

The folks who live at Orford Village Commons were curious about “Orford Parish,” an important name in our town’s history, and the director of the facility asked us to come and talk about it. Susan Barlow and John Spaulding brought a slide show about the “Pre-History” of Manchester, that is the history before 1823, when we actually became a town. The residents were enthusiastic about the show.

At the Senior Center, Susan, John, and Brenda Paullo presented a series of four photo-shows about aspects of Manchester’s history, including an hour-long story about our recently published booklet of E.L. Bidwell’s memoirs (available in the gift shop).

The Rotary Club heard about our own history—the story of how our Historical Society got started, and the work that we do. One of the topics in this after-dinner presentation was our program of tours for third-grade students, and several Rotarians remembered taking those tours. One member brought her daughter, a third grade student who enjoyed this year’s tour.



This year’s tours for third grade students included the opportunity to vote for President of the United States. Society Curator Dave Smith explains how to use the antique voting machine.

If you went to Heritage Day or Cruisin’ on Main, you would have seen us and our Historical Society booth.

These activities help publicize our mission and activities. Of course, we also sponsor our own events—walking tours, lectures, exhibits, etc. Find out more at www.manchesterhistory.org.

We Will Miss...

The Society regrets the passing of **Olga Sullivan** who passed away in August. Olga, a longtime member, grew up on her family’s farm on Gardner Street (recently restored by her good friends Cindy and Fred Lea). She enjoyed history and visited many museums and antique shows over the years.

FIRE DEPT., *from page 3*

Square” in 1889, a fire department was formed within this district. At the same time, the privately owned Manchester Water Company came into existence, promising to provide hydrants for fire protection in the Eighth School District. The Manchester Sanitary and Sewer District was set up in 1904 to provide sewers to North Manchester. In 1917, the ‘Eighth School and Utilities District’ was chartered by the legislature and took control of the fire department, the schools and the sewers. The water department remained privately owned.

The Cheney Brothers organized the South Manchester Water Company and went about building the Porter and Howard reservoirs in South Manchester in 1889. The South Manchester Sanitary and Sewer District was also incorporated in 1889 by ten members of the Cheney family. A fire department was organized in 1897 by a group of Main Street businessmen following their own disastrous fire. The boundaries of the new South Manchester Fire District were laid out to include a majority of the population. The Fire District included all of the large Ninth School District.

In 1932, Manchester’s school districts were consolidated under the Town of Manchester. The assets of these districts were turned over to the town and the school districts ceased to exist. The Eighth School and Utilities District, however, retained control of the fire department and their sewer department, supported by their own taxing authority. (The word “School” was dropped from the Eighth Utilities District’s name in 1963.) The South Manchester Fire District also continued to operate as a separate entity with the authority to levy a tax.

It is difficult to imagine that into the mid-1950s, Manchester had fire district boundaries. Because they paid no fire tax, people living outside the boundaries of these fire districts were generally not provided with fire protection. The South Manchester Fire District and the Eighth Utilities District combined provided fire protection to only about 25% of the area of Manchester, although 90% of the property valuation was within these districts’

See **FIRE DEPT.**, page 8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, admission to all lectures and walking tours is \$1 for Manchester Historical Society members and \$3 for non-members. All lectures and events will take place at the Manchester History Center, 175 Pine Street, unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, September 13, 1 p.m.

“Old North End” history walk. Visit icons of the North End and learn about the lively village that had its own Downtown, railroad depot, post office, and opera house. Meet at the Community Rec Center, 80 North Main Street; go around to the “front” (south-facing side) of the building, overlooking the railroad tracks. Rain date Sunday, September 14 at 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 21, 1 p.m.

“Armchair Tour of Manchester” picture show. Take a tour of old Manchester – without leaving your chair. If you have wanted to go on some of the history walks and haven’t been able to, here’s an opportunity for you!

Saturday, September 27, 11 a.m.

Downtown history walk. View historic buildings dating from the turn of the last century. Meet at Bennet Apartments at the bottom of downtown Main Street. Members of the Manchester High School class of 1958 are especially welcome.

Saturday, October 11, 1 p.m.

History walk. Special fundraiser for Cheney Homestead air-conditioning and heating. Starts at the Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road, with a talk on spiritualism. Proceeds to the Great Lawn and Cheney mansions. \$16 per member, \$20 per non-member. (*See article, page 6.*)

Sunday, October 12, 1 p.m.

“History of UConn” talk by Bruce Stave. Professor Stave wrote “Red Brick in the Land of Steady Habits.” See article for details.

Sunday, October 19, 1 p.m.

Annual business meeting and program. Program featuring our latest publication—a facsimile edition of Cheney Brothers’ recruitment booklet “The Miracle Workers.” The booklet is for sale in our gift shops, \$15.00 each. *See article for details*

Saturday, November 8, 1 p.m.

FREE Cheney Railroad history walk. Hikers will have an easy, but bumpy, walk along the former railroad, built in 1869 to connect the Cheney silk mills to the main rail line in the North End. Meet behind Farr’s Sporting Goods, 2 Main Street. Park at the nearby shopping plaza or Eighth Utilities office building.

Sunday, November 16, 1 p.m.

“Manchester Road Race – Looking Back” : A panel of Road Race fans will talk about the famous Thanksgiving Day race over the years.

Friday, December 5, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Annual Wreath and Gift Festival and Social Evening.

Sunday, December 7, 1 to 4 p.m.

Annual Open House: FREE holiday open house of the Historical Society’s properties: Cheney Homestead, Keeney Schoolhouse, Manchester History Center, and the Old Manchester Museum.



The Manchester Historical Society
 106 Hartford Road
 Manchester, Connecticut 06040

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FIRE DEPT., *from page 7*

boundaries. People living within the districts paid a separate tax to their respective districts for fire protection. These taxes provided the operating budget for the fire departments.

A first step toward consolidation of the fire departments occurred on January 2, 1955. South Manchester Fire Department Hose and Ladder Company No. 1 had always benefited from their proximity to the vast Cheney Brothers' silk mill complex, but Cheney Brothers' was sold to the J. P. Stevens Company in 1954 and was divesting itself of much of its surplus property. The fire company owned all their own equipment and operated out of a fire station on Pine Street leased by the Fire District from Cheney Brothers' Silk Mills. Cheney Brothers' had historically advanced money to the Company to purchase their fire apparatus. The loans would then be repaid by the Hose and Ladder Company #1 Club through various fundraising events. Some of the SMFD fire fighters were even compensated by Cheney Brothers.

Under the agreement to consolidate Company #1 with the rest of Fire District, Cheney Brothers was reimbursed by the South Manchester Fire District for Company #1's obligations not yet paid off. The firm was paid rent for the fire station and Company #1 turned over all their holdings to the Fire District for the sum of one dollar. (The town eventually purchased the building.)

To be continued...

Information for this article was derived from:

1. "The History of Manchester Connecticut" (Mathias Spiess and Percy W. Bidwell, 1924).
2. "A New England Pattern; The History of Manchester Connecticut"(William E. Buckley, 1973).
3. Various articles from the "Manchester Evening Herald" newspaper.

YES! I want to help the Historical Society in its "No Pane, No Gain" window restoration drive. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

- Pane in the Sash Donor _____ @ \$50 ea.
- Half-Sash Donor _____ @ \$2,000 ea.
- Clinking-Glass Donor _____ @ \$3,500 ea.
- Memorial Donation in Honor of:

Name _____

Address _____

Donations may be made payable to the Manchester
 Historical Society
 and mailed to:
 No Pane, No Gain Drive
 Manchester Historical Society
 175 Pine Street
 Manchester, CT 06040