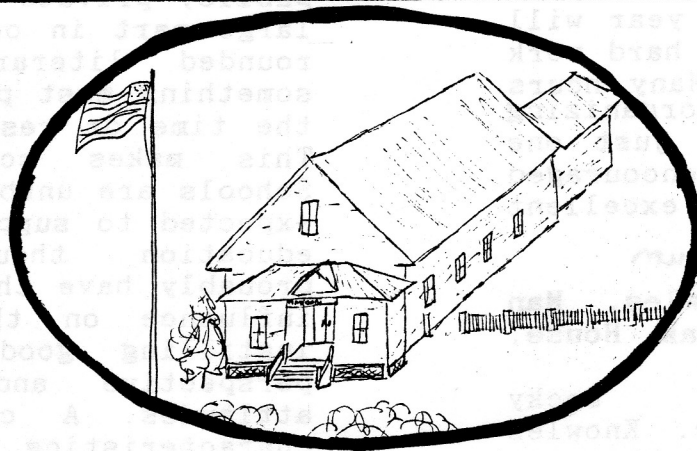


# Madison Historical Gazette



## MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MADISON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Issue 1

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Becky Beaulieu

### Program Reviews

Doug and Paula Albert from Fryeburg presented a beautiful and high tech slide production of local agriculture, including farming, dairy, timber farming, and the fising industry. The magnificent photography was accompanied by music.

Kris Bontates, Moose Specialist for NH Fish and Game, recounted many humorous tales about moose along with their habits and history in this area. She had recently traveled to the international Moose conference in the former Soviet Union, where one farmer raised moose for milk. Kris assured us that milking a moose is no easy task! One should also not try to train a moose for use as transportation. It's futile. She also warned us not to approach a moose, they can attack suddenly with surpising speed as one of her colleagues will swear to.

### Museum Hours

Memorial Day thru Labor Day  
Sundays and Tuesdays 2-4pm  
Thursdays 6-8pm

It Had To Be Done So I Did It was a unique production, bringing home the life and responsibilities of women in the early 20th century. The actresses portrayed the sorrows and joys experienced by women actually interviewed for an oral history project in Warner.

Betty Seibert, with her troupe from Wakefield, presented fashions of different eras with skits which incorporated names of people and places from our own town.

Sabrina Bouvier and Moira Brady of Madison Elementary School, took part in the skits. They did a very professional job! Who didn't you want to pay the fifty cents to, Ray?

## Programs Coming Up

The schedule of programs for this fall is still being worked out. However, the high quality of programs presented this year will continue, thanks to the hard work of Isabelle Knowles. Many hours of phone calling and organizing goes into bringing you just one program. Members are encouraged not to miss out on these excellent programs!

Sept 17 7:30pm at the Museum  
- David Knowles, Man Behind the Choroua Peak House, will be presented by his great granddaughter, Becky (Knowles) Beaulieu. Mr. Knowles built a hotel just below the peak of Chocorua which remained there for about thirty years until being destroyed by wind in 1915. Many of the slides that will be shown are made from original photographs.

## 1992 CALENDARS ON SALE NOW!!!!

We are extremely pleased with our new calendar! Our new printer, Thumbprint, in Ossipee, has done an excellent job with the photos in this calendar. The price this year is \$6.00 each. We have a few calendars left from last year that will be collector's items in the future. The calendars are available at the Museum, hours above, or by calling Ed Bickford (367-8097) or Becky Beaulieu (367-8583).

## The Universal Education System

Education is a many fingered system. Our schools, be they public, private or church, play a large part in our lives. A well rounded literary education is something most parents don't have the time or resources to supply. This makes schools essential. Schools are unable and cannot be expected to supply all aspects of education though. Parents probably have the most beneficial influence on their children by instilling good morals, proper perspective and good positive attitudes. A child with these characteristics will be better able to benefit in the school environment. The young look to adults as examples and for advice. Without proper guidance, the young will get advice and ideas from their peers and those that prey upon them. This is not the way to go because of the inexperience involved. Social groups and activities are of great value in learning cooperation, getting along with and working with others. The joy of being with and working with others cannot be over emphasized. United we stand, strong and influential.

