

February 1994

# STOW-INFO

## Newsletter of the Stow Historical Society



### RANDALL LIBRARY PLANS DAY-LONG CENTENNIAL FESTIVITIES ON FEBRUARY 22

Stow Historical Society will join forces with Randall Library at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 22, to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the library.

It was a bright wintry day exactly 100 years ago when Stow residents went by sleigh to Town Hall to dedicate the new red sandstone library building. According to newspaper accounts of that date: "The town of Stow rejoiced with honest pride in having a beautiful, convenient and commodious public library through the munificence of the late Dr. John Witt Randall."

At the evening program this month, the ceremony of a century ago will be re-created complete with patriotic music, speeches, and refreshments. After John Randall's death in 1892, his sister, Belinda Randall, gave the town of Stow \$25,000 to build a library in accordance with her brother's wishes. The Randalls lived in the home now the site of Stow Acres Country Club.

All Historical Society members are invited bring finger foods to the evening program. Members of the Historical Society will take part in this program.

### Historical Society to Present Check to Library 2nd Century Fund

At the evening program on February 22, the Historical Society will present a check for \$1,000 to the Randall Library Second Century Fund. This sum represents the proceeds from the sale of the Randall Library Centennial Calendar, published by the Stow Historical Society Publishing Company.

The historic calendar, detailing the history of the library and the Randalls, was developed by the Library's Centennial Calendar Committee with Barbara Sipler as editor. Copies of the calendar (sure to be a collector's item!) are available at the library at a cost of \$5.

### Mary Warren to be Honored at Afternoon Ceremony

At a program at 2:30 p.m. the same afternoon another ceremony will be held at the library to honor Mary Warren, former librarian and long-time Stow Historical Society member. The Children's Room at the library will be renamed "Mary F. Warren Children's Reading Room." She was librarian from 1963 to 1976.

A 1968 newspaper account states: "If Stow owes a debt of gratitude, it is to Mary Warren for creating a living library, geared to the growing needs of an alive community."

Historical Society members are urged to attend both ceremonies on this special date.



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY PLANS SERIES ON "COLLECTING AND COLLECTORS"

A series of meetings on "Collecting and Collectors" will begin in March. You name it, and someone collects it. There probably isn't an artifact known to man that isn't the object of someone's passion.

Collecting is a process that by definition provides some relationship with the past. And collectors are more often than not colorful people who know a great deal about at least one subject. The first meeting in March will give each one of us a chance to be that colorful person. Here's the calendar:

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 6 P.M.**--Meet for a potluck supper at Gibson's Amerscot House, West Acton Rd., and bring your collection or part of your collection for a show and tell time. Your collection is a very personal matter--sometimes strange, always in some way a source of pleasure. Bring a few pieces from your collection and give us a brief description.

Bring a salad, dessert, or bread. Tastings Caterers will provide the casserole and beverage. Call Patti Selin, 897-5357, by March 21 to let us know you are coming.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 P.M.**--Alan Kattelle, museum-style collector, historian, and well-known speaker at our meetings, will share his entertaining collection of Optical Toys and Amusements. Come and see what the imagination hath wrought. At Randall Library.

**THURSDAY, MAY 26, 7:30 P.M.**--If you want to know something about what's under your feet, Yankee Magazine says Melvin Longley of Shirley is the person to ask. He is the "The Man Who Loves Grass," and he will share his love of weeds and woods at the meeting. You'll have a new appreciation of nature's incredible bounty and meet a most delightful person. At Randall Library.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12**--Once again the society will join in the continuing centennial celebration sponsored by the library. At 2 p.m. the library is sponsoring a Concert on the Green, on the green at the Town Building--a beautiful site which slopes gently to a pond. Townspeople will be invited to bring blankets and a picnic lunch to enjoy while being serenaded by concert bands.

Preceding the concert the Historical Society and Historical Commission will offer tours of Stow Center, a walking tour to look at historic homes and buildings in the area surrounding the 100-year-old library. Jack Head, John Makey and Don Rising will be on hand to lead the short walks.

**THURSDAY, JULY 21, 5:30 P.M.**--The annual picnic will be held at Honey Pot Hill Orchard. It's the summer potluck picnic to be held in the barn where Dick Martin displays old tools from his father's collection. The topic, of course, will be "Tools." A telephone committee will call you about food.

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