

We are honored to sponsor the  
**Chatham Borough Tricentennial Celebration.**

## **Sprout House Inc.**

a New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

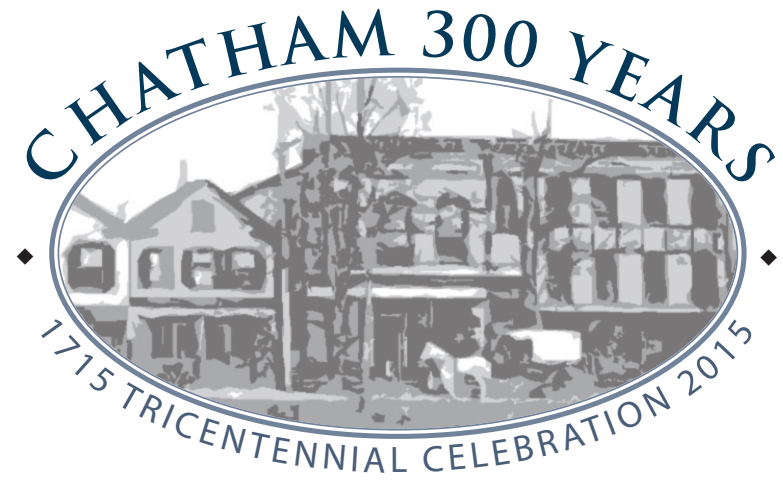


*We nurture the child's aesthetic, creative, social, emotional  
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**JUNE 13, 2015**

**#CHATHAM300YEARS    [WWW.CHATHAM300.COM](http://WWW.CHATHAM300.COM)**

## LET'S PARTY LIKE IT'S 1715!

*Railroad Plaza South*

**8:30 AM**

### RACE WARM-UP

*Led by the Mayor's Wellness Campaign in cooperation with Girls on the Run.*

**9:00 AM**

### ONE-MILE JAYCEE'S FISHAWACK RUN

*Kick-off*

**9:30 AM**

### FOUR-MILE JAYCEE FISHAWACK RUN

*38th Annual*

**10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

### FISHAWACK FESTIVAL

*Cultural Heritage Event*

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

### HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

*A lot can happen in 300 years! Actors from the Chatham High School Theater Department, dressed in period garb, portray notable Chathamites through the centuries.*

**10:30 AM**

### WELCOME DIGNITARIES & CELEBRATORY CAKE

*Sing Happy Birthday!*

**10:30 AM**

### STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

*The Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey - Chatham Service Unit bring back the traditional Fishawack Festival treat*

**11:00 AM - 6:00 PM**

### THREE PENNY TAVERN

*Cheers, Chatham!*

## 2005

It's easy to recognize why Chatham was named "One of the Top Ten Places to Live in the United States" by *Money Magazine*. With its tree-lined streets, excellent schools and proximity to New York, residents take pride in their small town. There is a strong sense of community and support.

## 2011

The 100th class graduated from Chatham High School. Unlike the first graduating class of six, there were 246 graduates but similarly they were evenly divided between males and females.

## 2012

On October 27, Superstorm Sandy roared through Chatham toppling 100 year old trees and knocking out power. Some neighborhoods were in the dark for more than a week. In typical Chatham fashion, neighbors helped each other through the aftermath.

## 2014

The Chatham Train Station Centennial Celebration was held June 14 in conjunction with the Fishawack Festival. The day long, community event included the unveiling of the Fairmount Avenue Mural, a railroad museum, a beer garden and the breaking of a Guinness World Record. Over 1,200 participants blew wooden train whistles simultaneously, smashing the previous record thus earning Chatham a place in the record book.

## 2015

The tricentennial of the establishment of Chatham Borough provides a moment of reflection. Has anything remained the same after 300 years? Well, Chatham doesn't quite look the same but there are features that are familiar. A bridge still brings you into town, the railroad still takes you to a big city and Main Street is still the hub. Most significant are the people who live in Chatham. Though they wrestle with different problems than they did over the last 300 years, a commitment to the town endures. Neighbor helping neighbor, volunteering, discussing issues - it is that spirit of its citizens, past and present, that has made Chatham what it is today.