The main purpose of this article is to introduce a book on the public educational system. Other aspects are mentioned because they are just as important. The school cannot work to top efficiency

STREET SCENE SILVER LAKE, N.H.



## Remembrances of Eleanor Parker

alone. At the historical Society, we are collecting all the information available on the history of this topic to incorporate in a book to be printed in the future. We will be doing interviews and asking for information to help the production. All facts and opinions will be welcome.

Two items of considerable concern and resulting controversy will be looked at, state involvement and the conflict between those people associated closely with the school and people trying to live in the town.

Below is an article from the 1896 town report. Similar feelings exist today.

Annual School Report, Town of Madison, 1896.

### "A Final Word"

"Not just a word to the taxpayers of this district. It is your duty to see that your children are brought up under the best influences possible, both at home and in the school-room and surroundings, and you should put in their way the means, so far as practicable, by which they will be enabled to obtain a good education and thereby be qualified to fill positions of honor and trust where ever they may be, and become an honor to townspeople under whose influence they were reared.

Now in order to have good, long schools, the first thing necessary is money, and we trust that the voters of this district will look at this matter where they can see that the boys and girls of today will be the men and women of tomorrow, and in order that they may become what they should be we must put our hands down deep into our pockets and swell the school fund to its greatest capacity.

Willie E. Kennett

Samuel J. Gilman

School Board of Madison"

As true yesterday as it will be tomorrow. EPB

Eleanor Parker was a teacher in the Madison High School in the years 1941-1943. The following are some of her recollections:

"In September of 1941, a complete new staff assembled at Madison High School [now the older part of the Madison Elementary School], a 3 room building in the field west of the village center and next to the one-room elementary school [Now the Madison Library.] (I am still in touch with Mary Frances Clayton Pike, whose mother was the elementary teacher.) Heading the staff was Norman Hartfiel, principal, teaching math and science. I think he had taught before, but this was his first principalship. Norma Wiggin from Maine was the Social Studies teacher. (I am not sure whether this was her first year or not.) I, Eleanor Parker, fresh out of Mount Holyoke, was the language teacher. I was to teach English 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, French I and II, Sociology one year and Biology the next - six classes and preparations. Also I was to direct the dramatics, Prize Speaking, newspaper, yearbook and chorus.

There were probably about 80 students in the six grades and our first job was to get to know them. They were from the village and the surrounding hills as well as from the neighboring resort of Silver Lake. There were Harmons and Chicks and Nickersons and Meaders and Perreaults and Nasons and Lyman and Wards - probably the same names still in Madison.

All the high school teachers boarded with Guy and Nellie Nickerson in a brown cottage about three-quarters of a mile from the school [across from the town office]. The morning walk with its view of Mount Chocorua in the distance was a good way to start the day. Up the hill farther was the big white house of Superintendent Frank Jackson, whose daughter Ester had been my high school teacher in North Woodstock.



Across from the Nickersons was the parsonage [to the right of the town office] where the Reverend Norris and Mrs. Hattie Woodbury lived. The Woodburys had been missionairies in Burma and brought a special richness and depth to their ministry at the little white church up the road.

Several events stand out in my memory from the fall term. One was the play - my first! It was a terrible play, a mystery with no literary value, but the kids liked it. We rehearsed in the Town Hall and had all the usual problems of pepper in the hot air register, painting the flats, making special effects - like a skull to drop into the fireplace, etc. The performance started out well, but I had been warned that one student never learned his lines. He had to be prompted for most of the last scene.

Another event was the resignation of Norma Wiggin at Christmas to get married. A tragedy was the illness and finally the death of Mr. Jackson, a truly fine gentleman. Of course the world-shaking happening was the attack on Pearl Harbor which we learned about from the Nickerson's radio on the evening of December 7.

After Christmas, Mr. Hartfiel had left the Nickerson's to rent a house because he was planning to marry. Norma's replacement turned out to be another beginning teacher, John Shaw, from Rhode Island.

