

Gilford Public Library



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TOWN of GILFORD

NEW HAMPSHIRE



YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1976

YOUR 1976 TOWN REPORT

In final salute to the American Revolution Bicentennial your 1976 Town Report commemorates Gilford's celebration of our country's two hundredth birthday.

Throughout the report you will find pictures and brief descriptions of our Town's bicentennial special events and activities.

Special commendation is due our Bicentennial Commission that, in a great "spirit of 76 American patriotism" organized and conducted the Town's celebration. The Bicentennial Commission members are listed herein with their own report.

Please join us in thanking them for a job well done and in extending to our nation one more "HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA."

Steve McCabe
Chief Administrator

REPORT OF THE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

1976 was a year filled with activity for the Gilford Bicentennial Commission. Projects and programs were carried out to celebrate our nation's 200th birthday. Every effort was made to include townspeople of all ages so that the celebration would have a true community spirit.

An attractive hard cover book, **HISTORY OF GILFORD**, was published. This was a reprint of the only known early history of the Town by Rev. J. P. Watson. The reprint included paintings and sketches of the Town by several local artists.

The Gilford Militia Company represented the Town at parades and celebrations all over the state. In December, 1976, Frank Quimby participated in the reenactment of Washington crossing the Delaware held on Christmas Day in Trenton, New Jersey. He was one of 15,000 from all over the United States. On New Year's Day Frank was joined by Jim Colby of the local militia at the re-enactment of the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

A replica of a "Gundolow," the first form of commercial boat used on Lake Winnepesaukee, was built. The "Gundolow" was Gilford's entry in many area parades. Several trophies were won in the float competition in these parades.

As Gilford's bicentennial gift to future generations, a bandstand was built on the Village Field. A complete sound system was given for use at the bandstand by the Interact Club at Gilford Middle High School.

Another project for the future is the construction

TOWN of GILFORD

NEW HAMPSHIRE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1975

REPORT OF THE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The commission has been in existence for over a year. Our goal is to have a well planned celebration for the country's 200th year.

Gilford was officially designated a Bicentennial Community in August of 1975. We were the 76th town in the state of New Hampshire to qualify for this honor.

The lasting projects planned for Gilford are three. The first one is already under way. This is a reprint of "A History of Gilford" by Rev. J. P. Watson. The only known early history of Gilford, it appeared originally in 1885. It has never been available to the general public because it was included in a volume entitled "A History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties New Hampshire" edited by D. Hamilton Hurd. The reprint will include paintings and sketches of Gilford by Cynthia Kling, Linda Stern and Michael Wallace.

The second project will be a bandstand to be constructed on the Village Field.

And the final project is to be a Bicentennial Walk Way to be built along Gilford Brook from the library to the fire station. It is hoped that the walk will eventually lead to a network of paths through the town-owned property.

over

A Gilford Militia Company has been formed. The men have participated in bicentennial activities in other towns. They represent Gilford at these functions as well as those in town.

A float will be constructed. It will be a replica of the "gundola" the first form of commercial boat used on Lake Winnepesaukee. This float will also represent our town at the gala 4th of July parade in Manchester.

There will be a Bicentennial Ball in February, concerts, parades, and a 3 day celebration August 27th through 29th of this year.

The Commission welcomes new members as well as all the help and support you can give us. We the members hope for total community participation in the celebration of our nation's Bicentennial.

Commission Members: Sheila Weeks, Chairman, Nan Fay, Secretary Margaret Birch, Mary Flaherty, Helene Gouin, Maurice Gouin, Mel Gurshin, Willis Hoyt, Bernice Paradise, Maurice Paradise, Ruth Pratt, Cecily Quimby, Frank Quimby, Lloyd Quint, Mary Quint, Dexter Royce, Lorraine Royce, Christine Sauter, Carol Tamke, Eric Tamke, Arthur Tilton, Horatio Tower, Don Vachon, Tom Weeks, and Marcy Weeks.