*At the 100th Chatham High School graduation, the class of 1911 was remembered.*



*The massive crowd at the Train Station Centennial awaits their turn to make history.*



**1971**

The Fishawack Festival began as a Chamber of Commerce sidewalk sale called Fishawack Day. It expanded into an annual all day event featuring local merchants, area vendors, non-profit organizations, artists, children's games and rides and an array of delicious food.

**1974**

With the second printing of the *Chatham At the Crossing of the Fishawack*, the Chatham Historical Society was the recipient of a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History.

**1977**

ABC television aired the documentary, "The Class That Went to War," based on Chatham High School's class of 1964 and its struggle with the Vietnam War. The documentary was primarily the work of a 1964 graduate of Chatham High School. Sadly, Chatham lost four men during this war.

**1986**

Chatham Borough and Chatham Township voted to combine the two school districts.

**1996**

Sixty years earlier the upgrading of electric trains through Chatham opened up the possibility of having direct passenger service into New York City. On June 10, train 6604 from Dover became the first train to stop at Chatham and then proceed directly into New York's Penn Station. NJ Transit named the new service the Morris & Essex Line in a salute to history.

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2001**

Hundreds of people boarded the trains into the city from the Chatham station. Thirteen from the Chathams never returned after the World Trade Center fell to a terrorist attack. This dark day touched the entire nation and left Chatham devastated. Devastation turned to resiliency and the community outreach was unparalleled. Main Street was lined with flags and everyone worked together to help those in need. Two memorials serve as a remembrance, one at Reasoner Park and another at the Library of the Chathams.



*The town gazebo has become the gathering place for many community activities.*



*Part of a beam from the World Trade Center is incorporated in the 9/11 Memorial at Reasoner Park.*

## LET'S PARTY LIKE IT'S 1715!

*Railroad Plaza South*

**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**TRAVELING DETECTIVE**

*The Senior Center of the Chathams and the Youth Services Department of the Library of the Chathams presents, Fill a "Past-Port" In Time*

**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**SELFIEMANIA**

*Take a selfie at the Chatham Historical Society's Signs of Chatham - Then & Now*

**11:00 AM - 11:30 PM**

**TUG OF WAR**

*The Mayor's Wellness Campaign encourages you to test your strength, power and strategy*

**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**OLD-FASHIONED ARTS & CRAFTS**

*Brought to you by the Public Arts Council of Chatham Borough*

**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

*Hokey-pokey and fun stories with the children's librarian of the Library of the Chathams at the top of each hour*

**11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**CHILDRENS AMUSEMENT PARK**

*Compliments of Fishawack Festival, located at Lower Lum Field*

**12:00 PM**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION - REASONER PARK**

*Thank you! Thank you! Presented by the office of Mayor Bruce A. Harris*

**2:00 PM**

**LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS PROGRAM**

*Photojournalist Presentation: Legends of Revolutionary Morristown*

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We wish to thank all of those who have contributed their time, energy, creative insight and financial generosity to make the Chatham Tricentennial Celebration a success. We are especially grateful to the following friends of the Tricentennial Celebration:

Mayor Bruce A. Harris

Chatham Borough Council Members

Chatham Department of Community Services

Chatham Department of Public Works

Chatham Police Department

Chatham Volunteer Fire Department

Chatham Business Alliance

Chatham High School Theatre Department

Chatham High School Art Department

Chatham Historical Society

Chatham Jaycee's Fishawack Run

Fishawack Festival, Inc.

Girl Scouts of Northern NJ – Chatham Service Unit

The Library of the Chathams

Mayors' Wellness Campaign of the Chathams

Public Arts Council of Chatham Borough

Senior Center of the Chathams

### 1936

By action of the Chatham Borough Council, the rescue squad was founded as part of the CVFD. In 1951, it became the independent Chatham Emergency Squad. The members of both of these fine organizations volunteer their time to protect and serve all borough residents.

### 1941

In 1941, a boulder in Memorial Park was dedicated in honor of the five Chatham soldiers who lost their lives during the Great War. Today the park is home to boulders recognizing heroes from the American Revolution, the Civil War, the two World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War. In 1997, the Centennial of the Borough, the park was rededicated to "all those who served during the nation's wars."

