



Board of Selectmen during the Tercentenary year, l to r, Donald E. Smith, chairman Roger W. Boyd and Daniel J. Hart.

The basic structure of state and local government derives from the charter given on March 4, 1629 by Charles I to the New England Company, naming it 'The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England.' This company had sent John Endicott and fifty settlers to Salem in 1628 and was a successor to the Dorchester Adventurers who established a fishing settlement at Gloucester in 1623. Its charter was similar in form to those of other business corporations of the time. The 'freemen,' who would be called stockholders now, annually elected a Governor, Deputy Governor, and Assistants who constituted the

'Court of Assistants' or board of governors. Freemen and assistants met together in a 'General' Court or stockholders' meeting at stated times to transact important company or colony business. As the size of this group grew, it became unwieldy and a representative system gradually evolved. Eventually, instead of there being a representative from each town and city, representative districts were set up much as they are today.

It had been customary for the charter and at least a part of the governing body of a colonizing or trading company to remain in England, but the Virginia company's experience under such circumstances had been unfavorable. From the first it enjoyed only a limited self-government and its charter and property were later confiscated by the Crown. To eliminate such a possibility, the Puritan leaders refused to leave for America unless they could have full control over the enterprise and in 1629 at London at a meeting of the Great and General Court, it was voted to transfer charter and government to New England. John Winthrop was elected governor and sailed on March 29, 1630 in the Arbella, which also carried the charter and Winthrop's fellow officials. The Arbella landed at Salem on June 12, 1630. The first meeting of the Court of Assistants was held at Charlestown on August 23, and the General Court met at Boston in October.

The presence of its charter and government on this side of the Atlantic made Massachusetts Bay practically independent of English control and it remained so until 1686. The charter proved to be so workable as a colonial constitution that other colonies imitated it and during the Revolution most of the thirteen colonies framed their state constitutions along similar lines. The most prominent feature of this charter, which has become one of our most cherished institutions, was the principle of state elections. Representatives, assistants, and even the governor had to go before the voters annually. This was in great contrast to the English or Parliamentary system which was dependent on the sovereign's will, and the American system provided an almost continuous check on government executives and representatives as well.

The first elections in Massachusetts Bay were by 'show of hands' but soon the normal corporate method of balloting was adopted. Corn and beans were used instead of white and black balls to signify 'yes' and 'no' votes, but paper ballots were later adopted.

These features of the old government were preserved when in 1691, Massachusetts became a royal province with a new charter and a royal governor. In 1780, when John Adams drafted the constitution of the Commonwealth, he followed the language and the spirit of the company charter of 1629 as closely as possible.

Democracy as we have it today was not the goal of the founding fathers. They wanted to establish a commonwealth where men could lead the good life according to their own interpretation of God's word. It was not intended that every  
Continued on thirteenth page



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHELMSFORD, MASS.

### A PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the Town of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, having been incorporated under the laws and with the authorization of the General Court, in 1655, we, the elected members of the Board of Selectmen, do officially proclaim that a public observance of the 300th Anniversary of said incorporation shall be held during the year 1955.

Whereas, such observance shall be conducted with proper exercises and whereas, such exercises shall be under the jurisdiction of a committee of townspeople, and referred to, as the General Committee.

In thirty-five years after the pilgrims landed at Plymouth, the hardy, stalwart sons of Chelmsford, "seeked and petitioned for the incorporation of their town" and thereafter conducted her own government independently.

The memory of man does not dwell at great length on the events of yesterday, but Chelmsford has dwelt and advanced her three centuries, contributing to culture, science, and industry. Ever and always the call for the defense of the country, the commonwealth, the county, and the town, has been answered.

Chelmsford is proud of her history.

The year 1655 is a memorable one on our records. Let it ever be sacred and motivate our lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: we have here-to set our hands and caused the seal of the Town of Chelmsford to be affixed.

DONE at Chelmsford, Massachusetts, this thirteenth day of May in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty-five.

*Roger W. Boyd*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGER W. BOYD, Chairman  
*Donald E. Smith*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DONALD E. SMITH  
*Daniel J. Hart*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DANIEL J. HART

BOARD OF SELECTMEN





Members of the Board of Health, left to right, Dr. Charles C. Farrington, chairman, Oliver A. Reeves and Edmund J. Welch.



Chelmsford purchased its first rubbish collection truck in 1953 and the Board of Health has made weekly collections available to the town.

### Small Pox Epidemic Raged Unchecked In Chelmsford

Small pox is now so effectively controlled by vaccination that we pay scant attention to it, yet small pox epidemics, raging unchecked in the past, caused enormous losses of life in the Old World and the New. The too-familiar polio epidemics which the Salk vaccine seems to hold promise of conquering are to a slight degree modern counterparts of the recurrences of the earlier 'distemper,' but in the 17th and 18th centuries, when small pox was so prevalent in this country, there was less incentive to find preventive measures for the disease was con-

sidered an act of God, and there was also less hope of finding such measures because of the undeveloped state of medical knowledge.

Small pox existed in China in the 6th century and reached England in the 13th century, having been brought to Europe by crusaders returning from the Holy Land. It was a disease carried by persons and sprang up quickly wherever it was introduced. The Spanish explorers brought it to America about 1500, and some 125 years later, John Winthrop reported that a great majority of the Indians within a 300-mile radius of Massachusetts Bay had died of small pox which was then still prevalent. There were frequent epidemics in Massachusetts during the co-

lonial and provincial periods, and Boston suffered especially heavily because many infected ships came into its harbor. Its population was also greater and more concentrated than in any other town so the infection was more easily spread there. Since the problem was greatest in Boston, it was natural that that town should take the first steps toward its control. In this, as in many other matters concerning the welfare of the whole province, Boston was the leader, and the outlying districts, profiting by her experience, could subsequently adopt the measures she found most workable.

In the beginning, fast days were set apart early each year, when work was forbidden and prayers were offered on a vari-

ety of subjects. In 1678, for example, they were 'for continuance of peace, healing the small pox, and for sundry of our ministers that were languishing, and for other mercies.' In 1687, the day was set apart because of 'last year's drought, uncomfortable winter, Epidemicall coughs and colds, the small pox in some places, and for all the mercies of the year.'

During Boston's fifth epidemic (1702), when about 300 died, the first legislation was passed requiring the isolation of small pox patients:

'Whereas there is a man sick of the small pox at the house of Widow Paige at the North end of Boston, and in order to prevent the further spreading of said distemper within the said town, [the county sheriff and the town constable] are

required forthwith to aid and assist the selectmen of Boston, .... in disposing and removing the said Widow Paige with her son, daughter, and maid, and cause each of them to be carried down to Apple Island, or any other remote place of the town of Boston, as the said selectmen shall direct; And to impress men and boats, etc., as the occasion shall require. Hereof fail not;....'

The Paige family was evidently being isolated instead of the sick man, and we do not know what accommodations, if any, were made for the family on Apple Island or elsewhere. We can assume that the patient was provided with food and nursing care if necessary, probably at town expense.

In 1721, a sixth epidemic began in Boston, and about one

Continued on tenth page

Compliments of  
**JOHNSTON'S BAKERY**  
 HOME OF FINE BAKING  
 295 Westford St., Lowell GL 2-4431

CONGRATULATIONS  
**LARSON'S DAIRY**  
 1990 MIDDLESEX ST. CHELMSFORD  
 GL 2-9758

Compliments of  
**Chelmsford Trading Post**  
 Tel. GL 3-5222

Congratulation on  
 CHELMSFORD'S  
 TERCENTENARY  
  
**SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME**  
 ERNES C. SULLIVAN  
 Director  
 GL 3-1375  
 22 Fourth St., Lowell

Compliments of  
  
**WILDER GRAIN CO.**  
  
 GLenview 8-8797  
 Middlesex Place  
 LOWELL, MASS.

**RUSTY'S SUNOCO SERVICE STATION**  
 54 CHELMSFORD ST.  
 CHELMSFORD

**TUCKE & PARKER CO.**  
 ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS  
 176 Appleton Street  
 LOWELL, MASS.  
 GL 3-3472

Congratulation on  
 CHELMSFORD'S  
 TERCENTENARY  
  
**L & L TRANSPORTATION COMPANY**  
 15 CHEEVER STREET  
 Tel. GL 7-7595

Tel. GL 2-7937 Industrial  
  
**EDMUND B. KELTY CO.**  
 189 Walter Street Lowell, Mass.  
 HEATING CONTRACTORS  
 Commercial Residential

CONGRATULATIONS  
**HAYES OIL COMPANY**  
 OSSIE HAYES - JOSEPH E. HARDMAN  
 Residents of Chelmsford  
 517 DUTTON ST. LOWELL  
 GL 3-6961

Congratulations on Your  
 300TH ANNIVERSARY  
  
**ROGERS HALL SCHOOL for GIRLS**  
 (established 1892)  
 Boarding and Day Departments  
 Grades 9 through 12  
 College Preparatory and  
 General Courses  
 All Sports, Swimming Pool.  
 Many Social Activities  
 Mrs. Katharine W. MacGay  
 Principal  
 GL 2-5091





CHELMSFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT---front row, left to right, Basil J. Larkin, Winslow P. George, Chief Ralph J. Hulslander, Allan A. Adams, Edward F. Miner; second row, left to right, James W. Birtwell, Francis Foster, Leo A. Boucher, George W. Marinel, Leslie H. Adams, Jr.; rear row, left to right, Arthur F. Smith, Robert F. McAndrew, Richard F. Campbell, Walter W. Edwards, Jr., John B. Wrigley.



CHIEF OF POLICE RALPH J. HULSLANDER

**Chelmsford Police Band Makes Initial Appearance Sunday**

The newly organized Chelmsford Police Band made its initial appearance Sunday, May 29th when they played prior to and during the opening ceremonies for the Pony League at Varney Playground.

The band, under the direction of Sergeant Basil Larkin of the regular force, is composed of 30 regular and auxiliary members. They are neatly garbed in regular police uniforms and made a very smart appearance Sunday. The band was organized originally to add to the Police Department's unit for the Tercentenary parade. The group has now been organized and some outdoor summer concerts are now being planned.

The organizing of a Police Band is unique in this area as only the larger cities have enough men to be able to form such a group. Chelmsford is fortunate in having enough qualified musicians to take part in this endeavor and thus becoming one of the only towns north of Boston to have such an organization.

Police Chief Ralph J. Hulslander has been in charge of the fund raising campaign to buy the necessary band equipment, music, and regulation uniforms. Chief Hulslander reports that all of the uniforms and other equipment are now paid for.

The committee which directs the policy of the group consists of band members Jerry Dirubbo, John J. Foley, Jr., and Walter Wilkins, Jr. with assistance from Director Larkin and Chief Hulslander. Any lo-

**Valuation Of Chelmsford**

T. Val.	Polls	Pop.
1790 \$ 9,512.75	299	1,144
1800 \$ 11,816.10	322	1,290
1810 \$ 12,659.10		1,396
1820 \$ 15,993.98	402	1,535
1830 \$355,751.00	416	1,387
1840 \$443,684.77	443	1,697
1850 \$958,369.00	543	2,097
1860 \$1,371,136.00	583	2,291
1870 \$1,695,075.00	593	2,374
1880 \$1461,316.00	642	2,553
1890 \$1,772,035.00	758	2,695
1900 \$2,448,848.00	1,275	3,984
1910 \$4,524,105.00	1,347	5,010
1915 \$4,514,610.00	1,337	5,182
1920 \$6,421,540.00	1,419	5,682
1925 \$7,360,800.00	1,969	6,573
1930 \$7,090,615.00	2,051	7,022
1935 \$6,660,706.00	2,320	7,595
1940 \$7,018,740.00	2,657	8,060
1945 \$7,714,306.00	3,026	8,726
1950 \$9,456,490.00	3,124	9,407
1954 \$12,608,775.00	3,502	11,749

cal band musicians over high school age who are interested in joining this organization should contact the committee.