GILFORD BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Proposed Budget For 1976

	<u>1975 Budget</u>	<u>1975 Exp.</u>	<u>1976</u>
Postage and Advertising	50	50	400
Bandstand			7,000
Poster Calender			350
Nature Walkway			500
Float for Parades			1,000
Militia			475
Book (reprint of Gilford History)			2,000
Conestoga Wagon (In Town March 2)			150
Buntings for Town Buildings			300
Heritage Tour			100
Arts and Crafts Fair			250
Bicentennial Ball			1,000
Liberty Pole			500
Bicentennial Weekend Activities Friday P.M.			975
			<hr/> 15,000

We expect to gain revenue from the following:

Sale of the history book (to date \$410.00)	5,000
Receipts through ticket sales to Ball, Poster Sales, Heritage Tour	2,039
Muster Supper (to date 461)	461
	<hr/> 7,500
Revenue Sharing Funds	7,500
	<hr/> 15,000

1975

To All Gilford Residents:

For several months a group of interested Gilford citizens has been busy making plans for the celebration of our nation's Bicentennial. We hope that Gilford people of all ages will take an interest and plan to participate in some way.

The Selectmen have recently appointed this group as the Gilford Bicentennial Commission. The Commission meets the second Monday of each month at the Gilford Library. If you would like to become a member you are cordially invited to attend a meeting. ↘ 7:30 downstairs

Following guidelines established by the national American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, programs and projects have been planned in three categories; - Heritage, Festival, and Horizons. At the present time the following projects are under consideration:

Heritage - Erection of a Liberty Pole
Re-printing of a Gilford History
Placing of historic markers
Organization of a militia group

Festival - A three day Old Home Day Weekend, August 27-29, 1976 including a parade, Bicentennial Ball, etc.

Horizons - Bicentennial Walkway along the Gunstock River
Bandstand on the Village Field

Members of the Commission would like to stress that the cost of any major Bicentennial projects or programs will not come from the town's taxes! We hope to accomplish our goals with volunteer time and labor and individual contributions. News of these projects will be published in the newspaper and posted at Town Hall and the Gilford Library.

Have you or your group made plans to have a Bicentennial project? There are many ideas for projects, large and small, for individuals, families, groups and organizations to do in observance of our nation's 200th birthday. The members of the Commission will be happy to share these ideas with you if you will contact them. We would also like to know of any projects planned by Gilford people.

We hope to make Gilford's Bicentennial celebration both memorable and worthwhile. To accomplish this we need your participation and interest. For further information you may contact Mrs. Robert Weeks, chairman, Mrs. Merrill Fay, secretary, or Mrs. Lorraine Royce at Town Hall.

Gilford Bicentennial Commission

Gilford Town ¹⁹⁷⁵ History Will Be Available

The Bicentennial Commission of Gilford announce that a limited commemorative bicentennial edition of the Gilford town history will be reprinted.

The history was written in 1885 by the Rev. J.P. Watson and is a factual, accurate and most interesting account of Gilford's historical background. It will be illustrated by prominent local artists and a worthy addition to any home library. Rev. Watson has captured the era and the material presented has previously not been readily available.

For those who are interested, orders may be placed at Gilford's celebration, Saturday. Members of the commission will be at the table on the lawn in front of the Gilford Library between nine and three o'clock to take orders. The attractive, hard-covered book will be ready for delivery in the early spring.



Official Bicentennial Recognition — On August 23, 1975, Gilford was officially designated Bicentennial Community No. 76 in the State of New Hampshire. Pictured at the bicentennial flag presentation ceremony are: Left to right: Marine and Navy Color Guards Ronald Baltzor and Timothy Liberty; Gilbert T. Center, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Bicentennial Commission; Sheila Weeks, Chairman of the Gilford Bicentennial Commission; Representative Norman Marsh; Selectmen Richard Ray, Robert Weeks and William Morrison.

Lasone Evening Citizen Aug 25, 1975 page 1

At Gilford Old Home Day

... Sunday, Aug. 24, 1975, the town of Gilford, N.H., celebrated its bicentennial with a most colorful and historic day. The 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence was commemorated with a parade and a variety of activities. The parade, which was held in the town square, featured a band, a float, and a variety of other participants. The float, which was decorated with the bicentennial logo, was carried by the town's youth. The parade was a great success and a fitting tribute to the town's rich history. The day was also marked by a variety of other activities, including a picnic and a concert. The town of Gilford is proud to have been designated a Bicentennial Community and looks forward to celebrating its 200th anniversary in 1976.

Gilford Bicentennial Commission - an organization of citizens

1776



1976

Revolutionary Militia Companies Revived For Bicentennial

In towns all over New Hampshire, militia companies that were formed at the time of the Revolution and continued into the 1800's are being reactivated as part of the festivities commemorating the 200th anniversary of that Revolution.

