

New Jersey Town Plans a Tea Party

Continued from Page 1-B

removed from the village, a group of about 40 young men set about organizing Operation Tea Party.

They decided on a variation of the Boston Tea Party caper, which had taken place Dec. 16, 1773. Like their Boston counterparts, they would dress as Indians. But they would make a more dramatic dispensation of the tea by burning it, rather than dumping it into the water.

And so on the night of Dec. 22, the raid was made. The young men — among them was Richard Howell, who

later became governor of New Jersey — broke into Bowen's cellar and seized the chests of tea. While Bowen issued cries to high heaven and invoked the name of King George III, the raiders carted the chests to the village square and put a torch to them.

Not only could the flames be seen for miles but one historian wrote that "the aroma of burning tea leaves was well nigh overpowering."

As one might expect, the "Greenwich Indians" were hauled into court on charges of illegal trespass, and civil suits were brought against them for destruction of property. But none of

the raiders was ever found guilty of anything; by the time their cases came up the courts were in the hands of judges and prosecutors sympathetic to the American cause. All charges were dismissed.

In 1908, a monument, bearing the names of the "Greenwich Indians," was erected in the village square, where it still stands.

"In behalf of all residents of Greenwich," said Mrs. Watson, "I invite the Bicentennial planners in Philadelphia to come down here and view our monument."