The following is a list of the present band members by sections: Clarinets: - Donald Caron, Donald Coates, Richard DeFreitas, Walter Dinnigan, Jack Edwards, and John Foley, Jr.; Trumpets: - Sewell Bowers, Jr., Greg Caron, James Dunningan, Gerald Hardy, Don Heathcock, Alexander Jarvis, Walter Larkin, and Donald Smith; Alto Horn: - Donald Enis; Baritone Horn: - Ray Cantara, and Frederick Crowe, Jr.; Saxophones: - Jerry Dirubbo, John Flynn, and Robert Oates. Trombones: - Robert Abrahamson, Basil Dixon, John Leite, and George Perzel; Basses: - James Gagnon, and Donald Hankinson; Drums: - Larry

Continued on fifteenth page



CHELMSFORD POLICE BAND:---Pictured, Center front, John McEnaney, (Drum Carrier), First row, 1 to r, James Gagnon, Basil Dixon, Robert Abrahamson, Raymond Cantara, Ralph Hulslander (Chief of Police) Basil Larkin (Director of band), Frederick Crowe, George Perzel, Donald Hankinson; Second row, 1 to r, Gregory Caron, John Leite, John Flynn, Donald Heathcock, Sewell Bowers, Jr., Walter Larkin, Gerald Hardy, Jerry Dirubbo; Third row, 1 to r, Jack Edwards, Alexander Gervais, Lawrence Day, Donald Smith, Donald Caron, James Dunigan; Fourth row, 1 to r, Roger Proulx, George Marinel, Walter Dinnigan, Raymond Morin, Walter Wilkins, Jr.

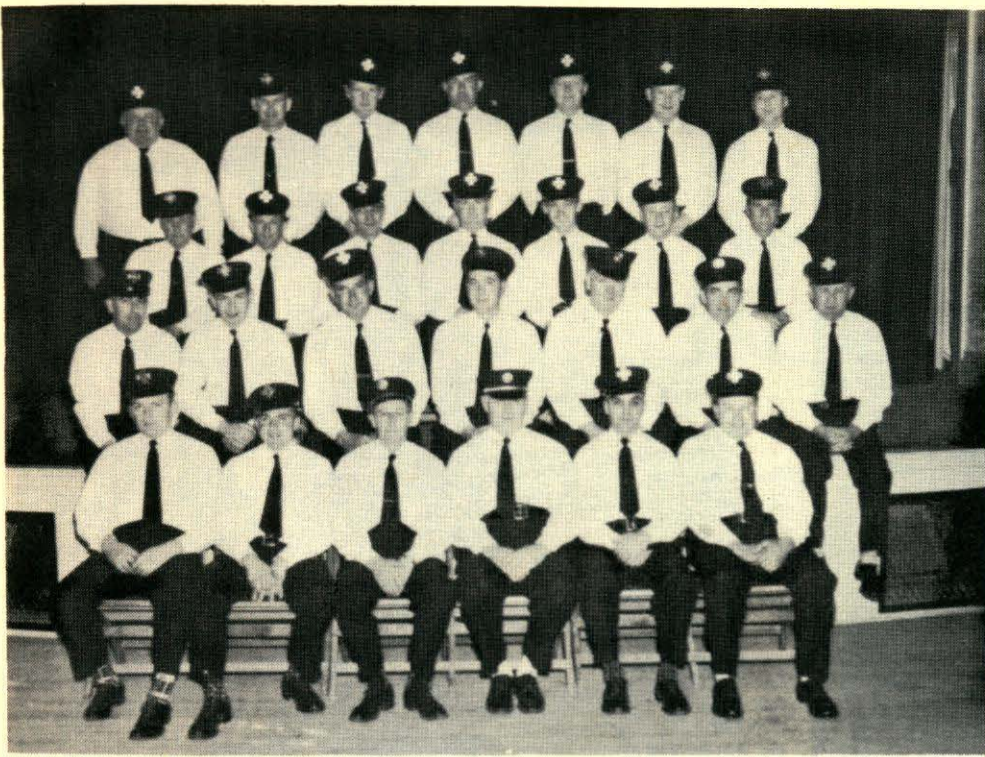


Chelmsford Police Band.

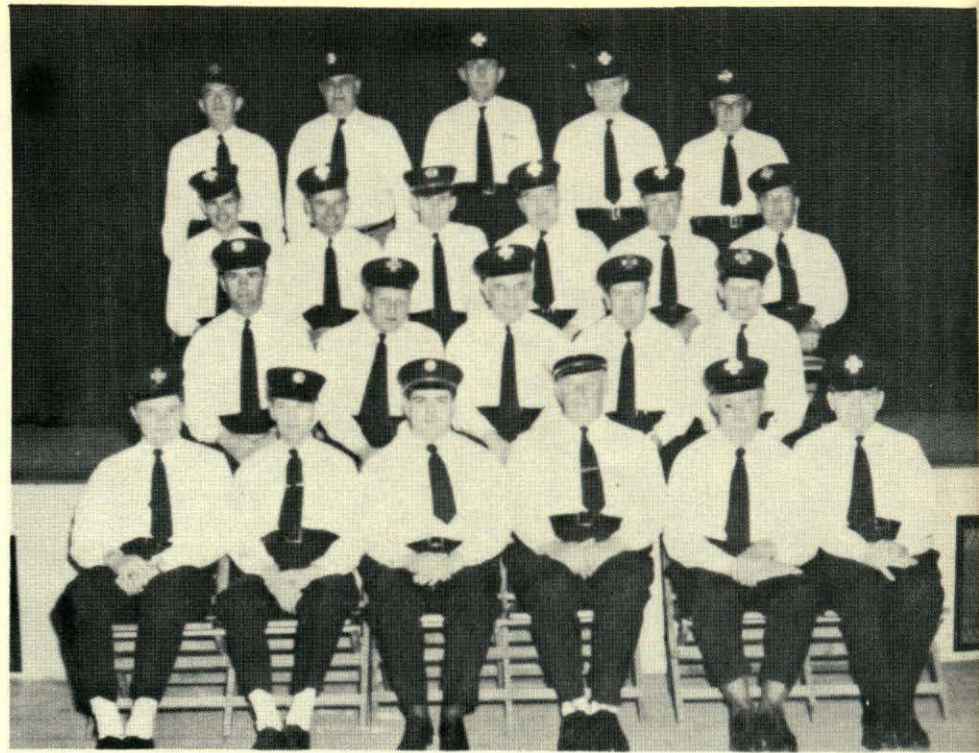


Part of the Chelmsford Police on Parade..





Front, 1 to r, William Shedd, Thomas Shedd, Donald Smith, Capt. Clarence Dane, Arthur Cutter, Anthony Ferriera; second row, Edward Hoyt, Lt. Charles Jangraw, Ralph House, Roger Calder, Lt. Howard Christianson, Capt. George Waite, Raymond Marchand; third row, 1 to r, Melmon Smith Forrest Philbrook, Royce Parker, Charles Miller, Eugene Pudsey, George Baxendale, Capt. Asa Robey; fourth row, 1 to r, Ira Spaulding, Arthur House, John Hallberg, Neil Mooers, John Breen, Arthur Caster, Lt. Robert Spaulding.



Front, 1 to r, Bradford Emerson, Capt. Ernest Byam, Edward Quinn, Chief Allan Kidder, Ray Pickard, William Thayer; second row, 1 to r, George Dixon, Warren Wetmore Thomas Miskell, James Robinson, Edward McGovern; third row, 1 to r, Lionel Marchand, Capt. Roland Marr, George Parkhurst, Charles Fuller, A. Louis Bennett; fourth row, 1 to r, Foster Braga, William Dutton, Farley Kemp, Wallace Greig, Morton Pickard.



FIRE CHIEF ALLAN KIDDER



Members of the Chelmsford Fire Departments as they marched in the Parade during the celebration.



The late Joseph D. Ryan who gave the fire department fifty years of service in fire fighting. He was Chief of District 2 for many years and retired at the age of 80 years.



Chelmsford Fire Dept. during celebration - also headquarters for celebration.

*Ceramics*

SUPPLIES - GREENWARE - INSTRUCTIONS  
**GEORGE J. PERZEL**  
 TELEPHONE LOWELL GL 2-4440  
 167 NORTH ROAD, CHELMSFORD, MASS.

Congratulations on  
 Chelmsford's 300th Anniversary  
**DUSOBX CO. INC.**

500 Sizes In Stock

24 Hour Service

*Anything Your Shipper Needs*

69 WILLIE ST., LOWELL, MASS

GL 2-1100





FIREMEN'S MUSTER COMMITTEE--left to right, James O. Robinson, Edward Quinn, chairman Chief Allan Kidder, George F. Waite, Edward Hoyt.

**Firemen's Muster One Of Feature Events Of Tercentenary Celebration**

The Firemen's Muster held on Saturday June 11th on the old Trotting park grounds was one of the outstanding events of the entire Tercentenary celebration. The large crowd in attendance at the parade slowly filed down to the muster grounds and by starting time there was an excellent crowd set to watch the afternoon's festivities.

There were twelve units on hand ready for action as the officials prepared to open the competition. The hand tubs were all in excellent condition despite their age and it made the people on hand marvel at how fires could have been handled by these machines.

The competition gave each tub a chance to put out a stream as far as possible in a fifteen minute time limit. This consisted of building up pressure in the tub and then breaking open the nozzle when the crew foreman felt the wind currents were with him. Some of the participating units sent out as many as five different streams in an attempt to place in the prize money that amounted to some \$1200.

The Gerry No. 5 unit from Marblehead, Mass., was the tub that opened the action for the afternoon and they had a good turn as they sent out the first prize winning stream for Class 2. Their stream carried 196 and 1 1/2 inches. The Torrent No. 1 from Bath, Maine, took second place honors in

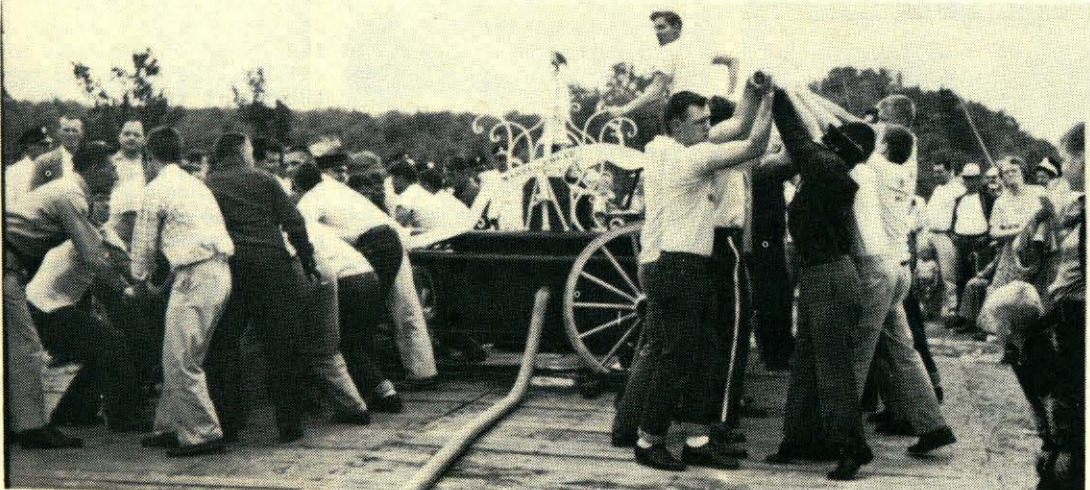
Continued on fourteenth page



Water Polo during the Fireman's Muster.



Gerry No. 5 getting ready to make a break when they get the wind blowing in the right direction.



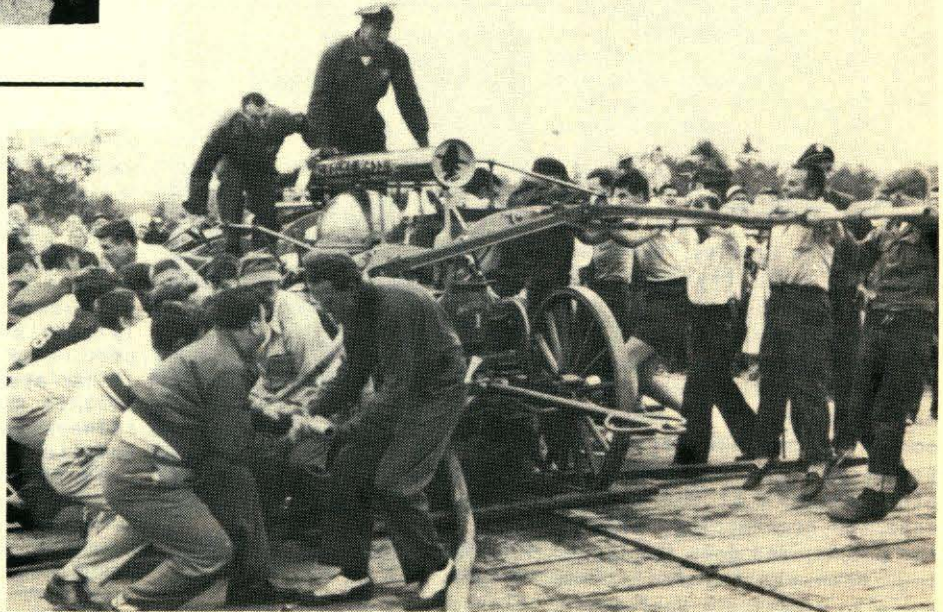
Gerry No. 5 of Marblehead at the Fireman's Muster.