I'll never forget our all assembling in the main room at school in January to hear President Roosevelt give the Declaration of War. No one in that room remembered World War I of course, so this was a new experience, but I recall a feeling of sadness looking at those young faces and wondering what would happen to them. At least one - the bright, handsome, dark-haired Rodney Lyman - never came back from the fighting.

However, at first the war did not affect us much. We didn't have a winter sports program

except basketball, but on several clear, cold nights, out came the traverses, and we went sliding. If we started at the top of the hill beyond the Jackson's, we could go almost to the school. It was wonderful. Big features of the spring were Prize Speaking, the senior dance and graduation. But I also remember Memorial Day when students and teachers and Mr. Woodbury marched to the cemetery to decorate graves and joined in the program at the Town Hall.

By the next year, the war touched everybody. The school staff was trained and did rationing, issuing the coupon books for gas, suagar, etc. We also took our turns as plane spotters. Fortunately, no planes ever went over when I was on duty because I doubt that I could have identified it. We did the spotting from a fire tower somewhere; I don't remember its location.

A war related problem concerned the Woodburys. Mr. Woodbury was a pacifist and refused to register. He fully expected to be imprisoned, but at the hearing, he was cleared because of his position. Few people in town know of this, but he often preached pacifist sermons which caused mixed reactions.

Because Mrs. Jackson and her sister Miss Files were now alone I had gone to live with them the second year. John Shaw also moved there but was drafted in the winter. I don't remember whether he was allowed to finish or had to leave in the middle of the year. He eventually taught at Concord High for many years. Both he and I were NH Teachers of the Year, but we got our start in Madison! Mr. Hartfiel went on to become a Superintendent.

The play the second year must have been uneventful because I remember nothing about it. I do remember some boys bringing a fairly large live snake into Biology, but we managed to cope with that challenge and even to learn that snakes are warm, not cold and slimy. I also remember



one winter morning that year when the temperature was almost forty below zero. By the time I had walked the mile from the Jackson's, there was no feeling in my legs. Not many students made it, so we all huddled around the big register in the hall and went home when the sun was high at noon.

My salary was \$1,000 the first year. The second year Mr. Hartfiel had a \$100 raise and the two teachers, \$50. At the end of the second year, we all left for new positions, so MHS started all over again in the fall of 1943.

These were two years of very hard work but also great rewards. Life in a small NH town in the early '40's was simple and good. Although some of the kids were not highly motivated to study and most were under the centuries-old mandate to test new teachers, they were innately decent and without most of the problems and temptations of today's teenagers. Because school and church activities were all they had, there was no great competition for their interest.

These two years were a great experience. I still keep in touch with some of the students and see some occasionally. without knowing it, they did much more for me than I could possibly have done for them."

Eleanor C. Parker

## Mama's Mama, Author unknown

Mama's Mama, on a winter's day,  
Milked the cows and fed them hay,  
Slopped the hogs, saddled the  
mule,

And got the children off to school  
Did a washing, mopped the floors,  
Washing the windows and did some  
chores,

Cooked a dish of home dried fruit,  
Pressed her husband's Sunday suit,  
Swept the parlor, made the bed,  
Baked a dozen loaves of bread,  
Split some wood and lugged it in,  
Enough to fill the kitchen bin,  
Cleaned the lamps and put in oil,  
Stewed some apples she thought  
might spoil,

Churned the butter, baked a cake,  
Then exclaimed: "For Mercy's  
sake,

The Calves have got out of the  
pen!"

