

Bikers paint library

Trying to break a stereotype

By JEAN JONES
Staff Writer

MAURICE RIVER TWP. — Motorcycle clubs and libraries may seem an unlikely combination, but it's the stereotyped image of motorcyclists that one club has tried to correct by painting the Port Elizabeth Library.

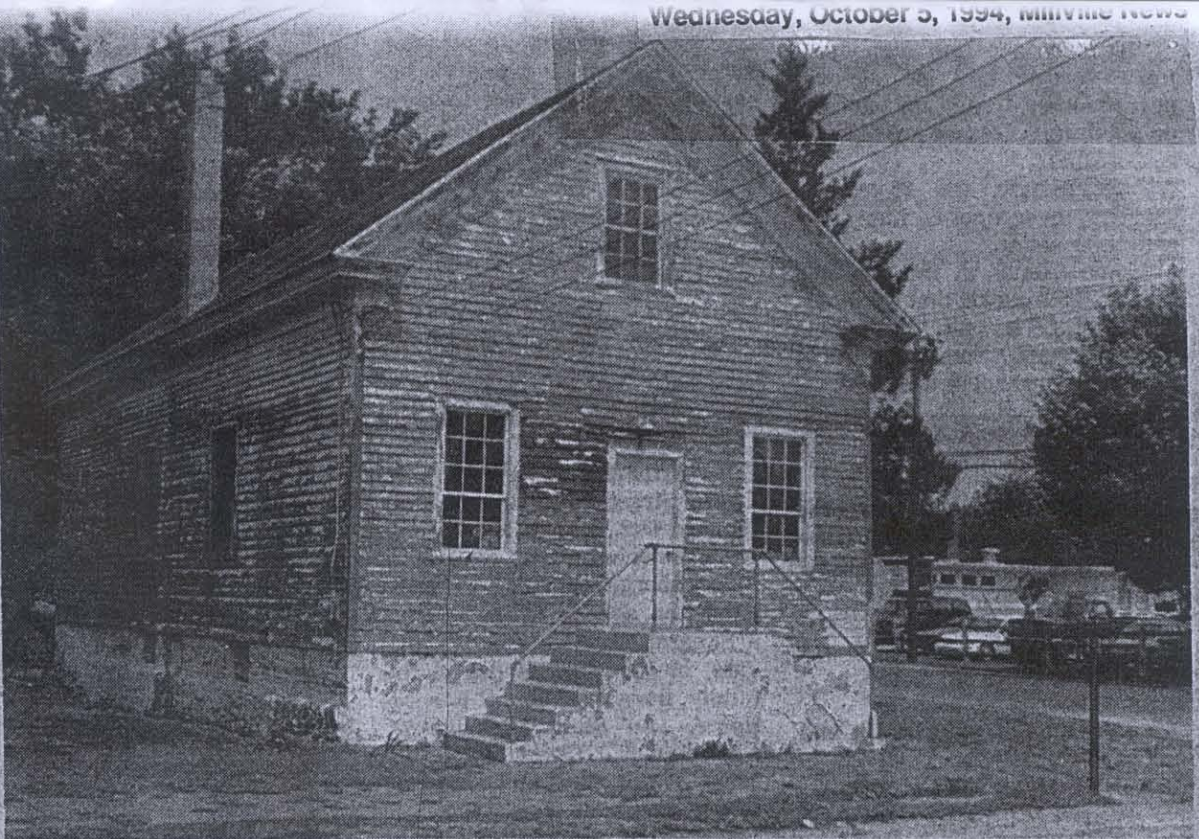
Tri-County Sportsmen Motorcycle Club picks a community project each year and this year's project was the library. Many of Tri-County's members are from Port Elizabeth and member Jack Lafferty said it was obvious the library was badly in need of new paint.

"We use this township a lot and we saw it needed to be done, so we did it," Lafferty said.

The project started with having the building power washed several weeks ago by A. Enright Services, to remove years and years of peeling paint. Last Saturday, members got together and repainted the building. Lafferty estimated the total cost of the project at about \$1,000.

