

# Bristol



# Phoenix

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BRISTOL, R. I., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1956

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## Warns Of Museum Removal

### Society Told Brown Might Change Site

Members of the Bristol Historical Society were warned that the Haffenreffer Museum on the American Indian would be moved from Mount Hope to the Brown University campus "if we do not do everything possible to assist the management of the museum and make its presence here welcome."

"The trend of thought at Brown University is to eventually move the museum to Providence," R. S. Bosworth, Jr., speaker at the society's 20th anniversary, told members.

He reviewed the possible future course of the society in connection with several projects of historical interest in town, including the Bosworth-Perry House at Silver Creek, the instruction in town history in local schools, and the enlargement of a summer open house program and marine exhibit.

The Indian Museum, he said, is the most important historical point of interest in Bristol and it promises to bring considerable acclaim to the town.

The new museum director, Dr. J. Louis Giddings, is one of the foremost archeologists in the country. His presence here at bound to bring the name of the town before the public, he said.

He said the immediate aim of the director is to make the museum available to the public, and establish it as a center of research. Also a possibility is the use of the museum for meetings of regional and national historical organizations.

The Bosworth-Perry House, which has been offered to the society by its owner, the Rev.



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Dewon Perry, of Charleston, S. C., he described as one of the oldest homes in America and of historical significance for many reasons.

Comparing it to two old homes which are currently being restored by private individuals in town, he said it is definitely within reason that the society accept the offer of Rev. Perry. He singled out the Church Homestead on Poppasquash road, which was ravaged by fire in June, 1955, and the Bache House on State street, as two examples of where individuals have seen fit to restore homes.

### Restoration Justified

"Certainly, if individuals can see their way clear to restoring old property, a group as large as the historical society can justify tackling the restoration of the old house at Silver Creek," he said.

He said it was the role of the society to assist and encourage the school department in teaching local history in classrooms. Local history is vital to all people in town, he said, but it is practically unknown to the majority of people living here today. History, he said, is as new as yesterday's newspaper, therefore is of interest to people whether they are of the first generation or the twelfth generation.

Local schools are the only place in which history can be properly taught, and any move on the part of the schools to instruct the subject should be commended by the society.

The talk was followed by a colored motion picture on the Tournament of Roses presented by Frank McKeever, a summer resident of Bristol and winter resident of Pasadena, Calif.

At a regular business meeting Mrs. Hope Cote reviewed the progress of the society, stating that its membership has grown from 130 members in 1936 to 278 at present.

Mrs. Fred M. Dixon, Jr., the first president of the society, was present last night, and she was introduced along with two other past presidents, Miss Alice B. Almy and Herbert B. Burnham, Jr. Mrs. Dixon said she is proud to see the growth of the society.

An extensive list of donations to the society's collection of antiquities was read by Miss Almy, who is curator of the museum.

A number of charter members also were asked to take a bow at the meeting.

Frank L. Martin, president of the society, presided over the meeting. Refreshments were served following the motion picture.