

POND PLAIN IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- 1908 Men in Pond Plain met weekly in a barn on Thicket St. playing Pinochle to pass the time. Our records of March 1909 show that eight fire alarm fires were put out at a cost of \$16.25. There were 17 no alarm fires. In the beginning it was "Bucket Brigade" until a chemical engine was acquired. We still have the bell used on the chemical engine and firemen's badges. This "Independent Chemical Fire Department" was chartered by the state in 1910. and was active until the town built and manned a fire station in So. Weymouth.
- 1912 The "Pond Plain Improvement Association" was chartered by the state in 1912.
- 1914 The wives of this fire department formed a "Ladie's Auxiliary", The "Eureka Club". It was started with 48 members. Our president, William Taylor's grandmother was president of the auxiliary in 1919. By 1923 they had 118 members.
- 1919 A building fund was started. Bill Taylor's grandfather, as a member of the building committee carried stones in his wheelbarrow for the foundation of the hall built in 1923 --- mortgage paid off in 1962. The men of the organization did much of the work. Members were taxed 10¢ a month to purchase a piano in 1924. The hall offered the opportunity to bring civic problems before the organization for discussion and group action. Money was raised by having annual fairs, musicals, card parties, dinners, even selling magazine subscriptions, auctions, ramage sales. One of our ramage sales produced an 1864 Weymouth Commemorative plate we donated to the Wey. Historical Society. Since the Ladie's Auxiliary was needed for money raising, it was decided a merger would be advantageous. The ladies and men consolidated in 1941. We originally owned the land from Pond St. back to the R.R. tracks to rte.18. Most of it was a pine grove. We allowed cutting of the wood for \$2.00 a cord. We leased part of our land to the town of Weymouth for playground purposes.
- 1949-50 We sold much of the land to a developer -- This is now the Thomas Rd. area. We needed the money for a heating system instead of using coal and wood.

IMPROVEMENTS:

- 1926 Worked to build the Pond School, later renamed for principal Alice Fulton/ Adequate lighting for Oakden Ave., Improving conditions at the R.R. station at the corner of Pond & Hollis Sts. Tried to get bus service for our area. Sponsored branches of Tufts Libraries in two of our member's homes before branches were built. Worked for water mains and Electric service. Raised money to provide a victrola for Pond School. Donated to the Wey. Hospital Annex; In the 1930's with "Sunshine Bags" members put a penny in a bag on each sunny day. Made donations to the V.N.A., a flower fund for shut-ins, food baskets for the poor.
- 1941 Worked with selectmen for signs at intersections in So. Wey. & police guards at school crossings. Traffic Lights at Independence Sq.
- 1945 The planting of 150 maple trees on Pond St.
- 1953 The Negus Playground at the Pond School was dedicated in honor of Arthur Negus, a P.P.I.A. member for 35 years.
- 1966-67 & again in 1974 our member Robert Park proposed the playground on Thicket St. named for our member and fireman in Weymouth, Richard Gifford.

EARLY MEETINGS:

- Talks on Landscaping, Women's Suffrage, American Poets, clambakes, annual picnics at No. Scituate beach in summer. Garden Tea Parties, meeting on the Gypsy Moth problem, Nutrition classes. Early dances charged 25¢ admission.
- 1979 We formed the Wm P. Gavin Scholarship fund in memory of our past president by holding a hugh dinner - fashion show.

CICIC MEETINGS:

- Candidates nights and Reading of the Warrant for more than 50 years.
- 1941 Airport proposed as a dirigible base
- 1954 - 1968 - 1970 Open meetings with reps from the Navy & Aeronautical Comm. against airport expansion.

- 1955 Explanation of the telephone dial system.
- 1958 Civil Defence & Red Cross and Crime Prevention meetings.
- 1967 Mr. Dukakis explained "No Fault Insurance"
- 1971 Drug Education
- 1976 Open forum on the widening of Rte. 18.

MEMBERSHIP

- 1935 57 mem
- 1943 122 families
- 1964 324
- 1994 about 100
- 1995 " 80

SPONSORED GROUPS:

- 1924 Sunday School & Evening Church Services
- 1926 Boy Scouts of America was chartered by Congress in 1916. P.P.I.A. was granted a charter for Troop 9 in 1926 and continues today.
- 1935 Boy's Club Baseball Team, disbanded in 1935 and became part of the South Shore Baseball League.
- 1938" Parish Players" drama group of P.P.I.A. members, later "Workshop Players" and our recent "Dinner Theater" group.
- 1939 Saturday Night dancing club, Children's dance schools, adult dance classes.
- 1950's P.P.I.A. Bowling league & in 1964 a children's league.
- 1954 When their church was burned the Universalist Church used our hall.
- 1971 Child Care Center was formed by P.P.I.A. teens., Yoga classes
- 1976 P.P.I.A. softball team
- 1994 Started a toddler Play group.
- Have sponsored Little League, Farm League, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Girl Scouts.
- 1993 - 1994 Traffic slow-down organized for Pond St. Thicket St. area,
1995 by P.P.I.A. and neighbors.
- 1996- Town-wide winter safety festival
- Open forum on Old Colony commuter rail restoration.