### 1949

In December, the Board of Adjustment granted a variance allowing the construction of the present day CVS Plaza. Responding to the concerns voiced by residents, the builders agreed to certain landscaping details, traffic flow patterns and style of architecture.

### 1953

Chatham's Volunteer Fire Department officially took charge of the Fourth of July parade. Complete with marching bands, floats and numerous fire departments participating, the parade has become a yearly tradition eagerly awaited by the town. The culmination of the celebration has been the fireworks display.

### 1967

In a community endeavor, the Chatham Historical Society sponsored a project of collecting over 400 manuscripts totaling 5,100 pages submitted by residents and business owners. These were compiled into the book, *Chatham At the Crossing of the Fishawack*. This book is a lasting tribute to Chatham and its people.

### 1968

Ground was broken for the western extension of Route 24 from Short Hills to Route I-287 in Hanover Township. The road was completed in 1972 but not opened until 1992. Local children would roller blade and bike on the newly paved roadway until its opening.



*Memorial Park was a fitting tribute to all those who served to protect our freedom.*



*Three months after the US entered WW I, the 1917 parade featured this very patriotic float.*

## 1914

After years of controversy surrounding the question of raising or depressing the train tracks, the council approved the elevation plan. The debate, however, continued right through the construction. Finally, in June the *Chatham Press* reported that the new station opened without any “fuss or feathers.” The new station was the pride of the town. It was beautifully landscaped and boasted every modern amenity available at the time.

## 1917

Chatham was a popular resort town. Known for its “salubrious” air, Chatham’s boarding houses flourished. Main Street was lined with liveries and shops to accommodate the vacationers. The hotel business came to an abrupt end in 1917 when the Borough went “dry” even though national prohibition was still years away.

## 1920

The townspeople purchased the Fairview House property for a Memorial Park dedicated to the 137 Chatham men who served in WWI. The library was part of the original plan but was not erected until 1924.

## 1926

Madison and Summit joined Chatham in presenting the “Three Towns Pageant.” This grand spectacle celebrated the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The three-act extravaganza along the banks of the Passaic portrayed life in the Valley of the Great Watchung. Estimates placed the attendance at 10,000.

## 1930

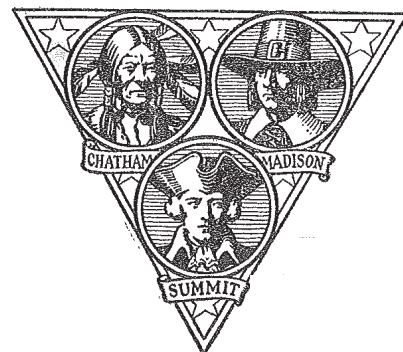
On December 18, the first electric train rolled into Chatham. Celebrations were held and a school holiday announced - all in honor of the new soot-free service.

## 1934

Addison H. Day of Chatham was nineteen years old on August 1, 1869 when he began his commute to his NYC job. The banker rode the train for sixty-five years. It was estimated that he traveled more than 1,100,000 miles and commuted 20,000 times. His final commute out of Hoboken to Chatham on June 21 was commemorated with statewide publicity.



*So stunning was the newly built train station that it was used in promotional pieces by the railroad.*



*Each town had a role in the Three Towns Pageant- Native American occupation, settlers and the Revolution.*

## SPONSORS

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**TOWN & COUNTRY PROPERTIES**

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**THE VILLAGE HARDWARE**



## THE TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

**BOROUGH COUNCIL LIAISON**

Victoria Fife

**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Janice R. Piccolo

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marc Boisclair   Tony Britt   Liz Holler   Jennifer Kaplan   Carol Nauta  
Len Resto   Helen Ann Rosenfeld   Roubi Stavropoulos   Chris Tomaino



*Long before Europeans ever saw the Passaic River, the Lenni-Lenape were crossing it during their annual trip along the Minisink Trail to summer campgrounds by the ocean. On their way back in the fall, they followed the same route stopping again at the Passaic. They followed the same route when returning in autumn, stopping again at the Passaic River. The spot of the ancient river crossing eventually became Chatham Borough, while the Minisink Trail is now known as Main Street.*

## 1680

The Minisink Trail and other routes brought the first Europeans to the area, with coastal settlers following these paths as they moved westward. These early roads offered the easiest access through hills and streams. Before any Europeans settled in the wilderness, however, Dutch and English land speculators bought huge tracts of land sight unseen.

