

# The Citizen of Laconia

*The voice of New Hampshire's Lakes Region*

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## Our yesterdays

By WARREN D. HUSE

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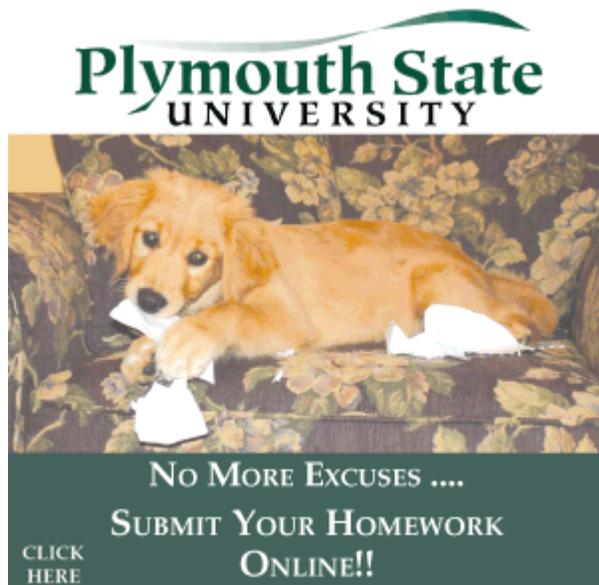
### **125 YEARS AGO (1887) from The Laconia Democrat**

Some 100 residents had an enjoyable time at the 20th annual husking at C.L. Prescott's residence on Prescott Hill. About 8 p.m., the guests "went to work with a will at a pile of corn that seemed to bid them defiance by its magnitude." But, by 10:30, more than 700 bushels of ears had been husked, and all adjourned merrily to the supper table, which was abundantly stocked with the good things of the farm." Vocal and instrumental music followed, "and some of Laconia's representative young men and ladies made the welkin ring with song and laughter." **100 YEARS AGO (1912) from The Laconia Democrat**

A contract for improvements to the iron bridge over the Weirs Channel had been awarded to the Eastern Bridge Structural Co. of Worcester, "and workmen from that company have arrived and have commenced work. The bridge in its present condition was pronounced too light for the heavy traffic which goes over it in the summer time, and the structure will be strengthened by additional steel, which is already being placed in position."

Laconia Car Co. had received an order to repair 1,000 boxcars for the Boston & Maine Railroad, "and work has already commenced on the job, which will furnish no inconsiderable amount of labor at the Laconia shops." **75 YEARS AGO (1937) from The Democrat & The Citizen**

Mrs. Lillian B. Carroll had "added to her extensive property holdings by the purchase of Cawley's Tavern at The Weirs from Mrs. Alice Cawley. Mrs. Cawley who has owned the widely known inn for the past 17 years announced that she would devote herself to her restaurant business, Cawley's, on the same street and would make her home in that building which she acquired in 1928 ... Since



1911 Mrs. Cawley has been serving food in some corner of Lacoina, she says, first on Union avenue in the present King block, then in the Normandin block on Main street and later on Pleasant street." (LD)

Gilbert A. Phelps had taken over the Good Gulf Service Station, formerly operated by Eric Foote, at 616 Union Ave. (LEC)

A state minimum wage board for beauticians — the first to be composed wholly of women — was appointed. Included among the members was Mrs. M.J. Carroll of Laconia. (LEC) **50 YEARS AGO (1962) from The Laconia Citizen**

There was "no apparent opposition to the proposed zoning change in the White Oaks Road area at a public hearing, Oct. 16. "There were many questions, particularly as to the effect the change from an agricultural to a residential zone might have on the planned Leisure Acres development."

State Police Lt. George McKeagney of Meredith, commander of Troop A, covering Rockingham and Strafford counties for the past five months, was transferred to the command of Troop E, "which covers Belknap and Carroll Counties."

At the annual firemen's banquet at Leavitt Park Community House, Fred Dearborn and Richard Hickey, both of The Weirs, were presented gold badges and made life members of the department. Both men had retired as active firefighters, Dearborn as a member of the Weirs company of volunteer firemen for 38 years, and Hickey, as a driver in the department for several years, being stationed at The Weirs.

At the annual meeting, Thomas Nee was re-appointed musical director and conductor of the New Hampshire Music Festival for a fourth season. Richard Whiting was re-elected president; Charles Dockham, Walter K. Mitchell and J. Edward Kurth were re-elected vice-presidents. Mrs. Seth Keller was the new secretary and Lewis Aldrich, the new treasurer. Mrs. Ashley Mason and John B. Judkins would serve as assistant treasurers.

Radio Station WEMJ was advertising "5 reasons why it's a good day from morning 'till midnight on WEMJ." They were: Fun and Music with Ron Wilson, the 1490 Club with Dan Davis, local news with Pete Morrison, the Commuters Road-Show with Jay Coyne and Dance Party with Bob Clark. **25 YEARS AGO (1987) from The Laconia Citizen**

The city's tax rate was set at \$49.77 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation — \$1.37, or 2.8 percent, higher than the previous year's \$48.40. Total assessed valuation of the city was \$303,362,302.