This entry is trying another technique to get distance..



Gerry No. 5 trying to set a mark which they did and won their class.



Protection No. 1 of Newbury, Mass. at the Muster.





In a small room in the rear of this building the Chelmsford Newsweekly was started. Located at Newfield Street in the North section the publisher saw the need to be centrally located and the office was moved to the Center section.

The entire NEWSWEEKLY staff extends to the townspeople of Chelmsford its heartiest congratulations during their 300th anniversary year. These

make history and we are doing our part towards the writing of that history by reporting each week some of the events-- great and small--which we think



Edward G. Krasnecki, Editor and Publisher, is responsible for all material that is printed in the Newsweekly. The cooperation of the members on the Newsweekly staff is a great help as Wednesday evening arrives and the newspaper pages are made up. Each story, picture and advertisement is pasted into proper position on each page and then taken to Offset Printing Inc. in Lowell some time after midnight for photography and actual printing. The newspaper is completed some time before noon the next day.

three centuries have provided the town with a rich and inspiring heritage. Now you yourselves are helping to



Mrs. Frances Hartley, Business Manager, actually runs the newspaper office and her duties are many. All work is funnelled through her hands before completion, she takes most complaints as well as compliments, makes arrangements for assignments for other members of the staff, does the bookkeeping, writes the checks, and does the billing. When she has free time she also operates a Vari-typewriter and sets ads.

are significant in the life of the town--that is, in the lives of Chelmsford people.

We are pleased with the interest and cooperation you have shown us during our 16 years of existence. This is the first time that all of those who are responsible for putting out the NEWSWEEKLY have met together as one group. That is, pictured together as a group, and speaking with one voice, we hope that our work will continue to merit your support in the years to



Mrs. Mary Long, advertising manager, can be heard on the telephone by advertisers almost every day.

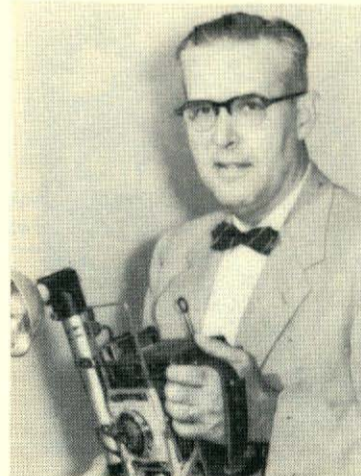
come. You may be sure that we will do our best to make your local paper more interesting and more worthwhile with each issue.

After sixteen years of publishing a newspaper it can be told that before a person goes into newspaper work they must convince themselves first that they love work. With work on a newspaper you do not know what to expect, stories, advertising, pictures and remuneration at the end of a week. Hours do not mean eight hours a day or forty hours a week, it means that you start a job and work on it until it is completed without regard for time. You must learn to be able to con-



Edgar P. George, Sport Columnist, contributes his sports column "Short Sport Shots" each week. Ed calls his shots as he sees them and has been responsible for much of the sports interest in the town.

verse in almost any line of business, must have an idea of what is going to take place before it happens, anticipate what town officials may do or not do, be a politician yourself, he hard skinned in that one day you are scum of the



Ernest A. Pouliot, Official Photographer who takes most of the pictures for the Newsweekly. A wellknown figure in the town, he is most welcome at any occasion where pictures are needed.

earth and on another day you are placed amongst the heavenly angels for the deeds you perform in relating the news. It has always been the policy of this newspaper that news knows no class, that everybody is news.

A great day in Chelmsford was the birth of the Chelmsford Newsweekly on May 2, 1940 when Edward G. Krasnecki and Harry VanDernoot started a weekly newspaper in Chelmsford. Mr. VanDernoot was the editor while Mr. Krasnecki was the

The annual Memorial day exercises and parade took place in the Centre last Thursday morning, with a program similar to that of other years carried out by the patriotic organizations of the town.

complete story on page 7.

North Chelmsford paid tribute to its war dead last Thursday with appropriate exercises, parade and program, concluding with a catered dinner served in the town hall.

complete story on page 7.

Members of the children's choir of the Central Baptist church held their final rehearsal of the season last Wednesday afternoon at the church vestry, followed by a party.

complete story on page 7.

The Stony Brook Hermit says that the weather last week was too wet for even the fish. They complained to him of nearly drowning.

completed story on page 2.

For those who like their news from the nation's capitol in a concise and readable column, we have just that every week written by two of Washington's outstanding correspondents, Ray Johnson and Walter Pierce.

completed story on page 2.

Fire destroyed a barn and garage at the Walter Boumil farm on Dunstable road in North shortly before 4 A. M. last Friday morning, but the Boumil house, only 15 feet away from the garage, was saved by the local firemen under the direction of Chief Joseph Ryan.

completed story on page 6.

At a meeting held Friday night by representatives of the Episcopal, Baptist and Congregational churches at the home of Rev. Charles W. Henry, it was decided to hold the community church picnic Saturday, June 15, at Varnum Grove, Long Pond, Dracut.

completed story on page 6.

The Centre Brownies held their final meeting of the season at the post quarters last week, the meeting being held in the form of a party.

Original format of the Chelmsford Newsweekly in its edition of the 1940 Federal Census which shows Chelmsford with another feature headlined was that fifty voters approached must be present at any town meeting before any business. HMS Chelmsford, a ship having the same name as this town, was built a half before this country entered the war.



Miss Eleanor Parkhurst, Feature Writer and Historian, who does special stories and some editorials. Her work on most of the historical data in the regular edition and the Tercentenary edition was a tremendous task and should be enjoyed by all townspeople. She is our Historian.

business manager. The birthplace was in an nine foot square room in the rear of a two story cement building on Newfield Street in North Chelmsford. The life of this new newspaper wasn't given much chance to survive by some of the experts of the town and for a while even the two owners were convinced that it was a big mistake but youth was determined to fight it out.

Until September of 1940 the Newsweekly was printed in Everett and one of the greatest thrills realized now was that Lt. Governor Sumner G. Whittier was in the pressroom when the very first impression of the first Newsweekly came off the press. Whittier was at that time an Alderman in Everett.

In September the Newsweekly was printed in Lawrence by the Lawrence Sunday Sun until March 1941 when the printing was again done in Everett.

In February the decision

had been reached that there just wasn't enough money in a weekly newspaper for two and Mr. VanDernoot sold out to Mr. Krasnecki. Mr. VanDernoot is now a feature writer for Associated Press in Washington, D. C.

One of the first moves the new Editor and Publisher made was to obtain the services of Edgar George as Sports Editor, Phoebe Murphy (now Phoebe Killilea) as reporter and Mary Sheehan (now Mary Long) as advertising solicitor. The support given the paper from that point on was most appreciative. The paper had reached the point where it was considered established. From a financial angle ads. came in from the New England Telephone Company, Lowell Electric Light Corp., Lowell Gas Company, probate court and land court and local merchants gave the paper a boost by advertising in it. Only one advertiser has appeared in every issue published by the Chelmsford Newsweekly, that is Saunders Funeral Home of Lowell. We certainly appreciate their loyalty to us and the town of



Mrs. Florence Confort, Vari-typist, who prepares finished copy for each edition of the Newsweekly. This is one of the machines used to set the straight copy you read.

Census 8,060

50 Voters \$6,000

Town Meeting:

The sum of \$6000 was town meeting held Monday hall for the purpose of power grader for the department. The meeting, which had 50 voters, was over at both articles containing ing accepted without a six-year-old machine a snow plow and with a four-wheel drive, and the new equipment was



# ORD Newsweekly

is of worth but truth, before which all men are equal."

CHELMSFORD NEWSWEEKLY, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1940 PRICE 3 CENTS

## s Returns Population

## ers Appropriate In 15 Minutes

### Census Returns:

The Bureau of Census of the Department of Commerce has just announced that preliminary count of the population of Chelmsford has shown a total of 8,060 as of April 1, 1940.

This figure shows an increase of 1,038 over the population as of April 1, 1930, which figure was set at 7,022. Mr. E. Francis Oday, head of the local Census takers, announced the preliminary figure this week.

A special annotation on the figure points out that this is a preliminary announcement of population subject to revision in the near future, if such revision is found necessary.

er editions. In this particular edition are the results of the population of 8,060 as compared to nearly 12,000 in 1955. It cost \$6,000 in fifteen minutes. Today at least 200 voters can be conducted. Still another feature was an account of the British Navy during World War II about a year and

## HMS Chelmsford Seeing Service In Second War

Approximately 85 men of the British Navy today wear around their flat hats ribbons bearing the name "H. M. S. CHELMSFORD."

The ship, which has the name of this town, is fighting her second war within less than a generation. Last week, she took part in bloody, fierce combat along the Flanders coast, when she was pressed into service as a troop transport to carry away men of the trapped armies of the Allies.

The Chelmsford was chosen for such work because she and her sisters are unique in these streamlined times. They are paddle-wheel warships. Sound ideas lay behind their construction, for by use of the wheels for propulsion instead of screw propellers, the ships are ideal mine sweepers, having less draft than other ships, and far greater maneuverability.

It was because of these qualities that the Chelmsford and her sisters — Atherstone, Cheltenham, Cheslow, Harpenden, Banbury and Melton—were sent to help evacuate the troops from Flanders. They were able to go close to shore where no dock existed, and thus relieve the strain at the latter points, by taking off hundreds of men, under at-



Mrs. Edward G. Krasnecki, Publisher's Assistant, can do just about every job on the paper. She is shown setting Fototype for headlines and display lines.

realized and a machine was purchased. Mrs. Krasnecki and Mrs. Louis Hannaford went to Boston to learn how to operate the machine. With the use of this machine and Fototype, the entire newspaper was set in the office. Once pasted up in proper position the pages had to be brought to an offset printer, The Banner Press in Townsend, for photography and presswork. The Newsweekly was the first newspaper to be published by this method and the first edition using this method was published on October 23, 1947. Since that time there have been many other papers to go into the same method of printing.

At first, the new type used by the Newsweekly was not too



Mrs. Frances Ricker, Correspondent, gives the paper that personal touch as she reports on West section events.

good but time and experience brought improvements. Quite a coincidence was that the Chicago Tribune printers went on strike in November of 1947 and they used the same method to combat the strike for nearly two years. About the same time Boston newspapers contacted us to learn more about our methods of printing in case a strike occurred in Boston.

Pictures have been a great factor with the Newsweekly and we owe a great deal to Ernest Pouliot for those pictures. From the start, William Colmer took some of our pictures. At the First Annual Field Day in 1948, Mr. Krasnecki had taken a number of pictures and it wasn't until later in the evening that he found out that his camera was out of focus. Knowing that Mr. Pouliot had also taken pictures that day, Mr. Krasnecki purchased Mr. Pouliot's pictures. Mr. Pouliot inquired why people in Chelmsford were not so friendly? With this Mr. Krasnecki asked Mr. Pouliot if he would like to take pictures for him so that he may become better

acquainted with people in the town. What Mr. Pouliot has accomplished by taking pictures and mixing with the people of Chelmsford is proof that residents of this town want to be friendly if given a chance. It also proves that a handicap such as being deaf is no barrier in this town to get along with fellow townsmen nor does it interfere with skill possessed in any person.

During 1949 the offset department of Banner Press in Townsend was offered for sale to Mr. Krasnecki. After talking to Mr. S. George Kimball and George A. Tyler, two veterans, a corporation was formed, called Offset Printing Inc. of Lowell. Judge Valentine handled the legal transaction while Mr. Thomas J. Campbell of the Middlesex County National Bank was present with the money as the purchase was made on Dec. 1, 1949. Mr. Kimball handled the photographic and technical phases at Banner Press while Mr. Tyler handled the pressroom. Mr. Kimball is now a resident of Chelmsford residing on Bridge Street, while Mr. Tyler resides in Lowell. The offset equipment was moved to 685 Lawrence Street, Lowell two weeks after it was purchased, a building owned by Frank J. Garvey, also of Chelmsford.