The earliest known transaction involving Chatham property took place in April of 1680 when Sir George Carteret paid the local Native Americans the equivalent of \$165 for a vast piece of land that included the Borough territory.

## 1715

No clear records exist of the first actual settlers in Chatham. In 1715, however, John Budd, a Philadelphia merchant, bought 1,200 acres near the crossing and established his farm. The land was a mile long and ran northwest from the river into Madison. By 1721, he owned all the land within the boundaries of present day Chatham.

## 1728

John and Daniel Day acquired 250 acres from Budd. John's 100-acre farm was laid out on both sides of the Minisink Trail with 2,000 feet on the river's banks. Daniel's farm, 150-acre spread, adjoined it on the south and west. After their arrival, the Minisink Trail was widened and a bridge built just south of the Indian crossing. Travelers began calling the place "John Day's Bridge." Around the bridge, the village of farmers and millers grew.

## 1750

By 1750 the village was growing. Millers were busy grinding grain and cutting wood and small shops dotted the main street. At this time, the town did not have an official name and went by Day's Bridge, Minisink Crossing or On Passaic River.



*Lenni-Lenape crossing the Passaic River on their annual trip to the shore.*



*A hero of the colonists, Chatham was named in honor of William Pitt, the First Earl of Chatham.*

## 1906

The speed limit in the Borough was 10 mph. Those who ignored it were slowed down by "Bump the Bumps." The first speed bumps were installed on Main Street and gained both national and international attention after the *New York Times* covered the event. Due in part to the reduced response time of emergency vehicles, the venture failed and the bumps were removed.

## 1909

The question of the installation of gas caused a debate among the council. They did not want gas used for illumination fearing it would compete with the boroughs' current supplier. After much discussion, it was decided that gas could be installed, but only used for cooking.

## 1910

The push for development was increasing. Borough officials encouraged landowners to plot their properties for middle-class housing. Many fine homes began lining the newly cut streets. Since there were now more neighborhoods with houses closer together, the long awaited sewage plant was built.

## 1911

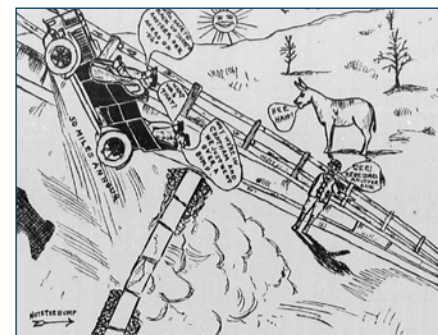
By the turn of the 20th Century, Chatham had all the makings of a modern town except an accredited school. This all changed, when after more than 10 years of debate, a new school opened in January on Fairmount Avenue housing all grades. Today the building accommodates the borough offices.

## 1911

In June, the Class of 1911 graduated from the newly accredited Chatham High School. There were six graduates: three males and three females.

## 1912

After much opposition, the trolley came to town and traveled up and down Main Street. Providing service to Maplewood, Elizabeth and Newark, the trolley made it an easy day trip to and from Chatham. The growing popularity of the car, however, put an end to the trolley.



*When the speed bumps were installed residents came to watch as the cars flew in the air after hitting the obstruction.*



*In 1910, the Borough Council approved this promotional piece to attract more residents and visitors.*

## 1892

The Chatham Fish & Game clubhouse was dedicated. A rambling Victorian structure, it was located on the site of the present tennis courts nearest Fairmount Avenue. The clubhouse was the venue for most local activities until it burned down in 1951.

## 1894

Bicycle riding was a popular sport and the Chatham Wheelmen Club was formed. For the next 15 years, the speedy riders (known as “scorchers”), covered country roads and byways.