Historically many of the towns served by the *Pittsfield Press* and *Farmington News* belonged to the 10th Militia Regiment, a grouping including thirteen towns. Four of these towns have reactivated their militias - Alton, New Durham, Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro/Moultonboro. Gilmanton is in the process of doing the same and in Barnstead there is some movement afoot to do so.

The Alton Militia is the largest with thirty members including five officers. The officers are Major Charles Shields, Captain Albert Barnes, 1st Lieutenant Tenney Rines and 2nd Lieutenant Bob Boudrow. Colonel Albert Fisher also belongs to the Alton Militia, but is actually Colonel of the whole 10th Militia Regiment comprising the four active militias.

Fisher feels that the reasons the Alton Militia has been so successful are two. First, there are a number of townsmen interested in hunting with muskets and, of course, muskets were the predominant weapons of the Revolutionary militia. Second, a number of local teen-agers have joined the ranks. Some of these young men comprise the musical component of the unit. Two play flutes and five play drums, including one bass and four snares.

The reactivated militias are enthusiastically taking part in parades in their own towns and others, such as the recent parades in Alton, New Durham and Gilmanton. Sometimes a Militia Muster, a series of competitive events in military techniques, are held in association with a parade.

Albert Fisher, as Colonel of the 10th Militia Regiment, is responsible for coordinating activities of companies in the Regiment and also attempts to encourage and help new companies to form.

The 10th Militia Regiment, as previously mentioned, encompassed thirteen towns. Gilmanton, which at that time included parts of Belmont, Laconia and Gilford, had two companies; all other towns had one. One of the Gilmanton companies was the first in the Regiment to form. It was commanded by Colonel Joseph Badger. The other companies in order of formation and hence numerical designation were: 2nd, Wolfeboro; 3rd, Sanbornton; 4th, Meredith; 5th, Barnstead; 6th, Tuftonboro/Moultonboro; 7th, New Durham; 8th, Sandwich; 9th, Middleton; 10th, Wakefield; 11th, Effingham; 12th, Gilmanton; 13th, Tamworth and 14th, Alton.

The monthly Training Days were rather festive occasions with the women providing special goodies such as gingerbread and the men living it up at the local tavern.

The drills were held on the green in the center of town. Hence, such names as Barnstead Parade.

The men of the 10th Militia Regiment, New Hampshire fought in three major battles of the Revolution - Bennington in Vermont, and White Plains and Ticonderoga in New York State.

In the latter half of the 19th Century, the militias nationwide, were absorbed into the Army National Guard system.

Just after the Declaration of Independence in 1776, in the interim between the last royal governor, Benning Wentworth and the first elections, New Hampshire was governed by a group called the Committee of Safety. Its members were men who had been political leaders under Wentworth. *NEXT PAGE*

The Committee of Safety, according to Fisher, exercised almost dictatorial powers. For defense purposes it divided the state into a number of large administrative areas. Each town in an area was to have a militia, a group of men who gathered monthly to train and drill and would stand ready to go to battle if summoned by the Committee. All the militias in one of the large administrative areas comprised a Regiment. The commanding officer of the regiment was appointed by the Committee.

^{OCT. 1975} Muster Supper At Gilford

The Gilford Bicentennial Commission is sponsoring a muster supper on Nov. 8 from five to seven o'clock at the Methodist Church.

An old-fashioned baked bean supper with homemade rolls, salad and gingerbread with real whipped cream will be served. Children under five will be admitted free. Tickets may be obtained from members of the commission or at the Gilford Library.

Proceeds of the supper will be used to buy equipment for the Gilford Militia. Members of the militia will be there in their authentic uniforms which were made by their wives. They will be glad to answer questions and welcome new recruits.

At this time the commission will also be pleased to take advanced orders for the reprint of the Gilford History. This hardcover book is complete with an updated glossary and illustrations by local artists.

Muster up the family! Attend the supper with old-fashioned food at an old-fashioned price, committee members urge.



Aiming at History

Lieut. Frank Quimby, left, and Frank Binette, Quartermaster if the Gilford Militia, are seeking recruits. The unit, which is the 12th Company of the 10th New

Hampshire Regiment, will be holding a demonstration and recruiting drive at the Mall Saturday morning.