At this location in Lowell six weekly newspapers are printed each week as are twelve bi-weeklies and monthlies.

With the added duties at the printing plant, Paul Reilly became Managing Editor of the Newsweekly until January of 1951 with Hazel Rose (now Hazel Otterson) and Beverly Cochrane (now Beverly Parker) working in the office.

Mrs. Frances Hartley came to work at the Newsweekly in January 1951 and her cheerful voice can be heard any day at the office now. Assisting Mrs. Hartley was Mrs. Florence Confort who has become an expert on the Varityper.

George A. Gagan came to work for the Newsweekly in December of 1953 until June 1954.

On July 1, 1954, the Newsweekly moved its offices to the new Boyd Building where we are now located. In August 1954 Earl L. Murphy came on as Managing Editor and Nancy Greenwood as varityper. Later Mrs. Bernice Lewis came to the Newsweekly as a varityper.

Parker George was added to the staff as a reporter this year and Mrs. Frances Ricker of West Chelmsford was added as a correspondent.

Robert Braga is our latest addition to the circulation



W. Parker George, Jr., Sports Editor, looking over one of the pictures going into the sports pages.

department, and Shirley Gould as typist.

When the Tercentenary year, of 1955 came, it was felt that the Newsweekly, being the only newspaper published in the town, should do something special to commemorate this 300th birthday of the town. We felt that the Newsweekly was making history for the town with every issue it published. Other newspapers had been published in the town but none had published as long as the Newsweekly has.

For two years plans have been in the making. Old pictures, historical news have been compiled by Miss Eleanor Parkhurst who has done an excellent job on writing his-



Shirley Gould, Typist, is now a Senior in Chelmsford High school. She works part time after school. Her work is to prepare copy for the Varityper.

tory which we feel she is very qualified to do. Mrs. Lydwin Bachelder, an authority on clothing, has prepared very interesting material on clothes in Chelmsford's history and she covered the woman's angle of the tercentenary celebration. We are also indebted to the many people of this town who have offered unselfishly their time and information in making the Tercentenary Edition so complete.

Walter Cole was engaged to handle the advertising for the Tercentenary Edition and has worked on this edition from March to August. Bertram Needham also assisted Mr. Cole for a period of time.

It is through the advertising in any publication such as this that makes such a publication successful. This publication has meant a great deal of work for the entire staff and we sincerely hope that we have satisfied you -- our readers.

Our regular edition is published every Thursday with news of you and your town, published by Chelmsford people for Chelmsford people. May the advertisers who helped us in this edition prosper in the years to come.



Mrs. Lydwin Bachelder, Special Writer, is an authority on clothing, being able to tell a great deal of history from the way clothing is made. Her articles appeared in the regular editions. She also reported on Women's Day activities during the celebration as well as other highlights.

Chelmsford.

Our early existence could not have been possible without the help of the Lowell Sun, Lowell Sunday Telegram, Courier Citizen, Evening Leader and the L'Etoile.

In August of 1941 the Banner Press in Townsend printed the Newsweekly until Dec. 23, 1942 when the owner was inducted into the Armed Services. Before entering the army the paper was incorporated by Atty. John H. Valentine and suspended for the duration. Up until the time the paper was suspended free copies of the paper were sent to all servicemen from the town.

Being in the service for four years did not change the desire of Mr. Krasnecki to publish a newspaper for on Sept. 13, 1946, a second venture was made to publish a newspaper in the town of Chelmsford. This time, the response of the people and advertisers was an indication



Mrs. Bernice Lewis, Vari-Typist, working on another varityper and is setting some of the straight copy to be used in the newspaper. These machines are electric and have a right and left justification so that columns may be finished even.



Robert Braga, Circulation Manager, working on the addressograph and preparing the papers for mailing. Bobby is a part time worker, attends Keith Academy and is a Senior.





## Chelmsford Eagle.

Published by the  
"VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION"  
—of—  
CHELMSFORD CENTRE.

EDITORS:  
H. S. PERHAM, E. FITZ GERALD,  
B. F. COOLEY.  
Printed by  
MARDEN & ROWELL,  
Weekly Journal Office, Lowell Mass.

### THE BELLS OF OLD CHELMSFORD.

Deep, and then high—high and then deep!  
The bells of old Chelmsford melody keep.  
Deep, and then high—high, and then deep!  
In turn, and in tune, they rejoice and they leap.

High, and then deep—deep, and then high!  
As if they were angels, out of the sky—  
High, and then deep—deep, and then high!  
Now, far away off, and now, heavenly high.

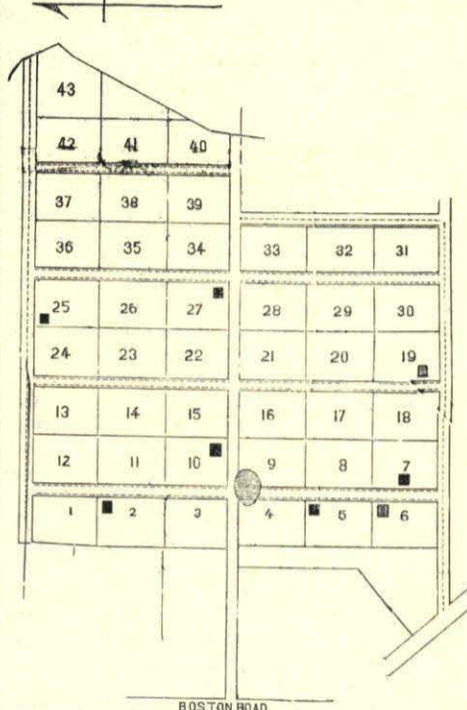
Deep, and then high—high, and then deep!  
The bells of old Chelmsford solemnly sweep.  
Deep, and then high—high, and then deep!  
The Kingdom a-comes to the Sabbath-day's sleep.

High, and then deep—deep and then high!  
As 'twas to the hearts of men they did cry—  
High, and then deep—deep, and then high!  
"Hoop away!" 'twill be better than this, bye and bye!"

Deep, and then high—high, and then deep!  
The bells of old Chelmsford harmony keep.  
Deep, and then high—high, and then deep!  
It's joy that they sow, and it's joy that they reap.

High, and then deep—deep, and then high!  
O, bells from two steeples, in one divine tie!  
High, and then deep—deep, and then high!  
O, bells of old Chelmsford, never to die!

E. F.  
*The Natural Scenery of Chelmsford.*  
It is safe to say that nature has done more for our village than art.



The Co-operative Mutual Home-  
stead Company.  
The most important real estate  
movement in this village for many

President, True Morton Clerk and  
Treasurer, C. B. Stevens.  
In conclusion it should be stated  
that this article is written by one  
who has no interest in the company  
other than that which every citizen  
ought to manifest in any laudable an  
undertaking. CIVIS.

*Our Village Improvement As-  
sociation.*  
A meeting of the citizens of this  
place called for the purpose of con-  
sidering measures of public interest  
was held in the Town Hall, on Mon-  
day evening, November 15th.

Organized by Colonel J. A. Bart-  
lett as Chairman, and H. S. Perham,  
Secretary.  
Mr. E. K. Parkhurst addressed the  
meeting, and referred to some  
measures, the adoption of which he  
thought might serve to promote the  
public interests. The establishment  
of street lights was spoken of as one  
needed improvement. The occasional  
issue of a paper it was thought might  
serve to keep alive the interest in  
building which had been manifested  
during the past year.

Dr. J. C. Bartlett spoke in favor  
of forming an association for the  
purpose of setting shade trees and  
otherwise improving the streets and  
public squares.

Committees were appointed to  
further consider this and other  
measures which had been proposed  
and report at an adjourned meeting.

Nov. 22d. Our citizens again met  
agreeable to adjournment, and the  
committee on organization presented  
the following preamble and form of  
constitution:

Recognizing the fact that in every  
community there exist certain public  
needs which may be better met or  
provided for by organized than in-  
dividual effort, and further that in  
this particular village several public  
improvements urgently demand atten-  
tion, therefore,

Resolved, That we, the citizens of  
Chelmsford Centre, form ourselves  
into a society under the name of the  
"Village Improvement Association,"  
for the purposes hereinafter set forth.



Robin's Hill.

This hill is the commanding point  
of Chelmsford Centre. It is the land-  
mark of the country round for miles.  
A single tree on the top stands so  
accurately and gracefully just at the  
right place that it seems as though it  
was the hill itself rising naturally into  
a central spire, and it is well  
known as "The Lone Pine." Through  
this natural spire the branches are so  
regularly disposed as to represent  
very well the rounds of a ladder, or,  
perhaps, the steps of a circular stair-  
way running up to still loftier pros-  
pects. At another point is a great  
rock, marvelously balanced, as if  
fixed there by some power, something  
in the same way that Columbus set  
the egg on end. Here, with a little  
scramble, is another natural chance  
for another view from the hill. In-  
deed the lookout from any part of  
the brow of the hill is fully worth the  
walk and struggle, up. To the north  
and west lie the signal mountains of  
Massachusetts. There's Monadnock!  
and westerly is Wachusett. Under-  
winds the great valley of the Merrimack;  
and there is Lowell dotted  
out upon the scene. Here right at  
our feet is the pretty group of  
Chelmsford Centre. Off a little ways  
in South Chelmsford, is a bit of lake,  
for the landscape. South, put off to  
sea, for the vision is unlimited over  
an undulating expanse of hamleted  
and wooded meadow and hill. Cool  
and healthful the breezes here in the  
heats of mid-summer! "What a  
grand place," you think, with a mind  
to the useful as well as the imaginat-  
ive—"What a grand place for a

### Chelmsford Cards.

The reason why  
**PERHAM'S VINEGAR**  
has gained such an enviable reputation in the  
**PAST 35 YEARS**  
is not because they have learned some secret in  
its manufacture, but because they never put up  
any vinegar from the  
**"OLD PERHAM FARM"**  
except the  
**BEST QUALITY**  
OF  
**Pure Old Cider Vinegar.**

H. S. PERHAM,  
Chelmsford.

E. B. MELVIN,  
FROM BRADY'S BAKERY, LOWELL,  
Circulates BREAD, CAKES, TARTS, PIES,  
BUNS, Cakes, &c., &c.,  
among the good people of Chelmsford, North  
Chelmsford, also Tewksbury and Dracut.

### HOUSE LOTS

FOR SALE.  
Two large, very desirable lots, within three  
minutes' walk of depot. Several smaller lots  
within five minutes' walk of depot—very cheap.  
Chelmsford, Dec. 15, 1875.  
D. A. BUSSELL.

### MIDDLESEX

**Mutual Fire Insurance Co.,**  
Incorporated March 3, 1838. Concord, Mass.  
Geo. Heywood, Pres. Richard Barrett, Sec'y.  
This Company insures first-class property in  
Massachusetts, against loss by fire or lightning,  
and in new paying a return premium of 50 per  
cent. on five-year policies, and 50 per cent. on all  
others. E. H. WARREN, Agent for Chelmsford.

**GREEN & HAGERMAN,**  
Carpenters and Builders,  
Chelmsford.

We keep a force of help sufficient to execute any  
kind of work in the above line in an expeditious  
and workmanlike manner.

### Lowell Cards.

**PUTNAM & SON**

Ask attention to the following

### SPECIAL BARGAINS

To be found in their

### Comprehensive Stock,

Which for the LOW PRICES quoted must  
commend them to every purchaser.

ONE LOT

**CHINCHILLA OVERCOATS, \$9 EACH**  
Worth \$12.00.

FIFTEEN DOZEN HEAVY

**CARDIGAN JACKETS, \$1 EACH**  
Worth \$1.50.

100 DOZEN.



Board of Health Agent Edward Tyler and clerk Mrs. Florence Dutton.

meeting was not held--perhaps  
due to Dr. Douglass' opposi-  
tion--and so Mr. Mather wrote  
to his friend, Dr. Zabdiel  
Boylston (for whom Boston's  
Boylston Street is named) and  
asked his opinion, saying that  
among some foreign peoples  
" 'tis no rare thing for a  
whole company of a dozen to-  
gether to go to a person sick  
of the small pox, and prick  
his pustules, and inoculate the  
rumour, even no more than to  
the back of an hand, and go  
home and be a little ill, and  
have a fever, and be safe all  
the rest of their days.' Dr.  
Boylston immediately made a  
most daring experiment: he  
inoculated his own small son  
and two Negro servants. The  
experiment was successful and  
several others were inoculated,  
but none of the other Boston  
physicians except one, would go  
to see the living witnesses of  
this success. The general  
public grew hysterical: Mr.  
Mather and Dr. Boylston were  
insulted on the street and in  
the press, their families were  
hardly safe outside their  
homes, and many sober pious  
people were struck with horror,  
and were of opinion that if  
any of Dr. Boylston's patients  
should die, he ought to be  
treated as a murderer.'

