

Wenonah Historical Society

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090-0032

Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 8 December 2004

A MESSAGE FROM VICE
PRESIDENT JACK SHEPPARD

Dear Members;

Wherever did the time go? Seems like yesterday was the start of 2004, our June picnic was last week and now we are almost into 2005.

Well the year isn't officially over for the Wenonah Historical Society until after we have our annual Christmas Party at the Community Center.

This year's event will take place on Friday December 10th and we are hoping for a good turnout to be with each other and to enjoy the cheerfulness of the holiday season.

Getting back to the swift passage of time I remind everyone that in January at our annual Reorganization Meeting we must choose a president to lead us along with a team of officers to assist in the endeavor. By the time you receive this newsletter the nominating committee will have met and selected a slate of individuals to recommend to you at that meeting. Hopefully it will have chosen members who are totally interested and capable of moving us forward in our role as historians for Wenonah. There is much to be done if we are to create a repository for historic memorabilia before it is lost forever and provide for its classification and proper storage.

We know there is much material held by members and others and realize everyone wants to be assured the materials will have a proper and secure home.

What is also very important the continuation of a relationship with Mayor Capaldi and the Borough administration that will provide for the proper care and maintenance of the railroad station Community

WHS OFFICERS 2004

Vice Pres.	Jack Sheppard Sr.
Secretary	Eileen Caraker
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Corr. Sec.	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Vicki McCall
Trustee	Macy Pedersen
Trustee	Lucy Schulz

Meetings second Friday of the month at the Wenonah Community Center except June, July and August

Center. The objective will be to create a system of care for the structure itself and suitable procedures for the use of the building.

It must be kept in mind at all times that the building is held in trust by the Borough for the use of all of Wenonah's citizens. However the historical society must be assured of primary responsibility inasmuch as the building will ultimately contain all of the records and artifacts of Wenonah's history and these items must be maintained securely at all

times, yet be available for viewing and study.

Quite a challenge but I am sure that with proper leadership we are up to the task.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Christmas get together.

DECEMBER 10TH CHRISTMAS MEETING

Our annual Christmas Party will be Friday December 10th at the Community Center. Wine and Cheese at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30. "Chef Bud" will cater it. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please bring a door prize (unwrapped). It will be helpful if you will RSVP to Betty MacLeod at 468-6981 or Lucy Schulz at 468-5392 before Friday Dec. 3rd.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

Saturday November 27th 2004 about 100 Wenonah residents gathered in Wenonah Park for the 2nd annual Christmas tree lighting and Cookie fest in the railroad station Community Center.

If only we had access to a time machine and were able to go back in time 100 years to the same two locations we might have seen a lot of similar activity in both the park and the station.

100 years ago in 1904 the Wenonah Military Academy opened its doors for the first time. Wouldn't it have been great to see?

Reagan Surgeon Raised In Wenonah

Gloucester County Times September 24, 1989_ByFrank Kummer, Staff Writer

What has been the highlight of Thoralf M. Sundt's career so far, asked an increasingly nervous reporter from a phone several thousand miles away.

Being named head of the Mayo Clinic's neurology department? Working as editor of a leading neurology journal? Being a veteran of the infamous "Pork Chop Hill" battle in Korea? Graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point? Or being named the country's top neurologist by a national magazine?

Was it as a paperboy for the Woodbury Daily Times, now the Gloucester County Times? Doubtful,

The highlight probably came two weeks ago when former President Ronald Reagan, suffering from complications after falling off a wildly bucking horse in July, underwent brain surgery and Sundt was called in to perform the operation.

Sundt, chairman of the Mayo Clinic's Department of Neurology, thought the term "highlight" was a poor choice of words and the now-sweating reporter had to admit he was right.

Despite the admittedly ill-chosen phrasing, Sundt, former Wenonah resident and Woodbury High School student, was pushed into the world of the mainstream media.

For one hour Sundt, on Sept. 9, was assisted in his operation on Reagan by two neurological surgeons, three nurses and an

anesthesiologist at the clinic, located about 70 miles southeast of Minneapolis.

Sundt drilled a hole in Reagan's skull to remove a buildup of blood detected during a routine physical examination. The operation went smoothly and the "evacuation" of the puddle of blood *was* successful.

The next day a CAT scan viewed the upper right portion of Reagan's head where the hole was drilled. A drain was placed on the skull and Reagan went on to recuperate rapidly.

"He's a very, very nice person. That's all I'll say about it," Sundt said about the surgery to an increasingly relaxed reporter.

Sundt is down-to-earth and affable. Or, as one medical journal put it, "unpretentious."

"I used to deliver the Woodbury Times. I was a delivery boy when they changed

the price from 2 to 3 cents and I lost eighty-some customers,"

Sundt said with a laugh from his

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., office.

Sundt lived in Wenonah until he was 16. The year was 1945 and his family moved to Tucson, Ariz. where young Thor, or "Brud" as he was nicknamed here, entered the construction business.

After two years of working as a contractor with the family firm of M.M. Sundt, the Gloucester County native decided to apply to West Point and eventually make the military his career.



Dr. Thoralf Sundt
former Times Newsboy

"It was the hardest examination I ever had to pass," Sundt said in a recent interview with a neurological journal.

After graduation he was assigned to the Engineers in Korea in 1952. A platoon leader and later company commander in the 32nd Regimental Combat Team, Sundt was the last to leave the battleground at Pork Chop Hill. He left unscathed and was later awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Cluster.

Peacetime proved boring, so Sundt enrolled in medical school at the University of Tennessee. He took his residency in neurosurgery at the Mayo Clinic and pursued pioneering work in the field.

In fact, while still a student, Sundt developed a technique in repairing aneurysms ripped from the parent vessel during surgery. He devised other new surgical techniques that improved patient recovery and performed a large number of aneurysm procedures and endarterectomies.

Setting big Latin words and titles aside Sundt is indeed unpretentious. Shunning the posture taken by the public relations department at the Mayo Clinic Sundt talked freely about himself.

"I came back last year and Woodbury High hasn't changed much," Sundt said. "Around

the outside areas though, the anatomy is all torn up with off-ramps. That's really changed.

"By the way, how's the Woodbury High football team doing this year?"

Sundt's family has a strong lineage in Gloucester County. His maternal grandfather Harry Stoudt, was the first physician in Gloucester County and was known as "the old family doctor," according to one local resident of Wenonah. An uncle was also a local physician.



The original Sundt residence located at Jackson and Mantua Avenues. Now the home of Mr. & Mrs D. Shaver

Old friends say they are proud of Sundt.

"He was a real nice guy," said Milton Webb, an old high school friend from Wenonah. "Very typical We're sort of proud of him. I mean all my friends are truck drivers."

Still, what was Sundt's proudest moment? '

Could it have been in 1945 when he was elevated to Eagle Scout? The Times carried a picture Mar. 28, 1945 of two merit badges earned by Sundt with another boy who also received scouting's highest honor. '

One of the merit badges is for first aid.

Editor's Note:

Dr. Thoralf Sundt died from cancer of the bone marrow, an affliction he fought for 8 years before succumbing in 1992



Stamp
Here

Wenonah Historical Society
PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

WENONAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2004

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAILED TO YOUR HOME
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INFORMATIVE PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGEABLE HISTORIANS
- HISTORICAL FIELD TRIPS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____

CHECK _____ CASH _____

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. THANK YOU

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR