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Militia Seeks Recruits

By JOHN ZANES

By post and by rider the news went out, and from the fields and farms of New Hampshire men gathered and went south.

Some of them were fairly well organized, and some went almost on impulse, but enough of them went, just a little over two centuries ago, so that the largest group of the American militia gathered for battle at Bunker Hill came down from New Hampshire.

Some lived and some died; some stayed on to soldier through grim years, and some didn't. At later times, Bennington, for example, and Saratoga, the men who were essentially civilian took up their guns and went to war, "agin' Burgoyne" or the other professionals, mercenaries or provincials

MILITIA, Page Two

Militia

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that were ranked against them to support the hand of English government and the arm of King George.

As the nation's Bicentennial celebration develops, New Hampshire men, as well as others around the country are reaching for flintlock musket, powder horn and tricorne hat, marching, reenacting combat, and parading to enliven the memories of the times that tried men's souls and saw the United States take form where men had been British colonists.

Sometimes the touch is close. One member of the Gilford Militia carries a musket and has a canteen that an ancestor had two centuries ago. Most carry replicas, some of them parade guns that don't even fire, and some of the uniforms are made to old patterns from fabric that would have been strange indeed to the ancestors who would know the cut of the clothing.

The Gilford Militia is the 12th Company of the 10th New Hampshire Regiment. Frank Binette, Quartermaster of the unit, tried to put into words the motives that he feels that are responsible for the interest in costume and colonial militia.

"I'm a history buff," he said. "I like to think that when this bicentennial is over I'll feel like one of the militiamen felt . . ."

The feeling for the real human aspects of history that the members of the colonial

regiments try for, Binette said, is like the feeling that he has "as I travel through the country and see stone walls . . . I'm not going to build a stone wall, but I can get my wife to make this uniform . . . I feel I've touched history." Frank Quimby, a lieutenant in the unit, agrees with Binette on the rewards for those who want to made vivid the human experiences of those who made the revolution and the nation.

The Gilford Militia is recruiting. Binette feels that some people think it is limited to people from Gilford, but this is not the case. "We want people from Laconia to join us," he said.

The unit is booked up for the summer, with commitments to parade and help to observe the Bicentennial, but they can use a few more men. They plan to demonstrate their uniforms and muskets at the downtown Mall Saturday morning from nine to 11 o'clock. They will be at the Belknap Mall from noon until two o'clock and at the Lakes Region Shopping Plaza from 2:30 until 4:30. Binette is optimistic that a few more members will be forthcoming. When people see a dozen colonial militiamen in uniform, and see them fire their muskets, he thinks that interest in the activities of the unit will bring in a few more recruits.

The unit was formed last fall, and there are now a dozen members, who will be out Saturday morning to explain to those interested how they feel about touching history.

1975

To all Gilford Taxpayers:

Do you know how your town is celebrating the Bicentennial?

The Gilford Bicentennial Commission, believing that every resident and taxpayer will want to be informed about Bicentennial activities planned for the coming year, cordially invites you to attend an open meeting on Thursday, December 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the Gilford Middle-High School, Lecture Room B. (This meeting will be part of the Selectmen's informational meeting.)

Planned activities and projects and a complete calendar of events for 1976 will be presented. This will be an informal meeting to provide an opportunity for you to hear our plans, discuss them, add suggestions, and volunteer to serve on sub-committees if you wish. Among the projects to be discussed will be the Bicentennial Walkway and our gala Bicentennial Weekend.

The Bicentennial is for EVERYONE. We hope that you will attend!

Gilford Bicentennial Commission

LACONIA, N. H., EVENING CITIZEN - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1975

Gilford Commission Plans Public Meeting

A public meeting of the Gilford Bicentennial Commission will be held Monday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Lecture Room B at the Gilford Middle High School.

All are welcome to hear the commission's plans for the celebration of the nation's bicentennial. It is hoped Gilford people of all ages will be interested and plan to participate in some way.

Plans for the three day Old Home Day weekend next August will highlight the meeting. At the present time, several projects are underway. The reprint of the Gilford History will be ready the first of the year. There will be a Heritage Ball on Feb. 21 at Pheasant Ridge Country Club and a bicentennial walkway along the Gunstock River will be completed in the spring. Interested residents are invited to come to the meeting, get involved, and become a member of the commission. Refreshments will be served.