The civil authorities of  
Boston met to hear evidence on  
the matter of inoculation and  
were persuaded that 'the con-  
tinuing of the operation among  
us is likely to prove of most  
dangerous consequence.' Dr.  
Boylston persisted, however,  
and soon a great increase in  
the number of inoculations be-  
gan. Cotton Mather's son was  
inoculated secretly after his  
father had given much thought  
and prayer to the decision.  
The ministers now encouraged  
the practice, and many who  
underwent the great ordeal of  
inoculation found it no ordeal  
at all but were 'drowned in  
tears to think how the lives



Swift and Company red wagon -- then and now

of their (uninoculated rela-  
tives) have been thrown away.'  
The public was still uncon-  
vinced; a lighted grenade was  
thrown through Cotton Mather's  
window but fortunately did not  
explode. By the end of the  
year, when the epidemic began  
to wane, inoculation was on  
the way to quite general ac-  
ceptance although many details  
and improvements remained to  
be worked out over a long  
period of time.

In Chelmsford, which had al-  
ready had occasional cases of  
small pox, the disease appeared  
in John Bates' family (1722)  
and the selectmen ordered that  
the road be fenced up on each  
side of his house with notices  
posted so that travellers  
could avoid the place. The town  
paid for this, for the services  
of a constable who forbade the  
family to leave their house,  
and for nursing care.

In 1760, Zebediah Keyes, jr.,  
apprenticed to a Billerica  
man, came home to visit his  
mother 'in ye Neck' (East  
Chelmsford). She had been  
widowed late in 1758, when her  
husband died within a week of  
his return from the French and  
Indian war. The son was taken  
ill of small pox and died. He

was buried 'nigh unto his  
mother's house' for 'it was  
judged best not to bring the  
corps to town to be buried.'  
Others in the family hastily  
left when he became sick, but  
his mother cared for him and  
shortly fell ill herself. After  
her recovery, the church took  
up a collection of £62 in cash  
and £4 in grain for her and  
her family as was often done  
in needy cases.

During the Revolutionary  
period there was much small  
pox, encouraged by the dis-  
turbed conditions of the day  
and spread by refugees and re-  
turning soldiers. The story of  
the deaths of Dr. Jonas Mar-  
shall's wife and two of her  
children from this source in  
1776 is well known. The town  
records have many entries on  
behalf of the Lufkin family who  
contracted small pox twice in  
1777 and 1778. The children  
were boarded out, services of  
a nurse and doctor were pro-  
vided, and much unspecified  
help given--all at town ex-  
pense. The only 'medicine'  
listed is ten pounds of sugar,  
a gallon of rum, and 2½ quarts  
of spirits.

Although inoculation was now  
Continued on eleventh page

### Small Pox Epidemic

Continued from fourth page  
person in 7 died. Shortly be-  
fore this, several volumes of  
medical treatises had been im-  
ported from England, and Dr.  
Wm. Douglass, the only physi-  
cian then in Boston with an  
M.D. degree, loaned them to  
his friend, the Rev. Cotton  
Mather. In these transactions  
of the Royal Society were two  
articles describing the methods  
and successful results of the  
treatment of small pox in Tur-  
key and neighboring countries  
by means of inoculating healthy  
individuals with the disease  
so that they might be immunized  
by undergoing a light case of  
it. Cotton Mather at once saw  
the bearing of these articles  
on the situation at hand, and  
he invited the physicians of  
Boston to meet with him to  
discuss the possibility of try-  
ing out this new method. The



Dr. Levi Howard, father of Dr. Amasa Howard who succeeded him in 1882 an able physician and violinist.



## Selectmen 1917-1955

1917: Justin L. Moore, A. Heady Park, D. Frank Small; 1918: D. Frank Small, Justin L. Moore, A. Heady Park; 1919: Wm. E. Belleville, D. Frank Small, Justin L. Moore; 1920: Geo. W. Day, Wm. E. Belleville, James P. Dunigan; 1921: Geo. Rigby, Geo. W. Day, Wm. E. Belleville; 1922: Wm. E. Belleville, Geo. Rigby, Geo. W. Day; 1923: Geo. W. Day, Wm. E. Belleville, Geo. Rigby; 1924: Geo. Rigby, Geo. W. Day, Wm. E. Belleville; 1925: Geo. W. Day, Geo. Rigby, Robt. W. Barris; 1926: Geo. Rigby, Robt. W. Barris, Ralph P. Adams; 1927: Robt. W. Barris, Ralph P. Adams, Geo. Rigby; 1928: Ralph P. Adams, Geo. Rigby, Eliphalet G. Brown; 1929: Geo. Rigby, Eliphalet G. Brown, Frank J. Lupien; 1930: Eliphalet G. Brown, Frank J. Lupien, Royal Shawcross; 1931: Frank J. Lupien, Royal Shawcross, James A. Grant; 1932: James A. Grant, Royal Shawcross, Frank J. Lupien; 1933: Herbert C. Sweetser, Frank J. Lupien, Stewart MacKay; 1934: Frank J. Lupien, Stewart MacKay, James A. Grant; 1935: Stewart MacKay, James A. Grant, Karl M. Perham; 1936: James A. Grant, Karl M. Perham, Stewart MacKay; 1937: Karl M. Perham, Stewart MacKay, James A. Grant; 1938: Stewart MacKay, James A. Grant, Karl M. Perham; 1939: James A. Grant, Karl M. Perham, Stewart MacKay; 1940: Karl M. Perham, Stewart MacKay, James A. Grant; 1941: Stewart MacKay, James A. Grant, Karl M. Perham; 1942: James A. Grant, Karl M. Perham, Stewart MacKay; 1943: Karl M. Perham, Stewart MacKay, Raymond H. Greenwood; 1944: Stewart MacKay, Raymond H. Greenwood, Karl M. Perham; 1945: Raymond H. Greenwood, Karl M. Perham, John L. Dussault; 1946: Karl M. Perham, John L. Dussault, Raymond H. Greenwood; 1947: John L. Dussault, Raymond H. Greenwood, Theodore W. Emerson; 1948: Raymond H. Greenwood, Theodore W. Emerson, Carl A. E. Peterson; 1949: Theodore W. Emerson, Carl A. E. Peterson, Arnaud R. Blackadar; 1950: Carl A. E. Peterson, Arnaud R. Blackadar, Theodore W. Emerson; 1951: Arnaud R. Blackadar, Theodore W. Emerson, Carl A. E. Peterson; 1952: Theodore W. Emerson, Carl A. E. Peterson, Raymond H. Greenwood; 1953: Carl A. E. Peterson, Raymond H. Greenwood, Roger W. Boyd; 1954: Raymond H. Greenwood, Roger W. Boyd, Donald E. Smith; 1955: Roger W. Boyd, Donald E. Smith, Daniel J. Hart.

## Small Pox Epidemic

Continued from tenth page being urged in Boston as a duty of leading citizens, magistrates and ministers who offered themselves and their families as examples to the wavering public, it was not universally required by law for many years to come, and the dangers of small pox caused much general inconvenience in addition to the high mortality rate. Harvard College was closed at times because of the infection, the ferryboat between Charlestown and Boston suffered great losses from the decrease in passenger traffic, and several Harvard Commencements were omitted to check the spread of the disease. The General Court often held its meetings in Cambridge or Concord in plague years and in 1764 The General Court being driven from Boston by reason

of ye Small Pox sat in ye [Harvard] College and ye keeping a fire in ye library, beyond what was usual, occasion'd ye burning said building, with the Great and Valuable library, etc., etc.'

During the troubled years when inoculation and then vaccination were coming into general acceptance and when fumigation and isolation were familiar practices in the patient's own house or in the town's pesthouse and 'smoak-house', there was a great deal of anxious thought and debate over what was at first called 'self-suicide' and eventually became recognized as an essential health measure. Here seemed literally a matter of life and death, and parents asked themselves what their duty was toward their children much as they ask it today. Cotton Mather's concern for his children's welfare is matched by Mr. Bridge in his diary, and must have been echoed by many others: 'This affair of ye small pox and what I meet with about my two sons' desire to be inoculated, is one of ye most troublesome affairs of my whole life. I wish we may be directed for ye best.'

Parental responsibility was not sufficient in all cases to secure protection against the small pox, and the power of the state was at length called in to make vaccination compulsory, but we cannot overestimate the debt owed to such men as Cotton Mather, Dr. Boylston and the other leaders of their day who, weighing their parental and civic duties, decided that the new method of inoculation was entirely consistent 'with a humble trust in our Great Preserver, and a due Subjection to his All-wise Providence.'

## Home Cures

The following recipes are taken from a book, written in 1760. These should interest the reader, and perhaps reconcile him to living in the present rather than in the good old days.

For Canker: Bull paddocks or frogs with fresh butter: simmer them close covered, to a crip, then strain for use.

To Cure the Hearing: Take a large silver eeale, remove intrails and pound as much onions as will fill his belly full and sew fast together and tye a line to his tail and hang it down to a moderate

fire and keep it turning till the oyl is well roasted out, then put into a vial well stoped. Drop 2 or 3 drops in the ear and mind to keep the ear well stoped with black wool and repeat once in a day for some time and be very careful of cold.

For lame and num limbs: Oyl wherein Frogs have been boyled till their flesh is com off their bones.

For old Joint Desese: Make a bath with Emmets, and their eggs - will quickly cure them.

A Drink for wounded men: take crabs from the river, beat to a fine powder with various roots, boyl in a linen cloth in three pints of Ale, and the herb of the Perwinkels. This is one of the best drinks to be had.

In the Chelmsford Courier in 1825 was advertised: 'Bateman's Ointment' a safe and certain cure for the itch.

The itch seems to have been prevalent in 1778. From a Doctor' Betty's prescription to a patient was: 'enough ointment to cure ten persons of the itch.'

Doctor Betteys often received his pay in other things than money, labor, spinning,

one day's reaping, four chair bottoms, thirteen bushels of corn, knitting, and one broom.

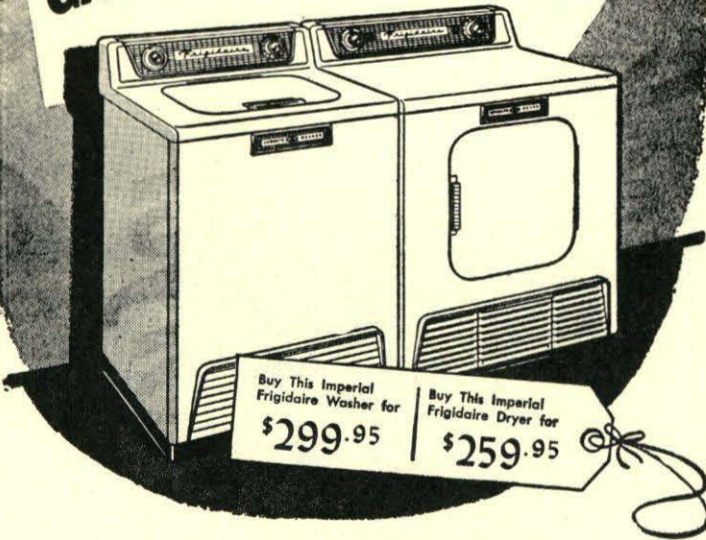
## Food

There was always plenty of fish, sometimes bear-meat, venison, or other wild-game or fowl. The common domestic animals were bred from stock sent from England in the earliest days of the Colonies. Among the proper families, turnips often took the place of potatoes, and for coffee they had a drink made of barley, rye, or brown bread crusts. Coffee came into use among those who could afford it, not long before the year 1800. It was first used in England about 1690. Home brewed beer was a common drink, and when orchards were grown, cider was used in great quantities. Wine and spirituous liquors were imported and used freely on all occasions.