## 1896

Chatham prospered. Its population steadily increased and land value rose. Though the village boasted fine churches, good schools, excellent shops and hotels, citizens were not satisfied. A Beautification Committee was formed. Its first mission was to improve the swampy area where the old railroad station was located. This endeavor produced Reasoner Park.

## 1897

Chatham was incorporated by an act of legislature on March 1. It became the first New Jersey village to be incorporated as a borough. The paperwork, completed by the eminent Frederick H. Lum, became the model used by the state. As Chatham's first mayor, Lum and his able council introduced many improvements to the borough. Electric lights, the water and sewage plant, gas installation and the beautification of Chatham can all be directly attributed to these men.

## 1898

The Chatham Volunteer Fire Department was established. The firemen responded to their first fire in 1898 in a horse-drawn hook and ladder. Through the years improvements have been made to the equipment and station houses but one constant remains: the department is manned by volunteers who unconditionally give their time to serve.

## 1905

With 200 pupils, K to 12, in the Passaic Avenue School, it was overcrowded. Discussions about the cost of a new school continued but no action was taken. At the time, Chatham Borough's yearly expenses were \$5,400.



In the 19th Century bicycling was a popular sport and bicyclist traveled so fast that speed limits were imposed.



The CVFD has faithfully served the borough for over 117 years.

## 1755

The first inn, Day's Tavern, was built about this time. The tavern was the ideal location for farmers to spend the night before completing the journey into New York City to sell produce. On the return trip, they would again stop for the night before returning home.

## 1773

On November 19, as proclaimed in the *New York Gazette*, the village was officially named Chatham. The new name was in honor of William Pitt, the First Earl of Chatham. Pitt was a strong supporter of the colonists who opposed Great Britain's tax levies.

## 1775 - 1776

Chatham played an integral role in the Revolutionary War. Inspired by patriotic fervor, a Liberty Pole was raised in 1775. This pole announced the community's displeasure with British authority. By 1776, Chatham and other strategically located towns bore the brunt of the war by impeding the westward advancement of the British. Additionally, to keep the enemy off balance, George Washington constructed a full-scale base of operations at Chatham. This project included store fronts and the construction of brick ovens large enough to appear to be able to bake 3,000 loaves of bread.

## 1779

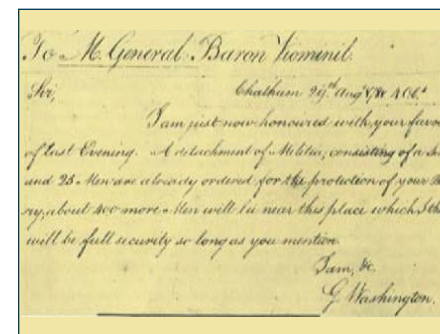
Shepard Kollock founded the *New Jersey Journal*, the first newspaper established in northern New Jersey. His goal was “to maintain the cause of freedom.” The paper contributed greatly to the Patriots' cause during the American Revolution. In 1786 the paper moved to Elizabeth and thrived until 1991.

## 1781

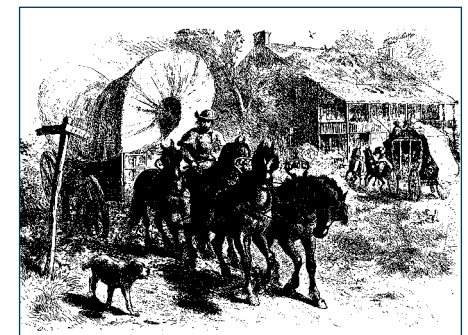
For a few days in August, Washington established his temporary headquarters at the Morrell home, now 63 Main Street. He wrote at least seventeen letters from this address.

## 1790

As the westward movement flourished, roads improved and trade between the eastern seaports and the west increased. In 1790, a stagecoach line ran through Chatham stopping at Day's Tavern. The trip between New York and Chatham took three days.



Held by the Library of Congress, this is one of Washington's letters written while in Chatham.



Chatham was a popular stopping point for stage coaches heading west.



## 1804

At this time, faster methods of travel became important to the growing nation. The Morris Turnpike, a toll road running from Elizabethtown to Morristown, opened. Roughly following the Minisink Trail, it was 34 feet wide and boasted a hard surface. To avoid paying the toll, many travelers rode through farmland eventually creating Shunpike Road.