Bicentennial Ball Will Open Gilford Celebration

The Gilford Bicentennial Commission has planned a gala year of events to celebrate the nation's 200th anniversary. The first affair of the year will be a Bicentennial Ball. A fun-filled evening is planned for Saturday

night, Feb. 21, at the Pheasant Ridge Country Club.

Old and young are welcome. Costumes are optional but it is hoped many will attend in costume to add a touch of nostalgia to the evening. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Proceeds of the ball will go toward building a bandstand on the Gilford Village field.

Tickets may be purchased from members of the commission. There also will be tickets for sale at the town hall and the Gilford Library. Mel Gurshin is general chairman; Mrs. Robert Weeks, decorating chairman; and Mrs. Neil Flaherty and Mrs. Frank Quimby are in charge of costume judging.

Other projects the commission has planned are coming along well. The reprint of the Gilford History has gone to the printers and is expected to be available to the public at the end of February. The walk way along the Gunstock River will be completed in the summer. A big three-day celebration, in conjunction with Old Home Day, Aug. 27-29, is well underway. Plans for this include an arts and crafts fair, a balloon ascension, the making of a float for the various local parades to represent Gilford, and a heritage tour. In the fall there will be an erection of the liberty pole and the burying of the time capsule.

Those interested in any of these projects can contact Mrs. Robert Weeks, head of the town Bicentennial commission.

MANCHESTER (N.H.) UNION LEADER — Wednesday, February 11, 1976

Bicentennial Ball Tickets Available

GILFORD — Tickets are still available for the Bicentennial ball to be held here on Feb. 21, according to Melvin W. Gurshin, ticket chairman.

The affair will take place at the Pheasant Ridge Country club here, from 8 to 12. A seven-piece orchestra will furnish music.

Those who would like to do so may dress in colonial costume, but this is entirely optional, said Mrs. Margaret M. Birch of the town's bicentennial commission.

Proceeds of the ball will be used to build a bandstand on the village field.

Tickets may be secured at the Town Hall, the Gilford library, or from members of the Bicentennial Commission.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1976



GILFORD BICENTENNIAL BALL will feature the music of The Common Good from Boston, at the Pheasant Ridge Country Club on Saturday, Feb. 21. Dancing will be

from eight to 12:00 o'clock, and tickets may be purchased at the door, or from Mel Gurshin, chairman. The event will kick off Gilford's bicentennial events.



GILFORD BICENTENNIAL BALL will be held at the Pheasant Ridge Country Club on Feb. 21. Getting ready for the occasion are Chris Sauter, Mel Gurshin, chairman; Bill Sauter and Richard Ray, chairman of the board of selectmen.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1976



GILFORD BICENTENNIAL BALL brought out handsome Colonial costumes. Prizes were awarded to both the men and women. Seated from the left are

Phyllis Deflice, Sheila Weeks, and Jayne McAllister. Standing, Donald Laflamme, Frank Quimby, and George Olewine.

Gilford Bicentennial Weekend August 27 - 28 - 29



FRIDAY

- 12-8 p.m. Colonial Crafts Fair
Gilford Elem. School
- 3:00 p.m. Gala Balloon Release
Village Field
Sale of Balloons
2-3:30
With Bob Copeland
- 10-6 p.m. WEMJ Broadcast
on location
- 7:30 p.m. Bicentennial Magic Show
with Larry Frates
- Old Fashion Melodrama
directed by Al Blastos
with surprise cast
at Middle-High School



SUNDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Bicentennial Mass at Our
Lady of Lakes Church
- 10:00 a.m. Bicentennial Service at
Gilford Community Church
- 10:00 a.m. Bicentennial Service at First
United Methodist Church
- 12-3 p.m. Heritage Tour of Gilford
- 3:30-5:00 Band Concert at
Bicentennial Bandstand