The city "could become the first municipality in the state to purchase portable computerized ballot counters which would provide voting results within minutes. Clerk Ann Dearborn has recommended

the City Council purchase seven of the machines at a total cost of \$33,950." To use the machines, voters "must connect the arrows next to the candidate or issue they wish to vote for with a pencil and then insert the ballot. In less than a second, the machine counts each vote and stores it in its memory."

New chairman of the Lakes Region Chapter 172 of the Service Corps of Retired Executives was Betty Walsh. Horace Walsh, no relation, was re-elected secretary and treasurer. New vice chairman was Robert Sederquist.

New executive director of Hospice, Laconia Area, Inc., was Allyn Smith. She replaced Sue Walsh, who was attending graduate school in Boston. Smith "is a registered nurse, a graduate of Laconia Hospital School of Nursing, holds a B.S. in human development ... and is certified in geriatric care by the American Nursing Association." She had worked for many years as a director of nursing and nursing coordinator in long-term care facilities.

Lakes Region Sportsmen's Association moved its clubhouse 400 yards, Oct. 22, to a new location on Lily Pond Road. "The structure was towed at a speed of one-eighth of a mile per hour, stopping once while workmen cut a chunk of metal off a heavy support I-beam to let the rig clear an obstacle. The building had to be moved from a site adjacent to the Laconia Airport because of plans to install an instrument landing system."

Benjamin Zulofsky, 82, died in Sarasota, Fla., Oct. 17. He had been a prominent businessman in Laconia for many years, operating Reliable Clothing Co. sequentially in two locations on Main Street and, later, Benjamin's in the former F.W. Woolworth Building. **10 YEARS AGO (2002) from The Citizen**

The second time "was the charm as the City Council, which had turned down a similar proposal last month, voted 5-1," Oct. 15, "to form a Bike Week advisory committee." The matter of the Bike Week body was then referred to the council's Government Operation and Ordinances Committee for further review.

The City Council unanimously approved a motion that the next municipal budget not exceed 1.5 percent above the approved 2002- 2003 budget — aside from salaries and other contractual items. Given "the significant capital outlays facing the city in coming years," something has to be done to rein in operational costs, said Ward 5 Councilor Rick Judkins in proposing to create some ground rules for the upcoming budgetary process. "City Manager Eileen Cabanel, who traditionally has told department heads not to submit budget requests in excess of 3 percent from the preceding year ... said the guidelines adopted by the council should help both her and the department heads."

New Beginnings, the women's crisis center, held its 11th annual domestic violence candlelight vigil at Opechee Park, Oct. 17. Laconia Police Chief Tom Oetinger attended the vigil. He said domestic violence is an important issue in the community, a crime, and while police having been taking a more aggressive and proactive role, they still need the help of residents to prevent more acts of violence from taking place. "Events like this raise this issue into public consciousness and it needs

to be raised,” said Oetinger. “These events allow people to recognize that it is happening and it’s happening to our neighbors.”

The Belknap Mall, in Belmont, was “ditching its 1970s architectural appearance,” as crews of workers swarmed over the property to give it a complete facelift “and subsequent whole new feel.” Outside access to each store was being installed. Sidewalks, awnings, new surface material and landscaping were being done. The mall was currently occupied by 19 tenants and had nine vacant retail spaces. “A spot on the southern corner of the mall’s parking lot has been earmarked for a new Dunkin Donuts.”

The kids “came out,” Oct. 18, to parade from City Hall to Laconia High School and show their support for Parents And Children

Together.” More than 300 children, accompanied by parents and organization leaders in the sixth annual “Let’s Salute Our Kids” parade, sponsored by PACT and the Kid2Kid mentor program.

Former Laconia Mayor Bernard Boutin “was doubly honored,” Oct. 18, by his alma mater, St. Michael’s College in Colchester, Vt. Not only did the school rename a portion of its senior townhouse dormitories Bernard Boutin Commons, but Boutin was also honored as one of seven charter members of the college’s academic hall of fame.” Boutin had graduated from St. Michael’s as valedictorian in 1945 and served as its president from 1969 to 1975 as the first layman to hold the office. Among Boutin’s other career highlights were service in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations in Washington, D.C.

New Hampshire Community Technical College had instituted new photo identification cards for its students. The Laconia campus “purchased a complete ID card system this fall through the generosity of the last two graduating classes.” 2001 “decided to make its class gift a cash donation (for) a new camera and ID system fund. 2002 “provided the remaining funds to purchase the new equipment. Students use their IDs in a variety of situations, to access discount offers from area businesses and merchants, for entry to college events and for use of community facilities. With more than 1,000 students enrolled this year, the students at the Laconia campus have a sizable economic impact in the Lakes Region.”

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