Bread was generally made by mixing two parts of Indian meal with one part of rye flour. 'Rye and Indian' was the staple for two hundred years. Morning and evening, the people partook of hasty pudding, boiled Indian meal, with milk or molasses, or porridge made of beans or peas, and salt pork or beef.

# Congratulations to the TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

**Lifetime Porcelain Finish**  
INSIDE AND OUT GIVES YOU  
**Greatest Rust Protection!**



Buy This Imperial Frigidaire Washer for **\$299.95**  
Buy This Imperial Frigidaire Dryer for **\$259.95**

## You get it ONLY on the FRIGIDAIRE Porcelain Pair

### Automatic Washer

Famous Live-Water washing keeps clothes moving under water all the time... not half-in, half-out. Gets out the deep down dirt other washers leave behind. Float-over rinsing and Rapidry Spin get clothes brighter, pounds lighter than any other make.

### Filtra-matic Dryer

Needs no vents, flues or plumbing. Install it anywhere. Clothes come out soft, wrinkle-free, sweet-smelling. Automatic time and temperature controls let you dry clothes the way you want. Fits flush against the wall. Drum is porcelain finished, no snagging.

## Tally these Frigidaire SPECIALS against any other deal in town!

Brand-New 1955 Model CDV-103-SPCL

**COMPARE what you get!**

- Big, separate feed freezer
- Self-defrosting in the refrigerator compartment. No pans to empty
- Storage Door with 4 shelves, space for tall bottles, eggs
- All-porcelain Hydrators
- All aluminum shelves
- One half-shelf, removable
- Exclusive Quickcube Trays
- Meter-Miser Mechanism with 5-Year Warranty

**COMPARE what you pay!**

Our special price **\$369.95**  
Less trade-in up to **\$100.00**



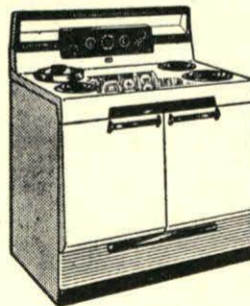
Brand-New 1955 Model RV-26-SPCL

**COMPARE what you get!**

- New Heat-Minder Unit
- New Speed-Heat Unit
- All Porcelain Finish
- Full-width Cooking-Top Lamp
- Cook-Master Oven Clock Control
- Multi-Duty Thermizer
- 2 Large Storage Drawers

**COMPARE what you pay!**

Our special price **\$299.95**  
Less trade-in up to **\$50.00**



Brand-New 1955 Frigidaire All-Porcelain Pair

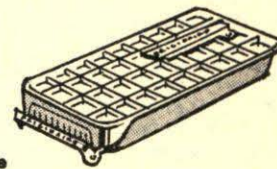
## Arthur Godfrey Special

New Quick-Cubelet Tray

Makes new tiny ice cubes to fit small-est juice glasses. Cools liquids faster. Golden aluminum finish... built-in tray and cube releases.

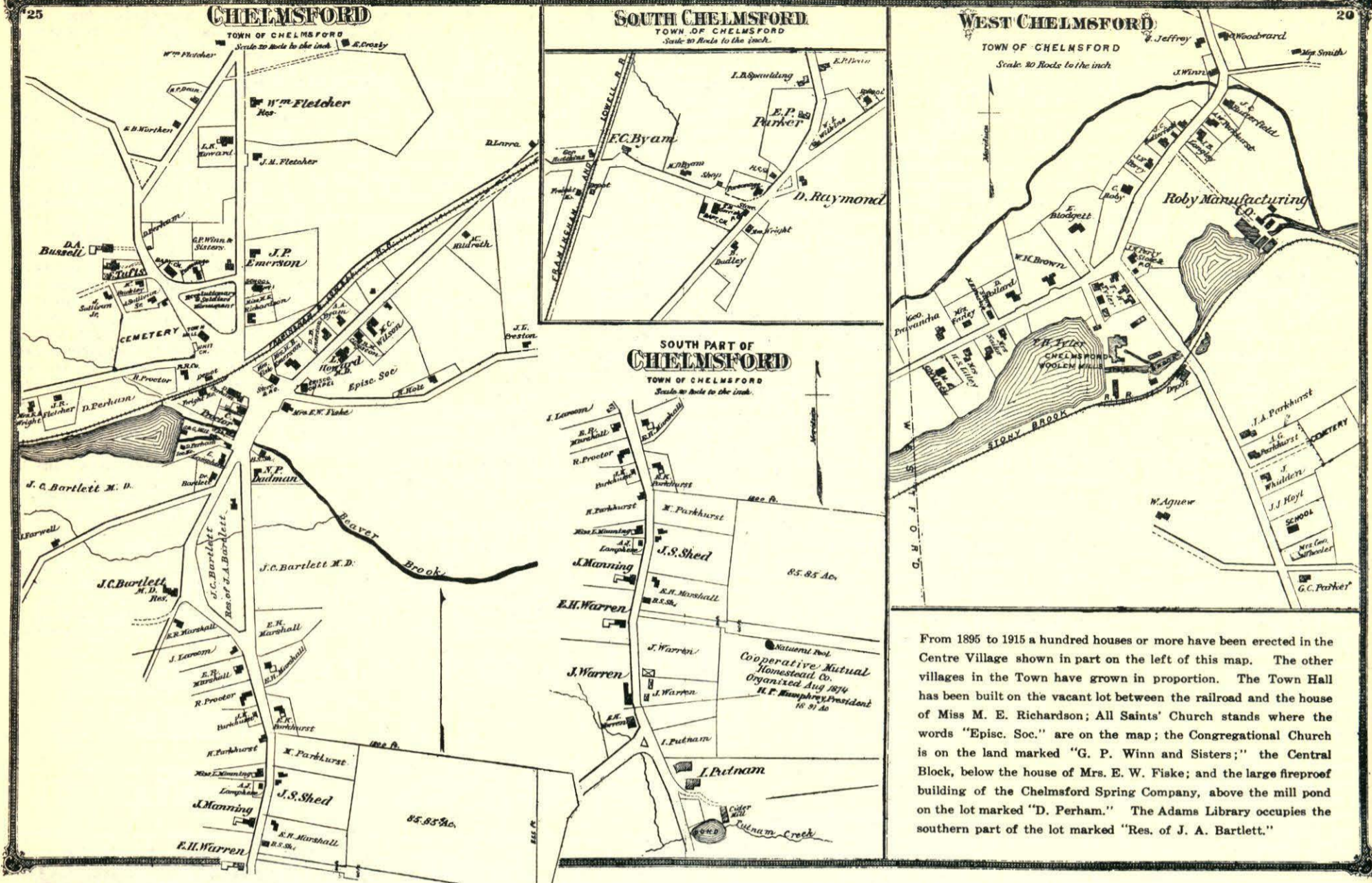
Only **\$2.29**

**\$3.25 value**



**ARCHER APPLIANCE**  
17 CENTRAL SQ. CHELMSFORD  
GL 3-1046 OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL 9 P.M.





No. 7 PLAN OF CHELMSFORD FROM BEERS'S COUNTY ATLAS, 1875

**Tax Listings**

The oldest tax list for Chelmsford that has been preserved is that of 1671. it contains sixty-two names, the minister not being included. This shows that in the first sixteen years after the incorporation of the Town the number of families had increased three fold. The record seem of sufficient interest to be given in full, voted by the Select-men of Chelmsford, the 30th day of March, 1671 this 'Rate as foloeth for the payment of the Townes Ingagement to the m'nester.'

Abraham Parker	2	15	4	
Jacob Warren	0	09	0	
Samuell Foster	2	12	2	
William Woodhead	2	07	0	
Andrew Spaulding	0	13	4	
Jerathmell Bowers	0	07	11	
Thomas Copper	0	06	4	
Thomas Hinchman	2	16	4	
Joseph Perkis	0	17	8	
Joseph Fawell	1	09	8	
John Stevens	0	12	4	
John Parker	0	09	4	
John Spaulding	0	19	4	
John Burge	1	14	10	
Ambros Swalow	0	10	4	
Francis Gould	0	13	0	
James Hildreth	1	09	0	
Cornelius Walldow	3	03	4	
Samuel Fletcher	1	01	8	
Henry bowtell	1	01	8	
Moses Barron	0	17	10	
John Fiske jun	1	04	0	
Josiah Richenson	1	19	4	
Thomas Barret	1	00	2	
Samuel Adams	1	13	5	
Solomon Keies	1	01	8	
To so much ped over by last years RATT		0	15	0
Total is	80	01	3	

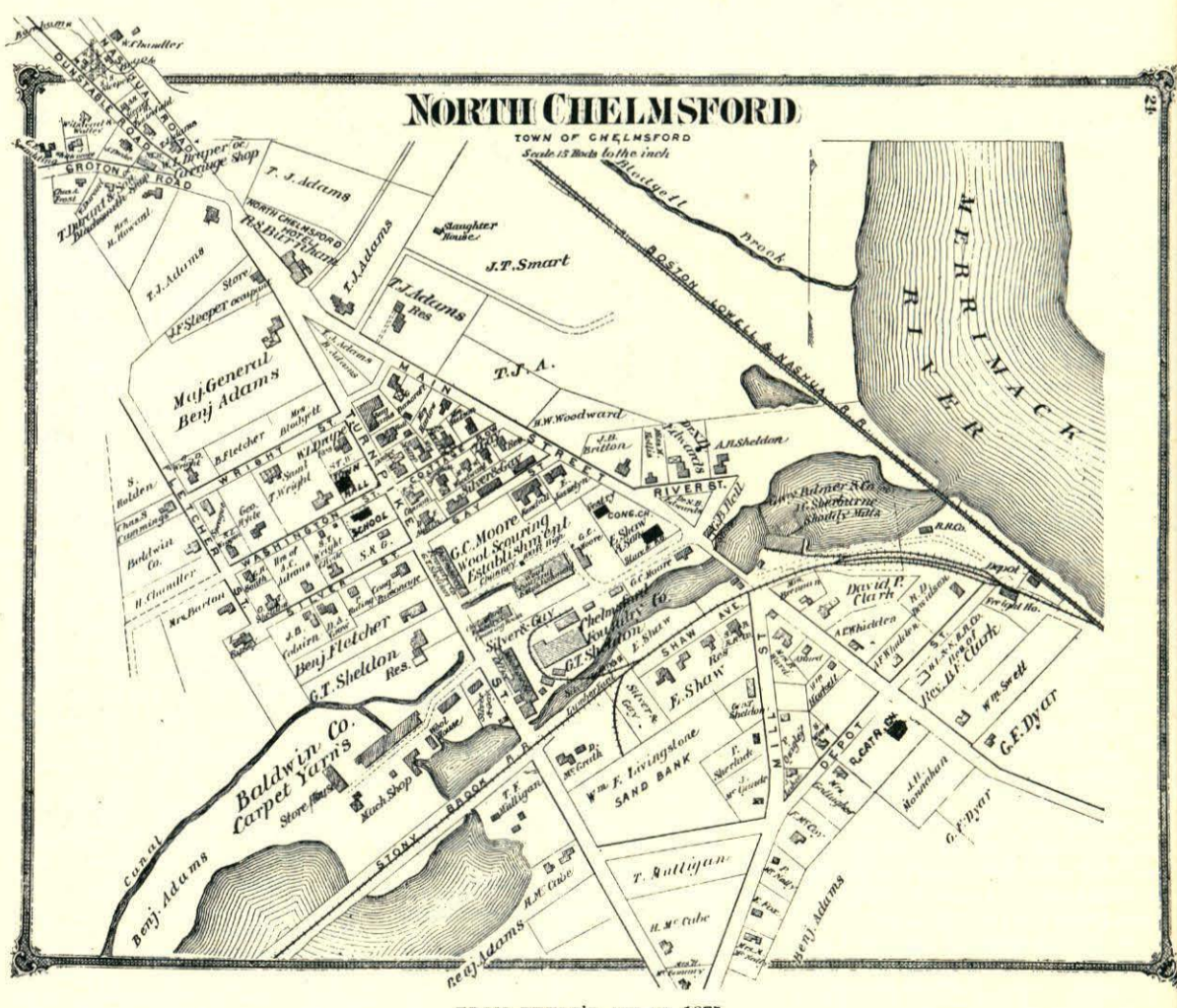
Thomas Adams	2	14	0
Thomas Chamberlin sen	1	13	0
Thomas Chamberlin jun	0	19	0
Benjamin Spaulding	0	19	8
Joseph Spaulding	0	18	0
Joshuah Fletcher	0	13	4
George Biam	1	11	0
John Perham	1	01	8
En will Flecher	3	1	0
John Battes	0	16	0
John Coborn	0	14	0
Robert Coborn	0	16	0
Edward Coborn	0	15	4
Thomas Coborn	0	12	9
Edward Coborn sen	1	18	9
John Wright	1	05	0
James Richenson	1	05	0
John Sheply jun	0	12	8
Benjamin Buterfeld	2	05	4
Jonathan Buterfeld	1	05	0
Daniell Bloggett	1	10	2
Nathaniell Buterfeld	0	19	4
Robert Proctor	2	09	10
John Barret	1	19	8
George Robies	0	13	0
Edmond Chamberlin	0	13	0
Thomas Corry	0	12	0
John Bauke	0	14	6
John Wadell	0	17	6
John Sheply sen	0	14	6
John Blachard	1	10	4
Will Underwood	1	07	4
Edward Spaulding	0	16	0
Richard Hildreth	1	16	2
Sarah Parker	1	05	8
Samuell Varnum	1	16	0
Joseph Barret	1	10	4

**First Town Meeting**  
Continued from second page

of the original buildings still remain in the possession of the family. The road, one of the oldest in town, originally ran from the meeting house by Westford Road, Worthen Street, and Crosby Place, and continued to Golden Cove road near the house of Jas. F. Stearns. The part beyond the Crosby place has been long discontinued.