SATURDAY

- ### Old Home Day
- 7:30 a.m. Committee Meeting
- 9:30-4:00 Historical Society Open
House
- 9:30-5:00 Art Exhibit on Library
Lawn
- 9:30-5:00 Book Sale at Library
- 10:00-3:00 Open House at Library
- 10:00 a.m. Bicentennial PARADE
- 12:00-5:00 Gilford Community
Church Fair
- 12:00-1:30 Gilford Community Church
Luncheon & Auction
- 10:00-1:00 Light Lunches at Mt.
Belknap Grange Hall
- 12:00 - or immediately following parade
Colonial Militia Mock Battle
- 12:30 Awarding of Parade Trophies
- 1:00 Dixieland band Concert
Bicentennial Bandstand
- 1:30-2:00 Sentry Dog Exhibition
- 2:00 Fireman's MUSTER
- 2:00-4:30 Field Activities & Contests
- 4:30-5:00 Sentry Dog Exhibition -
2nd Show
- 5:00-7:00 Softball Game
Pike vs. Nalews
- 5:00-7:00 Chicken Barbecue by
Belknap County Sportsmen's Club
- 7:30 Bicentennial Magic Show
with Larry Frates
Old Fashion Melodrama
at High School
- 9:30 Fireworks
- 9:00-1:00 Dance on All-Purpose
Court at Village Field



1,776 Beautiful Balloons

Gilford Bicentennial Old Home Days are being observed this weekend and one of Friday's highlights saw 1,776 red, white and blue balloons launched from the Village Field.

Weatherman Bob Copeland of Boston's Channel 5 was on hand for the ceremonies.

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Balloon Release — On Friday, August 27th, Gilford's Bicentennial week-end celebration was launched with a gala balloon release that saw thousands of colorful balloons fill the sky above the Gilford Village Center.

8/27/76

Balloon Release Signals Start Of Old Home Day Celebration

The Gilford Bicentennial Weekend got underway Friday noon with a Colonial Crafts Fair at the Gilford Elementary School.

At three o'clock Friday afternoon there was a gala balloon release on the Village Field, followed by a Bicentennial magic show with Larry Frates. Channel 5 weatherman Bob Copeland officiated at the release of the 1,776 balloons.

A full schedule of events is planned today. One of the most popular will be the ten o'clock parade, stiff competition is expected in the neighborhood category. Families have planned their

floats for many months and have secretly been fashioning the mall week. The day will begin with a committee meeting at 7:30 a.m. An open house at the Historical Society will be held from 9:30 to 4:00 p.m., art exhibit on the Library lawn from 9:30 to 5:00, as well as a Library open house from 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Gilford Community Church will sponsor their annual fair from noon until five o'clock, luncheon to be served from noon to 1:30 p.m. Light lunches will be available from ten to one o'clock at the Mt. Belknap Grange Hall. The midway will be crowded with

food booths, flea markets, and sales of all types sponsored by local clubs.

A Colonial Militia mock battle will follow the parade, and awarding of the parade

trophies is planned for 12:30 p.m. A dixieland Jazz Band will entertain at one o'clock.

Other events include a CELEBRATION, Page Two

Celebration

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sentry dog exhibition, firemen's muster, field activities and contests, softball game, and chicken barbecue by the Belknap County Sportsmen's Club. The magic show will be repeated and melodrama directed by Al Blastos will be held at Middle High School, both at 7:30 P.M.

Fireworks will be set off at 9:30 p.m., with a dance on the Village Field to continue until one o'clock Sunday morning.

Sunday's activities include a Bicentennial Mass at Our Lady of the Lakes Church at 9:30 a.m., Bicentennial service at Gilford Community Church and First United Methodist Church,

both at ten o'clock; a heritage tour of Gilford in the afternoon as well as a Bicentennial band concert at the Bicentennial Bandstand from 3:30 to five o'clock.

This tag was attached to a Bicentennial Balloon from Gilford, N.H. If this tag is found before Sept. 1, 1976, please return it to the name and address below. The tag returned from the farthest distance away will win a prize of \$17.76.

Name _____

Address _____



COLONIAL CRAFTS Fair held Friday night at Gilford Elementary School featured 30 exhibits of area craftsmen. Outstanding demonstration was that of Mrs. Pauline (Bruce) Marriott, shown seated at her spinning wheel, where she

spins wool from her own sheep. Donald York's antique tools are on the wall in the background. Mrs. Ramon Quigley, left, was Fair chairman. Admiring the doll exhibit is two-year-old Stephanie Mariott, shown beside her mother.

Gilford Bicentennial Weekend Colonial Crafts Fair

Friday, August 27

12 Noon-8 p.m.

Gilford Elementary School — Belknap Mt. Rd., Gilford

EXHIBITS — DEMONSTRATIONS — BOOTHS

Spinning - Weaving - Quilting
Blacksmith - Cider Press - Braiding
Quilling Silhouettes Hooking
Caning - Stenciling Farmers Market
and Many More!