Went out and chased them in again,  
Gathered the eggs and locked the  
stable,

Returned to the house and set the  
table,

Cooked a supper that was  
delicious,

And afterwards washed all the  
dishes,

Fed the cat, sprinkled the  
clothes,

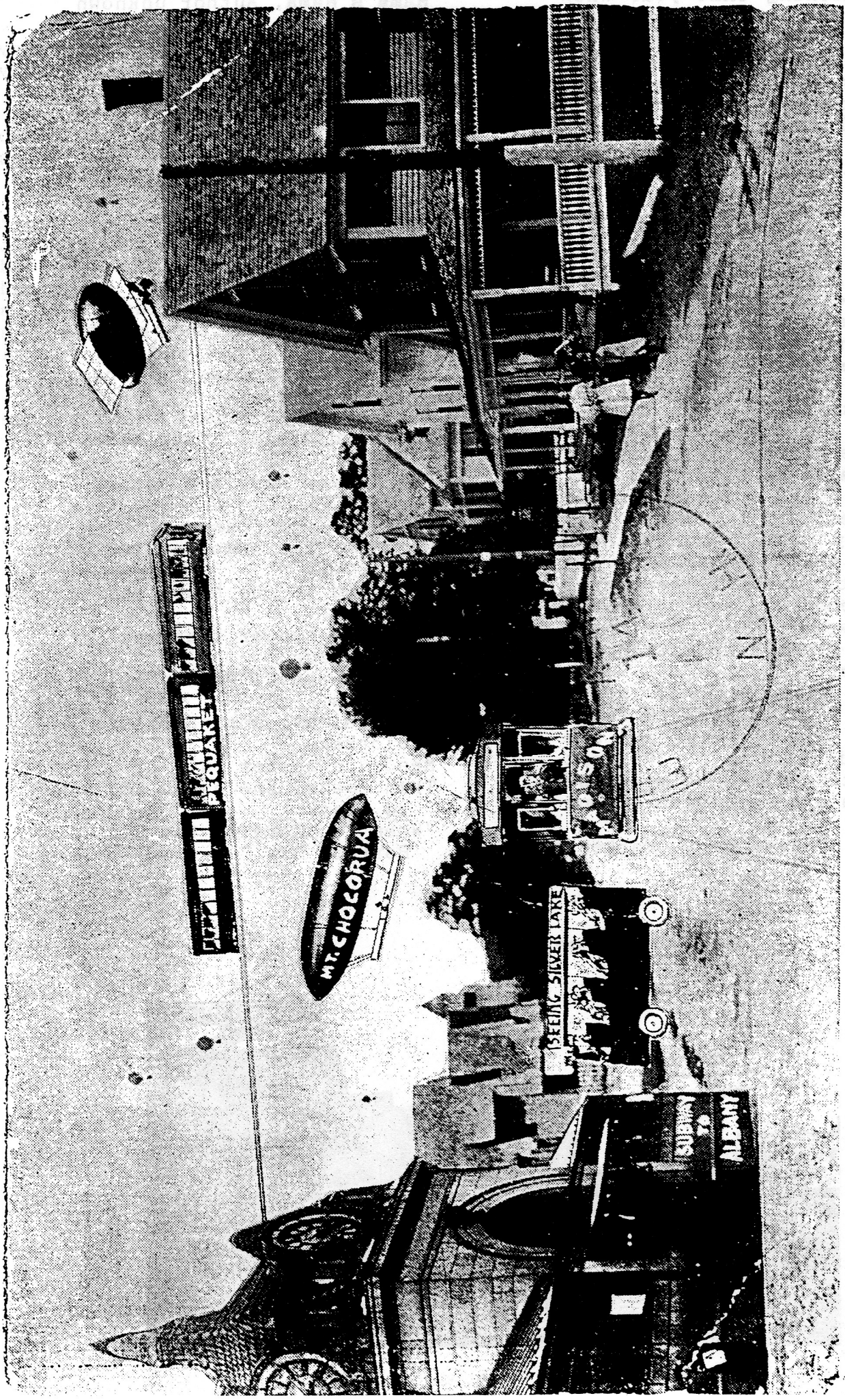
Mended a basket full of hose,

Then opened the organ and began  
to play,

"When You Come to the End of a  
Perfect Day."

STREET SCENE SILVER LAKE, N.H.





Published by Gilman Bros.

Silver Lake, N. H., in the Future.





~ Please Renew! ~

Membership Application  
Madison Historical Society, Madison, N.H.

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SEASONAL ADDRESS for:(dates) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

Class of membership (choose one)

Single (\$5.00) Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Dual membership (\$8.00) Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional member: \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership (\$8.00) Date paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members (under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





WHO IS THIS MOTLEY CREW?

BACK TO THE PAST...

READ THE GAZETTE!