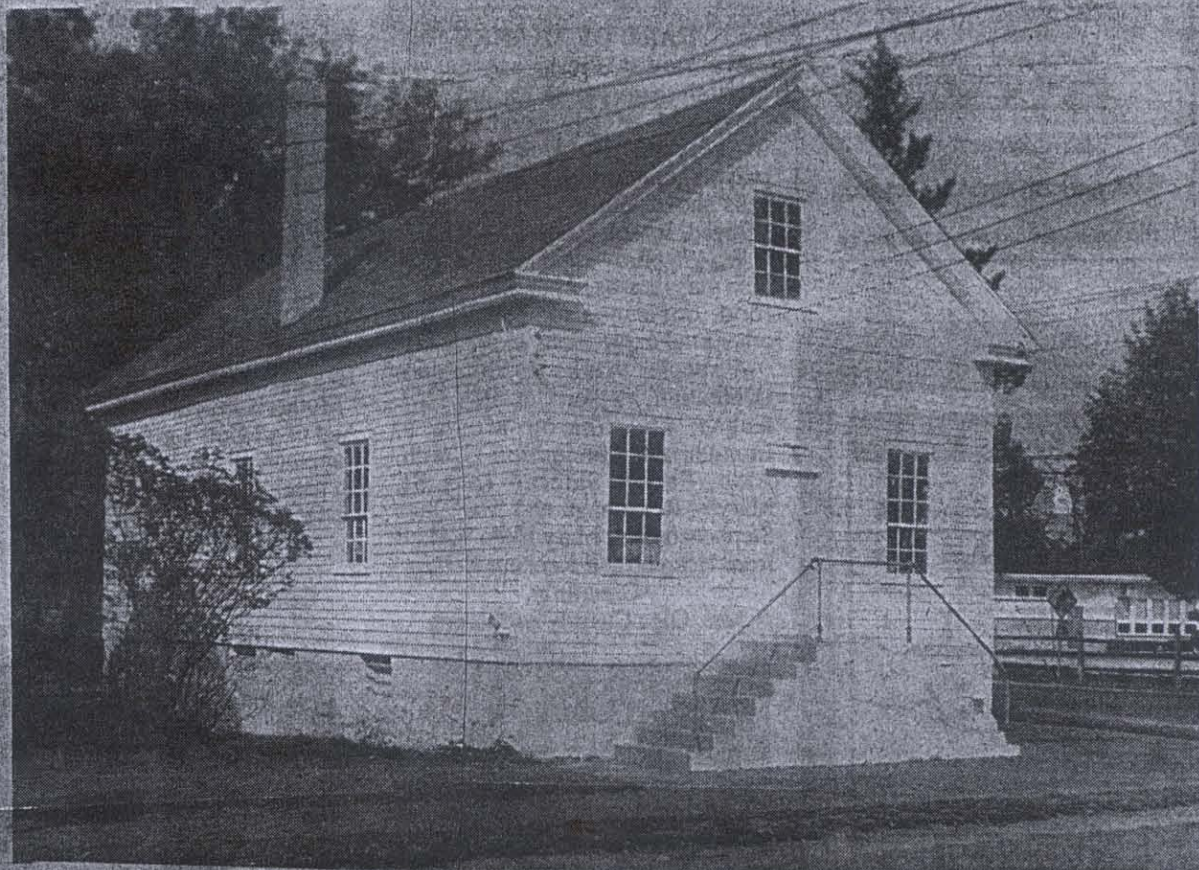
The club, which is part of the East Coast Enduro Association, with members from Rhode Island to Maryland, holds an enduro each year in March to raise funds. Entry fees provide the funds which the club uses for its community projects. Last year, a donation was made to Little League.

Members also participate in clean-ups of areas such as Belleplain State Forest and Alcyon Lake and club members



Staff Photos By GARY COOPER

Here are before and after pictures of the Port Elizabeth Library, which was painted as a community service by the Tri-County Sportsmen Motorcycle Club.



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often join in on projects held by clubs from adjacent areas.

The library started out as a store built by Stephen Willis in the early 1800s. Later it was operated by Francis Lee, another prominent local business entrepreneur. Until later, it was used for theatrical performances and then as the

Sunday School for the adjacent Methodist Church.

After the old school house was renovated for a Sunday School and moved to the church property, the building became the local library.

Mayor John Feltes said the club committed to painting the library

last year. The library gets only \$1,500 a year from the township to cover all its operating expenses and there was no money to remove the layers and layers of paint and repaint the structure.

"It was a good public service to the community. We need more organizations like them," Feltes said.