— NO ADMISSION —

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1976

Colonial Crafts Fair at Gilford

One of the highlights of the Gilford Bicentennial weekend will be a Colonial Crafts Fair to be held on Friday, Aug. 27 at the Gilford Elementary School from 12 noon until eight o'clock. Cairmen Mrs. Ramon Quigley and Mrs. Robert Hinds have gathered 30 craftsmen from Gilford and the surrounding area who will exhibit and demonstrate their crafts throughout the day. Adding to the festive atmosphere will be colonial costumes and antique ac-

cessories.

Especially fascinating to children will be Mrs. Pauline Marriott's spinning display which will show the complete process from the sheep to the finished wool. colorful blacksmith Donald Brooks of Center Sandwich will be operating his forge behind the school. Also under the awning will be potter Terry Conrad of Plymouth and Pier Kling who will be soldering leaded glass.

There will be a large display of quilts and quilting. Mrs. Martha Colburn will be tying a quilt. Mrs. Shirley Young and Mrs. Joan Edwards, will be working on quilt pieces. Mrs. Robert Rolfe and Mrs. Gardiner Greene will demonstrate needlepoint.

Mrs. Ethel Shulam, who has demonstrated at the N.H. League of Craftsmen, will be working on bobbin lace and three dimensional stitchery. The delicate old craft of

quilling will be shown by Sandra White of Winnisquam. Mrs. Robert Bosse and Beth Lacombe will be doing two types of macrame. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Humphrey will be caning chairs and Mrs. John Weeks will be demonstrating stenciling.

A delight to watch at work is Anita Carr Benson of Concord, the "Silhouette Lady", who will be available, by appointment, to do charming silhouettes.

The Sunny Slopes 4-H group will operate a cider press and have fresh cider and old fashioned doughnut holes for sale. Also working with apples will be Mrs. Louise Sharps of Belmont, who will show how to make apple head dolls.

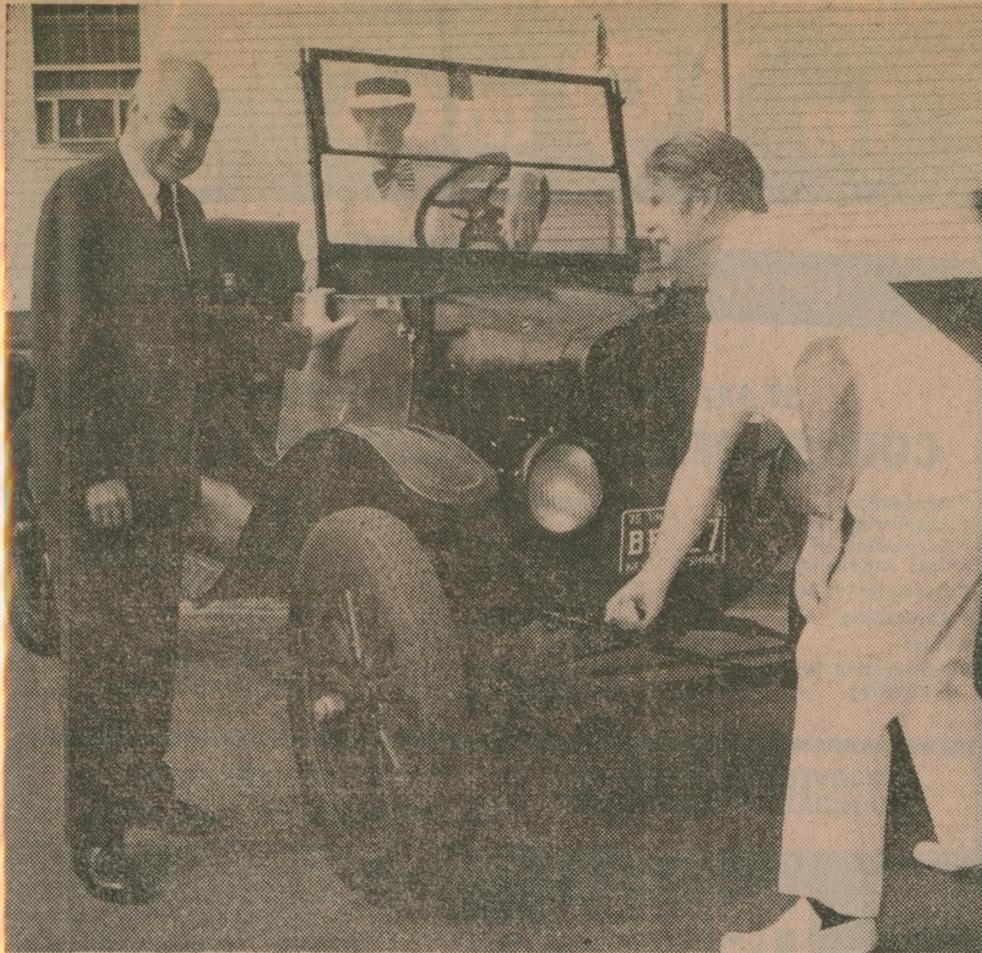
A display of pierced lampshades will be brought from Concord by Mrs. Marcia Hoeg who will show this old craft. Mrs. Lawrence Lyford of Exeter will be weaving; Mrs. Richard Campbell,

