

Meet your neighbor

Gordon B. Seavey

By RICHARD O'NEIL

Many readers of area newspapers are already familiar with at least the writing of Mr. Seavey and though he writes primarily historical articles his journalism background is extensive. As a youth in the Westford school system, he was interested in journalism, but did not attend a journalism school right away because of bad economical times. He did work as a suburban correspondent for the now defunct Lowell Courier-Citizen, and though it was a non-paying job, it gave him his first practical experience in the profession. At the time, he felt that the local papers were not giving Westford enough publicity, so he started sending material to the papers himself and it was printed verbatim. He was at Westford Academy during his years as a correspondent and was President of the class of 1922. Mr. Seavey, now a very youthful looking 73, remembers that when he graduated, the entire school enrollment was at 60 students.

As a youth, he had many interests. He was a boy scout, a member of the 4-H Club, an activist at The First Parish Church United, a trumpeter in the Abbot Worsted Band, and later organizer of the Tadmuck Band.

After graduation from Westford Academy he entered Lowell Commercial College. Then he went to Cuba to become secretary to the manager of a sugar division of the United Fruit Company. He studied journalism at Boston University's School of Communications. In 1925 he entered school at the University of New Hampshire as a business major. He earned a degree in business administration. He spent two years at the John Wanamaker Department Store in New York City. He then returned to Massachusetts where he held an Oldsmobile franchise in Arlington for five years.

In 1938, however, Mr. Seavey's interest in journalism overtook him and he bought the Belmont Citizen, which he owned for 34 years. In 1971 he retired, selling his interests in the paper to a Lexington publications group. Over the years, the Citizen won several awards, including a Community Service award of the New England Press Association for a 64-page edition that covered Belmont's 100th anniversary. Mr. Seavey was very active in Belmont town affairs as well, being twice president of the Board of Trade, a town meeting member for 25 years, former president of the Rotary and corporation of the Belmont Savings Bank.

While his former home was on the Westford Littleton boundary, his bedroom was in Littleton making him a legal resident of that town thereby preventing him from becoming too active in Westford affairs. Yet his roots and heart were always in Westford and in 1977 he moved into Westford Center in a house that has a breathtaking view. On a clear day one can see the two mountain peaks in Goffstown, New Hampshire.

Mr. Seavey was on the Bicentennial Committee and he designed the Westford Bicentennial plaque. He is very active within the Board of Trustees of Westford Academy and in 1972 he attended his 50th class reunion from W. A.

Mr. Seavey is also very active in historical pursuits. As well as being interested in Westford history, he has written for area newspapers (including this paper) on Westford history. Early in 1978 he gave a slide-lecture at the First Parish Meeting House on the history of Westford for the Junior Women's Club. In appreciation the club donated a book on Shaker Furniture to the town library in Mr. Seavey's name.



Gordon B. Seavey

In the newspaper business, Mr. Seavey has held many top posts. He was president of the Mass. Press Association for two terms, director of the New England New York region of the National Newspaper Association for 10 years and became president of the NNA in 1964. In his work as president, he directed several study missions for reporters to foreign countries that took him twice around the world.

When asked if he'd like to become active in town affairs, he was cautious. He is happy doing free-lance historical writing and this takes up much of his time as his work demands constant research and rechecking of the facts.

Gordon Seavey is a fountain of historical information on Westford. He has an extensive and distinguished career and as readers look forward to his writings, Westford natives should look forward to his continued interests in town affairs as well as in town history.