

Franklin Historical Society - March 2023

Spring-like temperatures that dip to single digits or below zero before climbing again. No snow, teasing winter-haters with mild conditions while frustrating skiing enthusiasts, before back-to-back storms, covering the ground with white fluffiness, or wet paste, clogging even the most aggressive snowblower. What a winter!

The only predictable element is the constant flow of donations to the Society's collections, offering tantalizing mysteries, or new information about Franklin personalities or businesses. One consistent donor is **Linda Pauwels**, whose constant contributions of interesting newspaper articles and relevant obituaries add to the burgeoning files of content for research. However, this month she also added an extensive archive of material from her FHS Class of 1961, with reunion information and other content. Another wonderful source of material is **Rita Norander**, who this past month dipped into her old folders to send a newspaper story reprinted from 1881 detailing a "log drive" of the then flourishing lumber industry, filling the Pemigewasset River with felled timber destined for delivery to saw mills downstream. Tying this article into reminisces of her father Benne's escapade as a young man working

in a logging camp, Rita captured for the Society's files an era now long gone. **Judy Bibbins** of Franklin's Planning Department, received two advertising cards from Todd Workman, who had uncovered them during the recent repurposing of the Odd Fellows Hall. Both cards were the same, but one side of each was heavily soiled, with the other side clean and legible. Luckily, given together, the clean sides made up one good card, creating a snapshot of businesses and activities in 1959 Franklin. (see below). Notice that, even in the late fifties, telephone numbers were still three digits!

<p>BARL DURGIN MOTOROLA RCA - SYLVANIA Tel. Busines 606 Res. 696-B 181 Central St. Franklin, N. H.</p> <p>Willie Huntoon & Co. SHEET METAL WORK AIR CONDITIONING Oil Burner Sales & Service 29 Memorial St. Tel. 215-J</p> <p>HENRY B. TRACHY Insurance - Real Estate Tel. 727 Office - 643-M Res. 295 Central St., Franklin, N. H. Hall Building, Street Level</p>	<p>Schedule For 1959</p> <p>1st HALF</p> <p>May</p> <p>4 Vets vs Stevens 5 Arwood vs Plastic 6 Arwood vs Stevens 7 Vets vs Plastics 11 Vets vs Arwood 12 Plastic vs Stevens 13 Stevens vs Vets 14 Plastics vs Arwoods 18 Stevens vs Arwood 19 Plastics vs Vets 20 Arwood vs Vets 21 Stevens vs Plastics 25 Vets vs Stevens 26 Arwood vs Plastics 27 Arwoods vs Stevens 28 Vets vs Plastics</p> <p>June:</p> <p>1 Vets vs Arwood 2 Plastic vs Stevens 3 Stevens vs Vets 4 Plastic vs Arwood 8 Stevens vs Arwood 9 Plastics vs Vets 10 Arwood vs Vets 11 Stevens vs Plastics 15 Vets vs Stevens</p>	<p>Senior Softball League</p> <p>16 Arwood vs Plastics 17 Arwood vs Stevens 18 Vets vs Plastics 22 Vets vs Arwood 23 Stevens vs Plastics</p> <p>2nd HALF</p> <p>June</p> <p>24 Stevens vs Vets 25 Plastics vs Arwood</p> <p>July</p> <p>6 Stevens vs Arwood 7 Vets vs Plastics 8 Vets vs Arwood 9 Plastics vs Stevens 13 Vets vs Stevens 14 Arwood vs Plastics 15 Arwood vs Stevens 16 Vets vs Plastics 20 Vets vs Arwood 21 Plastics vs Stevens 22 Vets vs Stevens 23 Arwood vs Plastic 27 Stevens vs Arwood 28 Vets vs Plastics 29 Vets vs Arwood 30 Plastics vs Stevens</p>	<p>COMPLIMENTS OF E. J. KEEGAN & CO. HARDWARE SPORTING GOODS</p> <p>COMPLIMENTS OF Public Service Co. of New Hampshire</p> <p>Your Prescription Headquarters GRIFFIN DRUG CO.</p>
<p>REGO'S SHELL STATION Tel. 625 West Franklin, N. H.</p> <p>DINE AT NEIL'S FRANKLIN'S LEADING RESTAURANT No. Main St. Tel. 3-A</p> <p>RENNIE'S TAXI SERVICE Tel. 759 or 559 C. J. Colby Prop.</p>	<p>FRANKLIN RECREATION ASSOCIATION, INC. Senior Softball League Schedule For 1959 Games Played At Odell Park Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 6:30 P. M. - TEAMS - F. V. H. A. STEVENS ARWOODS PLASTIC FABs</p>	<p>COMPLIMENTS OF Franklin Dairy & Ice Cream Bar West Franklin, N. H.</p> <p>COMPLIMENTS OF Jean M. Shaw Agency E. G. & E. W. Leach Agency Tel. 371</p> <p>COMPLIMENTS OF Decato's MEN'S WEAR ERNEST J. DECATO 237 Central St. Franklin, N. H.</p>	<p>GUSSIE'S RESTAURANT HOME OF FINE FOODS Tel. Franklin 10</p> <p>COMPLIMENTS OF VAL'S BARBER SHOP</p> <p>COCA COLA BOTTLING CO. of LACONIA, N. H.</p>

Just this past week the Society was able to acquire from an anonymous donor a fascinating (with possibly a mysterious back-story) lenticular lithograph ostensibly from prior to the presidential election of 1840. Looking one way, it is a portrait of William Henry Harrison. Tilt it sideways, and the portrait of Daniel Webster appears. Why are these two images paired together? After Harrison won the presidency, he named Webster his Secretary of State. Yet Webster was really desirous of being president himself, and was rumored to have been offered the position of Vice President under Harrison. Webster chose to decline, as being an office of little prestige. This lithograph could have been published *prior* to John Tyler agreeing to be Harrison's running mate, making it very rare. As it turned out, declining the vice presidency was one of the most devastating decisions Webster ever made, ultimately robbing him of the office he so deeply coveted.



Speculation can be fascinating—or frustrating. This combined lithograph could be simply what it is, picturing a president and his secretary of state. Even so, considering that Harrison died within a month of taking office, it is still a scarce combination.

The February meeting of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Society went well. Elections of officers, upcoming maintenance of the building and gardens, looking to set dates in the spring for clean-up and painting, and potential programs for monthly meetings were all discussed. A tentative list of speakers has since been established, and will be circulated once all presenters have been confirmed.

As a follow-up to last month's query into the existence of the original photos that were attributed to the Society's ownership, from which old newspaper images were published, some new information has come to light. The image of "Emery's saw mill" was actually captioned the "W.F. Thompson mill" on an original stereocard in the library's collection. The original old photo of N. Main Street's 1936 flood

damage has not turned up, but also may be hidden in a library folder. There is a possibility that both photos could have come from Albert Garneau, as he was associated with the Society when they appeared in print.

So despite some sort-of answers, the search continues...