**Second Town Meeting:**

The second Town Meeting fixed the date of the annual meeting and the officers to be chosen and also fixed a penalty for such as might be inclined to neglect their poli-



FROM BEERS'S ATLAS, 1875.

tical duties. At a Publick meeting of the Town first Day 24th, 1655. Wilian Fletcher is Chosen Constable; Isaac Lerner is Chosen Sergeant of the band; Simon Tomson is Chosen Clerk of the Band: It is ordered that the first second day of the first month shall be observed by all the nouseholders of the town from year to year for the Chusing of all annual officers belonging to the Town as the selectmen or committee: Deputy for the Court: Constable: The three men to end all small causes under forty shillings Surveyors for the high-way overseers of the fences and swine and to meet at the meeting-hous by nine a Clock in the morning and for the first hours non-appearance twelve pence and for a Whole Days Absence, two shillings.





Harold C. Petterson, Town Clerk, Treasurer and Tax Collector with Mrs. Charlotte DeWolf, clerk.

### Government

Continued from first page individual should act as his own interpreter, however; he was expected to accept the interpretation of the ministers, whose influence and position consequently became very great. When the Bible was translated into English and became available to all, and when the principle became established that each man was capable of reading and understanding God's word, a torrent of popular enthusiasm had been created and in Massachusetts Bay particularly, the clergy fought a gradually-losing battle to maintain their positions of authority.

The urge to spread out and

seek richer lands and better settlements could not always be controlled by the officials, either, and little groups of men went out beyond the limits first set to establish towns and, through local town meetings, to run their own affairs. After 1647, there were no religious qualifications for the franchise in these meetings although at first every voter had to be a church member. This requirement was neither practical nor popular and was abandoned early in local affairs but lingered considerably longer at the colony level.

Chelmsford was for its first year guided by a group of trustees, but as soon as the town organization could be

established, selectmen were 'selected' by vote. Other town officials came into being as the need arose. Hog reeves and fence viewers were needed, for example, to protect property.

The first man to represent Chelmsford at the General Court, according to the records, was Ensign John Webb, in 1663. He was followed by Thomas Hinchman and the office continued to be held by some of the most respected men of the town.

### Seating The Meeting House

The Meeting House was the social center. The minister was the important man, looked up to with great respect. His presence was called for at all important public, or family occasions.

Attendance upon public worship was compulsory. All were taxed to support the church, and, when a minister was to be settled, he was voted upon in town meeting, the church having previously made known its preference.

The seats in the meeting house were assigned by a committee chosen by the town, persons being given preference according to their estate, office, or social standing.

It is not probable that the first meeting house contained pews, the people being seated on benches. It was repaired in 1702, 'both tout side to keep out rain and snow, and also withinside such Inlargement as may be needful and in perticular A long table form one allee to another' At a later period persons were permitted to build pews at their own expense for themselves and families. In 1712 - 'It was



Town Accountant Alfred Coburn at his office in the Town Hall.

voted that Colonnal tying Capt. Bowers, Capt. Barron, and Jonathan Richardson shall have the liberty and benefit of making Pues in that vacant roome one the East side of the Pulpit in the New meeting hous to the East Window.' At a still later period the town received pay for such privilege. In 1772, 'Voted to sell room, for pew, in meeting house by the mens stairs, sold to Samuel Perham for ten dollars.'

Votes on record indicate that such pew-holders were sometimes permitted to have a door cut through the side of the building, giving them a private entrance to their pews.

Before the introduction of bells it was the custom to summon the worshippers to meeting with a drum. Among the town charges in 1659 one was

'for the paiment for a Drum to Henry Farwell.' It appears also that a flag was sometimes flung to the breeze for the same purpose.

From 1680 to the present time the sound of the church bell has called the people to worship. On the above date 'Ther was a voatt past that ther shold bee so much land sould out of the comon as will purchase the bell and hange him in the meeting hous that is to say if the towns stock in hand will not doe it then to sell land.'

The date 1682 was inscribed upon the bell. When the third meeting house was built the town voted, in 1793, 'to sell the old bell and buy a new one of 700 wt. The old bell went to Tyngsboro, where it was used on a schoolhouse.'

# FACTORY FURNITURE DIRECT TO YOU AT TREMENDOUS SAVINGS

SAVE  
FROM  
60%  
TO  
80%



EASY  
BUDGET  
TERMS

**"YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE A DEAL WITH TUNNEY"**

# Warehouse Furniture Store

205 Main Street

Route 38

Wilmington



## Firemen's Muster

Continued from seventh page  
 Class 2 with a record of 196 feet and three inches. Taking third place money in Class 2 was Niagara of Upton, Mass., with their effort carrying 184 feet and ten and a half inches. Hydrant No. 3 of Holliston, Mass., was the fourth place winner scoring with their 179 feet and eleven and a half inches. The fifth and final prize winner in Class 2 was Androscoggin No. 2 Topsham, Maine, with a 171 feet and six inch attempt.

The Marblehead OKO's took the first place money in Class 1 as they managed to put up the days best effort with a stream carrying 197 feet and five inches. Second place was hotly contested with L. V. Spaulding of Haverhill, Mass., finally winning with their 188 feet and one and a half inches. The Gov. Bradstreet of North Andover, Mass., came in a close third with a stream of 187 feet and nine and three quarter inches. The real bat-

tle for places came on the battle for fourth place money. A margin of a quarter of an inch decided the winner. The Neptune of Newburyport, Mass., put up a stream of 177 feet and eight and a half inches while Protection No. 1 of Newbury, Mass., had a best effort of 177 feet and eight and a quarter inches, which gave them fifth place money.

The water polo matches saw the Dracut department take first place with Ayer winning second honors. This game was played with a large can hung on a wire between two poles and the winning team had to send the can to the opponents pole by using the force of water from two hoses while the opposing team used their two hoses in an attempt to move the can to the other pole. In all there were seven departments in action in this event with the other units being Dunstable, Billerica, Westford, Danvers and Methuen.

Following is a complete list of the hand tubs and their records:

TUB NAME	FEET	INCHES
<b>CLASS 1</b>		
OKO'S	197	5
Marble head, Mass.		
L. V. SPAULDING	188	1½
Haverhill, Mass.		
GOV. BRADSTREET	187	9¼
No. Andover, Mass.		
NEPTUNE	177	8½
Newburyport, Mass.		
PROTECTION NO. 1	177	8¼
Newbury, Mass.		
<b>CLASS 2</b>		
GERRY NO. 5	196	11½
Marblehead, Mass.		
TORRENT NO. 1	196	3
Bath, Maine		
NIAGARA	184	10½
Upton, Mass.		
HYDRANT NO. 3	179	11½
Holliston, Mass.		
Androscoggin No. 2	171	6
Topsham, Maine		
EAGLE NO. 2	161	11¼
Merrimac, Mass.		
HANCOCK NO. 128	146	3¼
Ashburnham, Mass.		

## South Chelmsford V. I. A.

This year, when the Town of Chelmsford celebrates its 300th birthday, is also the 75th active year for the South Chelmsford Village Improvement Association. The oldest active civic organization in Chelmsford, the history of its first sixty years is contained in a tattered, yellow secretary's notebook. Beginning with the by-laws, adopted in April, 1881 and ending with the record of the annual meeting in April, 1941, there is contained in this one book an account of the annual and special meetings of the organization for every year from 1881 to 1941 with the exception of 1891, when 'the records of the meeting were reported lost.'

The first pages contain the Constitution and By-Laws, written in a beautiful scroll, and the Preamble composed so long ago still expresses the aims of the organization: 'Whereas the people of South Chelmsford, being an enterprising, ambitious people and desirous of making a mark in life, whereby they may be remembered by the rising generation, they deem it highly proper that they take upon themselves the project of improving, beautifying and ornamenting their village and suburbs.'

The Constitution made provision for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and a Vigilance Committee, whose duty 'it shall be to look after all improved works, also to investigate and prosecute, if necessary, any person or persons found guilty of damaging any work carried on by the society.'

Article V provided for membership in this manner: 'Any person becoming a member of this society shall be requested to sign the Constitution and By-Laws and to pay the sum of twenty cents into the treasury.' However, over the years times have changed and the cost of living has gone up. Life membership now costs twenty-five cents.

Although Liberty Hall was in existence at the time, the annual meetings until 1900 were held at homes of various members and it was at the second meeting held on April 23, 1881 at Mr. N. B. Lapham's that the

Continued on sixteenth page



South Chelmsford Fire Station, used originally as a School for the South section.



North Chelmsford Fire Station. A new fire station was voted at Annual Town Meeting for the North section to be located at the site of the old Princeton Street schools.



East Chelmsford Fire House



CHELMSFORD CENTER FIRE STATION AT NORTH ROAD.



Robins Hill Tower used as a fire lookout for miles around.



West Chelmsford Fire Station.

Congratulations Chelmsford  
**WHALEN & COMPANY**

Industrial Woodworkers  
 22 MAPLE ROAD SOUTH CHELMSFORD, MASS.



## Police Officer Shot By Madman

On July 19, 1927, Donald F. Adams, who had served the town as constable and police officer for nearly five years, died in a Lowell hospital shortly after being shot during the performance of his duties by a deranged Lowell man who had come to Chelmsford in an attempt to extort money from A.G. Pollard, founder and owner of the Lowell dry goods store bearing his name. Mr. Pollard, who had previously received two threatening letters at his home on Bartlett street, was sitting on his porch when a stranger -- apparently the author of these letters-- approached and demanded payment of \$25,000. Mr. Pollard called a servant and the man fled through the grove to Boston road where the electric car line then ended. The police were immediately notified and a motorcycle officer, Mr. Adams, responded but found that the man had boarded the street car for Lowell. He followed the car, which always stopped at the railroad crossing in Chelmsford street, and there stood beside it and asked the man to come out to talk with him. He refused and Officer Adams boarded the car. The man shot him as he walked down the aisle toward him, and death followed within a half hour. The man was committed to the Bridgewater Hospital for the Insane for life, but it is believed, has since been released.

## Murder Of Mrs. Wilfred Blondin

On June 9, 1901, the decapitated body of Mrs. Margaret Blondin was found hidden in a brush heap in Chelmsford, just off Mill Road, near Russell's Mill, by Robert Hildreth, superintendent of the Town Farm, who was searching for a lost cow. About a week later, on June 15, detectives found an axe with which the murder was supposed to have been committed. It was discovered a short distance from the mill brook in which Mrs. Blondin's head was found earlier, and nearby was also found a white silk tie presumable worn by the victim at the time of the murder. The finding of these articles tended at first to indicate that the murder was committed near where the body was found, but later it became known that the victim had been killed in Boston by her husband, J. Wilfred Blondin, in a fit of temper over money matters.

