

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**

The Laconia Theatre Orchestra had "been organized among some of our well-known musicians, and will make its first appearance at the opening of the new opera house," Aug. 23.

F.P. Holt was "to have a bang up new store house just off from New Salem St., on the Perley lot. It will be of brick, two stories, with all the modern improvements. Ground was broken this week and the building is to be up before snow flies." (Note: This was the building later long occupied by Palmer-Simpson Co., and still later by Goodwin Paper Co., before it was destroyed in a spectacular fire, Oct. 6, 1990.)

100 YEARS AGO (1912)

from **The Laconia Democrat**

There had been "several large automobiles through here recently with the words 'Royal Blue Line Tours' finely lettered on their sides. These automobiles are capable of seating twelve people very comfortably and are operated by a company that is running them for tourist service from Massachusetts cities to the White mountains."

An Army recruiting station had been established at 648 Main St. and was "meeting with very good success ... This is the first time that an office of the kind has been located in Laconia."

Frank P. Tilton was confirmed as judge of probate for Belknap County and presided at the August term of court this week.

New matron at Laconia Hospital was Anna Lockerby, "who comes to Laconia from the Mary Hitchcock hospital in Hanover, where she has been assistant matron for the past nine years." The trustees "propose to engage an assistant matron, and under Miss Lockerby's direction to enlarge the work of the Laconia hospital, more especially along the lines of the training school for nurses."

75 YEARS AGO (1937)

from The Democrat & The Citizen

Charles Switzer, Laconia High School student, would represent the Citizens' Military Training Camp at Fort McKinley, Maine, in the National Rifle and Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. "Six New England youths were chosen from a field of six hundred in the rifle matches at Fort McKinley last month. Switzer was second highest."

(LD)

Edward J. Lord, of Radio Station WEEI, Boston, was appointed as manager of WLNH, the Northern Broadcasting Com-

pany's station here, replacing Hugh Hescocock. (LEC)

50 YEARS AGO (1962)

from The Laconia Citizen

Judge Bernard Snierson directed Police Chief Harold Knowlton "to order one or both parents to accompany a minor brought before the court on any charge ... The judge said he will not try a case involving a minor if a parent is not present, and that a warrant will be sent to the parent or parents if none appears as ordered."

John Tarbay was the 56th donor of the day at the Red Cross blood drawing, and thus became the 10,000th donor to the local program since its inception in 1951. He had been among the program's faithful donors since then.

The Boys and Girls Fund of the Laconia Kiwanis Club benefited by slightly more than \$4,000 through the proceeds from the Kiwanis Auction, Aug. 11-12 at the Elks Home

grounds. Hal Gunn was general chairman of the event.

Georgia Taggert, 19, of Westport, Conn., was Miss Winnepesaukee 1962, selected, Aug. 16, at Irwin's Winnepesaukee Gardens at the

40th annual bathing beauty contest. A junior at New England College, she was spending the summer at Locke's Manor and was employed at Howard Johnson's.

"The Music Man" was playing at Lakes Region Playhouse. Coincidentally, the film version was just ending its run at the Colonial Theater.

25 YEARS AGO (1987)

from The Laconia Citizen

The Youth Services Bureau would offer a new 14-hour Drug Abuse Reduction Program, beginning Aug. 19. Pat Seaward-Salvati, bureau director, said the impetus for the program came as a result of statistics which show

drug and alcohol abuse among Lakes Region

teens continues to be the primary reason juveniles become involved with the court system." Cost

for the program was \$50 per participant. The Lakes Region Exchange Club

had donated \$600 in scholarship money.

Workmen began installing new playground

equipment, Aug. 13, at Woodland Heights

School. The Woodland Heights PTO had

raised \$11,000 over three years toward the project. Century 21 Keewaydin Properties announced

the conversion of Weirs Beach cabin colony Pine Trail Cottages into a condominium. The

community, on Lucerne Avenue,

"consists of 15 individual cottages, including

the turn-of-the-century main house." Two

beaches and 12 boatslips were available to residents. This year's Great Winnepesaukee Whatever

Race at The Weirs, Aug. 15, "involved everything from modified duck blinds to dual pontooned

picnic tables. The \$500 captain's award

went to WinniPuff, a canoe turned dragon,

navigated by Lura Riggs, Richard Cornell,

Dan Robichaud and Doris Hebert, all of

Franklin."

Stacy McMillan, 22, of Manchester was

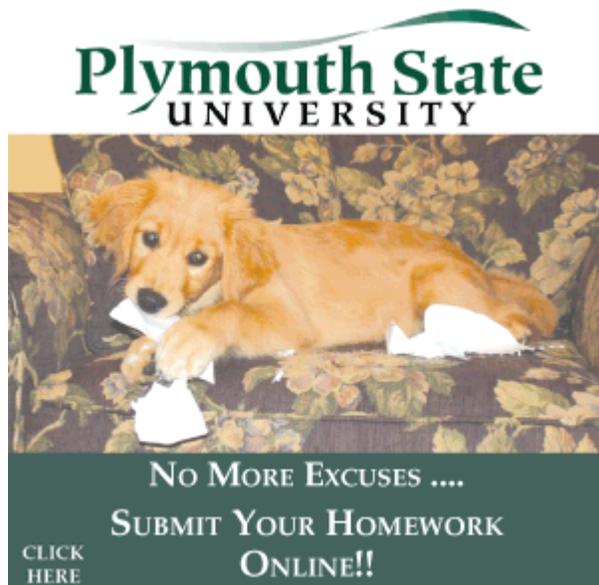
named Miss Winnepesaukee 1987 "before one

of the largest crowds in the 56-year history of

one of New England's oldest beauty pageants,

now sponsored by and held at Funspot, Rte. 3,

Weirs Beach. A 1983 graduate of Manchester



West High School, she was a dance and theater major at the University of New Hampshire. "The fast moving pageant was emceed by Joan and Larry Frates, who also entertained with dances and singing. Additional entertainment was provided by the Lake Village Dancers."

**10 YEARS AGO (2002)
from The Citizen**

Laconia VFW Post 1670 would begin a \$30,000 renovation of the park in Veterans Square. "Flower beds would be planted around the perimeter, and benches would be installed as well as a lighting and an irrigation

system ... The plans also call for a water fountain

and a single dwarf cherry tree."

City Clerk Ann Kaligian administered the oath of office, Aug. 15, to Thomas J. Oetinger as chief of police. Twenty-two years earlier, she had sworn him in as a member of the department. Oetinger succeeded William Baker, who left, Aug. 9, after 3-1/2 years as chief to pursue an opportunity with the federal Department of Justice.

Struggling retailer Ames Discount Stores had asked a federal judge for approval to close all 327 of its stores nationwide. Locally, the company had stores in Belmont, Ossipee and Plymouth — and a total of 19 in the state.

Linda and Eric Robinson had recently opened a gift boutique called the "Garden of Treasures" at 110 Beacon Street East, in the McIntyre Block.

Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra played to more than 4,000 at Meadowbrook Farm Musical Arts Center in Gilford, Aug. 18.

Mrs. Margaret E. "Betty" Leahy, R.N., 90, died, Aug. 13. A 1930 graduate of Laconia High School and a 1934 graduate of the Laconia Hospital Training School, she was employed as night supervisor at Laconia Hospital for four years. In 1938, she married Dr. Roland Leahy, who died in 1997.

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