## 1806

When Morris County was reorganized, the Village of Chatham became part of Chatham Township. This included Madison, Florham Park and all the land governed by the Township today.

## 1808

The harnessed water of the Passaic was vital to the village. Although there were mills at Chatham before this time, according to diaries written by Sylvanus Seely, the first recorded notation of a mill was in 1808. Seely, a 30 year Chatham resident, was a colonel in the militia and later a miller. He wrote, "At Chatham, I looked at B. Bonnel's mill and liked her very much. I ate some donuts made of the first flour that ever she ground."

## 1835

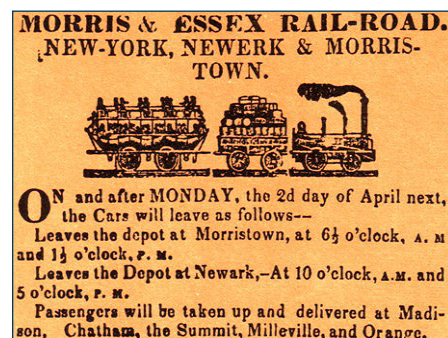
About 1835, Squire Lum began making bricks at a large brickyard located at what is now known as Lum Field. Many notable buildings were made of Lum bricks including the original St. Patrick's Church. The advent of the train made the bricks easily transportable far beyond Chatham's boundaries. By 1891, though, the clay pit was depleted.

## 1837

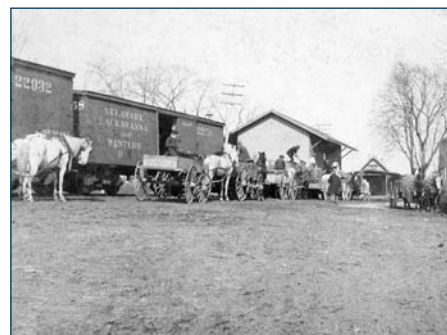
On September 14, 1837, one of the most important events in Chatham occurred. The first steam train of the Morris & Essex Railroad Company reached the borough. This line, running from Newark to Morristown, improved commerce and allowed for a faster commute to all towns along the line.

## 1850

With the brickyard and all the mills along the river, some believed Chatham was destined to become a manufacturing town but a different path was taken.



*In 1837, for fifty-cents you could take the train to Newark and it only took two hours.*



*The train played an important role in the transportation of goods far beyond Chatham's borders.*

## 1865

After the Civil War, the many improvements to the trains allowed for easy access out of the city. Many influential men from Newark and New York came to Chatham to vacation with their families. The Passaic River offered year-round activities. The air was clean and crisp. Others came to work at the brickyard and mills and to escape the over-crowded cities.

## 1875

As the train continued to bring newcomers to the borough, large homes were erected to accommodate their needs. One of these homes was Martin's Villa located at what is now 228 Fairmount Avenue. The three-story mansion was built by New Yorker, William Martin, a wealthy tea importer. The grand estate was situated on 150 acres at the highest point on the hill overlooking the valley. It was lost in a spectacular fire in 1904.

## 1880

The Chatham resort business was booming and William Martin recognized a financial opportunity. He purchased several boarding houses including the Fairview House on Main Street now the site of the present library. He enlarged and altered the building to accommodate over 150 guests. It was an impressive three-storied structure with porches across the front on two levels.

## 1887

Jimmy Littlejohn began keeping his yearly diaries. A rose grower by trade, he recorded much about the weather, including the morning and evening temperatures each day. Jimmy described his daily activities and other happenings in town until the time of his death in 1943. Notations in his diaries give an accounting of life in Chatham for 56 years.

## 1890

The mills along the Passaic had been polluting the water for over a century. As the cities along the banks of the river grew, however, there was a more toxic pollutant: raw sewage. Understanding the impact this had on Chatham's residents and the hotel trade, several Chatham men lobbied to purify the water. By 1896, The New Jersey Department of Health addressed the issue and prohibited all discharge of sewage into the river.



*The Martin family gave generously to the community including thousands to the library.*



*Guest of the Fairview enjoyed the "salubrious" air while rocking on one of its many porches.*