

Town Plans a HOT Tea Party

Greenwich, N. J., to Re-enact Burning of 1774

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Of The Inquirer Staff

It is with tolerant amusement that residents of the little South Jersey town of Greenwich regard the proposal by Bicentennial planners in Philadelphia to restage the so-called Philadelphia Tea Party.

Greenwich, see, had its own tea party. And, unlike the rather genteel 1773 protest meeting in Philadelphia, the Greenwich happening nearly a year later was a delightfully rowdy event.

Not only that but a 200th anniversary re-enactment of the Greenwich Tea Party already is scheduled for October 1974, to be climaxed by the burning of tea (or a less expensive substitute in

these inflationary times, in the village square.

"We're going to show Philadelphia what a real tea party was like," said Mrs. Sara Watson, who lives in Greenwich and is president of the Cumberland County Historical Society.

"What can Philadelphia do except get a lot of people to stand around like movie extras? That Philadelphia affair was all talk. In Greenwich there wasn't much talk — but there was a lot of action."

The Greenwich Tea Party occurred Dec. 22, 1774, just five days short of a year after the Philadelphia protest against the hated British tea tax. (The 200th anniversary reenactment has been scheduled for two months earlier

than the actual date to lessen the possibility of bad weather.)

Greenwich, an elm-shaded village on the Cohansey Creek, about 10 miles southwest of Bridgeton, then was one of South Jersey's chief ports of entry. In early November 1774, a British brig, "The Greyhound," bound for Philadelphia with a cargo of tea, put in at Greenwich. The tea was unloaded and conveyed to the home of a known Tory, one Daniel Bowen, who stored it in his cellar for safekeeping until the tea broker to whom it had been consigned could find a market for it.

While older residents of Greenwich sought ways of having the detested tea

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