Blondin then stuffed her body into an enormous trunk and went with it by train to North Billerica. There he supervised the removal of the trunk, cautioning the station hands to be unusually careful of its contents. Borrowing a driving horse and democrat wagon from a former Chelmsford employer, Blondin then took the trunk and its gruesome contents to the Russell's Mill neighborhood to be hidden. The trunk itself was not found until long after the case was closed. Its water-soaked and rotted remains were located during a period of prolonged drought in the most obvious place for such an object--at the bottom of the mill pond.

Mr. Blondin, convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in the State Prison at Charlestown, died there of pneumonia in 1910, but recollections of

the case that shocked staid Chelmsford residents to the core still linger today. Mr. Blondin, or Fred, as he was known locally, came from his native Canada shortly before the turn of the century, seeking employment. He was, later investigation revealed, free on bail after having been convicted of smuggling kerosene oil across the Canadian border to avoid payment of duty. A Chelmsford resident, needing help in rebuilding his hen-houses and barn which were burned by a gang of hen thieves then active around the countryside, hired Fred through a Lowell employment agency at \$1. a day. Periodically, when he had earned \$100., Blondin would ask for his wages, go to Lowell, and return shortly without the money. He refused to discuss what he had done with it, but it is clear now that he was sending it back to Canada to pay off his \$500 fine for the smuggling episode. Divorced from his wife in Canada, Blondin met the murder victim at the South Common Midway in Lowell on July Fourth. He later married her and they moved to Boston after living in Lowell for a time. There the argument and its fatal outcome occurred.

Mr. Blondin, described in newspapers of the day as 'under medium height, very broad of chest and bowlegged, with dark moustache and hair', was regarded in town as a good worker and very handy with tools. He was also known locally as the bowlegged Frenchman' and this nickname drove him into insane fits of blind rage. He had a 'gunpowder temper,' it is said, and when his wife failed to give him some of her money which he demanded, the temper flared and the murder took place. Although Mrs. Blondin understandably appeared frightened of her explosive husband, they were also apparently genuinely fond of each other and Fred probably had no intention of killing her. It was this belief, brought out during the trial, which resulted in his conviction for second and not first degree murder.

Before he attained notoriety as a murderer, Fred was well-known for the incredible de-

monstrations of strength he performed with the help of the broad shoulders noted in the police description of him. A trial witness testified that he had once seen Blondin move a dump cart loaded with gravel by stooping under its front axle and raising it on his shoulders, while another witness told of a similarly unbelievable feat involving an even heavier load.

The Blondin case provided a harvest of headlines for thrill-seekers here and throughout the Boston area, but the under-statement of the year was probably provided by the Boston newspaper which stated, just prior to the final unravelling of the sordid case, that 'Blondin suddenly threw up his job in Boston and disappeared as soon as the body was identified. The authorities think that he could throw some light on the subject.'

## Police Band

Continued from fifth page  
Day, George Marinel, Ray Morin, Samuel Mortnam, Roger Proulx, Walter Wilkins, Jr., and drum carrier John McEnaney.

The next appearance that this organization will make will be in the parade during the coming Tercentenary celebration and they will bear watching as they make their debut on the local scene.

## A Dreadful Accident

To the list of casualties which invariably burden the columns of the newspapers throughout the land the day following the celebration of the national anniversary [July 4], Chelmsford is now a sorrowful contributor. Never in the history of the town, so far as is known, has occurred so tragic an event as that which early on the morning of the Fourth cast a feeling of gloom over this community. About half past 12 o'clock, three young men, Walter S. Simons, jr.--son of the well known manager of the Central House--Fred Santon and Hanson Thurston, having received permission to fire a salute with an old cannon which for many years has been stored at various

places in the village, proceeded to the common for that purpose and discharged the piece twice without accident. While Simons and Santon were ramming home the third cartridge, Thurston, who had his thumb upon the vent, probably involuntarily withdrew his hand on account of a sharp burning sensation and an explosion immediately followed. Young Simons was struck by the rammer of the left side of the lower jaw, which was badly shattered and the muscles and blood vessels on the same side of the neck were completely severed. The force of the explosion threw him some ten feet from the cannon and death was instantaneous. Pieces of the rammer were afterwards found many rods from the accident. \* \* Deceased was 22 years old, a young man of active habits, kind-hearted and of warm and generous impulses. In this sudden and grievous affliction his parents will have the deepest sympathy of the community.

Fred Santon, the other victim of the explosion was terribly mutilated but probably will live. With assistance he was able to walk to the house of Dr. Howard, who dressed his wounds and then accompanied

him to the Lowell city hospital, where amputation of the right arm, about 4 inches below the elbow was performed by Dr. Johnson, assisted by Drs. Simpson and Howard. He also lost the thumb and forefinger of the left hand and his face and eyes were severely burned, imperilling the sight of the right eye. Young Santon, who is 18 years of age, is indeed in a most unfortunate condition. He is an orphan, without means, making his home with his aged grandmother, herself in humble circumstances.

This sad event carries its own lesson. Will it be heeded?

Jan., 1891. Fred A. Santon, the young man who lost an arm July 4, 1889, by the premature discharge of a cannon, was provided with an excellent substitute Friday through the contributions of the people of the village, which were solicited by Mrs. N.A. Glidden. The expense of the arm was \$60. and it was obtained in New York through the kind offices of Dr. E.H. Chamberlin of this town. A knife, fork, hook, etc., are part of the outfit, and after a little practice the owner will probably realize how closely in some lines art can imitate nature's handiwork.



1920



**PICKEN**  
PRINTING and INSURANCE

*35 Years*  
Doing Business in  
**CHELMSFORD**

1955



Best Wishes To  
The People of Chelmsford



**LT. GOVERNOR**  
**SUMNER G. WHITTIER**



## South Chelmsford V.I.A.

Continued from fourteenth page constitution and by-laws were accepted. It was there that the first slate of officers was elected: President-M. Hutchins; Vice President-D. W. Bickford; Secretary-Warren Berry; Treasurer-Mrs. Mary Lapham and Vigilance Committee -L. J. Mansfield, Artemas Parker and Frank Byam. It would seem that the first nominating committee chose wisely, because the first officers became the backbone of the organization. Mrs. Mary Lapham served twenty-one consecutive years as Treasurer and Warren Berry held one of the principal offices nearly every year for twenty-nine years.

It was the custom of the organization from the very beginning to set a 'work day' each year in the spring, when trees were planted and such improvements as were possible were made in the town.

In 1882 it was voted 'to meet on Thursday, April 20 to set out trees, build sidewalks and make what improvements we can.' At the same meeting it was voted 'To authorize the President to purchase fifty-nine (59) trees at a cost of \$22.05.'

In 1885 it was voted 'that a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the Town Center in regard to improving Robbins Hill.' In 1886, Messrs. Lapham and Berry were appointed a committee to see about some street lights. In 1890, 'The Committee on Labor were authorized to get two street lamps'; in 1895 it was voted to buy ten new lamps and also a new flag' and in 1897 'it was voted that the Executive Committee see the town officials

about painting the street lamps and if they would not, to get them painted, drawing such money as might be required from the Treasury.'

After several years of meeting in the spring to work, they decided to mix business with pleasure and in 1883 was started the annual custom of having a dinner on work day and this custom was carried out for thirty years. Perhaps there wasn't too much to eat at the first few suppers, because in 1886 it was voted 'to have a good square dinner.' Then things seemed to get better and in 1892 it was 'voted to have a dinner at Liberty Hall on working day (and a supper, if there is enough left.)'

Although socials were held from time to time each year, the main purpose of the organization continued to be the improvement and beautification of the village, together with the protection and continuance of improvements already begun.

In 1900 it was voted to have the common graded and seeded down some time the coming Fall and a sum of money not to exceed thirty dollars was appropriated for the purpose. In 1913 a committee was chosen to see that the electric lights were kept in better condition on Acton St. In 1918, it was voted that \$10 and the use of the hall be contributed by the V.I.A. towards the entertainment of some of the soldiers from Camp Devens. In 1923 the association voted to give the fire department \$25 for the fire whistle. There was a special meeting on April 7, 1926 - This meeting was called to consider the removal of trees which were posted to be cut down on Acton Road. After

much discussion about the care and protection and expense these trees had received from the older residents of the village, it was voted that the V.I.A. file a protest against any tree being removed on Acton Street, South Chelmsford.'

Besides being a record of the civic accomplishments of the people of South Chelmsford, the old notebook also gives a glimpse of life as it was lived at the turn of the century in a small N.E. town. The minutes of the meeting in 1909 close with the following sentence: 'The fire alarm commenced to ring and the meeting closed without ceremony.' One has a picture of the fire whistle interrupting a spirited discussion and the hall emptying rapidly as the volunteer firemen raced toward the firehouse, while the women gathered anxiously in front of the hall to speculate on the location of the fire.

In 1900 the following resolution was made a permanent part of the records of the association:

'Whereas death has removed the past year two of the members of our Association we do hereby

Resolve. That in the death of Nathan B. Lapham and Newell E. Parker, the Association has lost two faithful and efficient members who cheerfully contributed to its support and labored in all ways to advance its interests. And that we recognized in them those qualities which made them good and loyal citizens, kind and obliging neighbors, faithful and true friends.

Resolve. While we acknowledge the hand from whom these

events come, we sorrow because they shall meet with us no more. And will ever cherish (sic) precious memories of them.

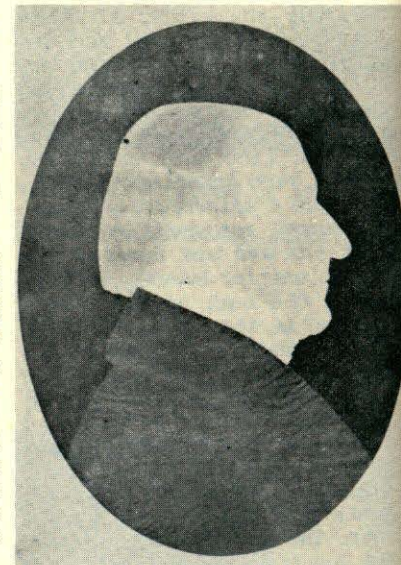
Resolve. That these resolutions be copied in the records of the society. And copies be sent to the bereaved families who have our love and sympathy.'

Perhaps in these days of hustle and hurry we envy those who lived at a time when an organization could take the time and several of its members make the effort to write up a resolution like that. And certainly we are glad that the records have been preserved to give up a glimpse into what we have always heard termed 'gracious living.'

Names which predominated the organization's early history are synonymous with those active in the political and civic activities of the Town at that time: names such as Byam, Lapham, Garland, Dupee, Bickford, Hutchins, Park and Battles.

The firmness of the foundation of this organization is realized when it is noted that today, after three-quarters of a century, the organization is still using the same Preamble as its guiding force. The organization has ever been willing and eager to sponsor and support any project for civic improvement. Now in 1955 the V.I.A. is more active than ever, with a larger membership enabling it to spread its efforts farther to keep pace with one of the fastest growing communities in the area. Still intent upon improving the village, perhaps the most important work of the organization at the present time is centered at the bathing beach at Bap-

tist Pond. The area was purchased by the V.I.A. last year and every effort has been made to develop a family picnic and bathing area where safety and cleanliness are the watchwords. Much is still left to be done and more land must be acquired before the present dreams of the association can become reality, but there is no doubt about the final outcome because now, 75 years later, the membership of the South Chelmsford Village Improvement Association is still an 'enterprising, ambitious people and desirous of making a mark in life.'



The Rev. Wilkes Allen, Minister of the First Congregational Church, Center, 1803-1832, and author of the town's first history. (published 1820).

## Congratulations On Chelmsford's Tercentenary P. Cogger Company

Wash Sand and Gravel

Excavating and Trucking

Tel. GL 3-1381

GRAVEL PIT

GL 3-3602

## Congratulations to the Town of Chelmsford Shanahan Service

GUARANTEED

"Service Sure To Satisfy"

RADIO • TELEVISION • SOUND

BACKED BY 14 YEARS ELECTRONIC EXPERIENCE ON ALL MAKES OF

TELEVISION, HOME & AUTO RADIOS  
PHONOGRAPHS

INSTALLATION - SALES - SERVICE

HIGH FIDELITY SYSTEMS - INTERCOM & SOUND SYSTEMS

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS - SALES - RENTALS - SERVICE

COLOR TELEVISION

489 - 491 WESTFORD ST. at STEVENS ST., Lowell

**GL 3-1556**

SHANAHAN RADIO - TELEVISION SERVICE  
WALTER F. SHANAHAN