hooking; Mrs. Roberts Hinds, braiding; Mrs. Philip Shacklette, crewel embroidery.

There will be a large, interesting exhibit of old farm implements and Don York will be on hand to explain how they were used. Mrs. Harlan McEwen will be displaying her flag collection and talking about the history of the flags.

Talented Larry Frates will be an itinerant artist, available for caricatures during the afternoon. Larry will be presenting his magic show at 7:30 at the middle-high auditorium.

At three o'clock the gala balloon release, with Bob Copeland, will be held at the Village Field.



MODEL T FORD, which took Gov. Meldrim Thomson Jr. to the Gilford Old Home Day Parade yesterday, is being admired by the governor who also owned such a "flivver" himself some years ago.

Accompanying the governor, who walked in the parade, was William Morrison, right, chairman of the Gilford Board of Selectmen. (Photos by Nancy Harris)

Thousands See Gilford Fair's Colonial Crafts

By NANCY HARRIS

Sunday News Correspondent

GILFORD, Aug. 28 —Thousands enjoyed the Gilford Bicentennial weekend which opened with a Colonial Craft Fair held last evening at the Elementary School, with 1776 balloons released skyward. Many exhibitors and spectators were in Colonial costumes.

Outstanding display was by Mrs. Pauline Marriott of Gilford who demonstrated the art of spinning with wool from her own sheep. She also tans the leather, and had some of the sheep on display. Donald York exhibited antique tools.

Under the awning were potter Terry Conrad of Plymouth, Pier Kling of Gilford soldering leaded glass, and blacksmith Donald Brooks of Center Sandwich.

Displays of art work included needlepoint by Mrs. Gardiner Greene and Mrs. Robert Rolfe;

stitchery by Mrs. Ethel Shulman, macrame by Mrs. Robert Bosse, and stencilling by Mrs. John Weeks, all of Gilford.

The Sunny Slopes 4-H group operated a cider press and served doughnuts, while Mrs. Louise Sharps of Belmont demonstrated apple head dolls.

Other exhibits included weaving by Mrs. Lawrence Lyford of Exeter, hooking by Mrs. Richard Campbell; and Mrs. Robert Hinds who was co-chairman of the fair with Mrs. Ramon Quigley, demonstrated rug braiding.

Gov. Meldrim Thomson, Jr. led the gigantic Old Home Day parade held this morning, first in a Model T Ford driven by Donald York, then he walked at the head of the parade which lasted two hours with many outstanding entries. Maurice Guoin was parade chairman. John Weeks was Grand Mar-

shall, riding in a buggy with his granddaughter, Pamela, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Weeks.

The Gilford community Church served luncheon followed by an auction, and Mt. Belknap Grange served lunches at the Grange hall. A Colonial Militia mock battle preceded the Dixieland band concert and firemen's muster.

Evening shows were given by Larry Frates, magician, and a melodrama held at the high school, with outdoor dancing concluding the Old Home Day events.

Three Bicentennial church services will be held Sunday at Our Lady of the Lakes, First United Methodist and Gilford Community Churches. A heritage tour at noon will be followed by a band concert at 3:30.



Bicentennial Parade — Gilford's 57th Old Home Day/Bicentennial week-end celebration featured the biggest and most spectacular parade ever to traverse our Village Center. The two hour long parade included a great many beautiful bicentennial floats, was attended by the Governor of our State, included much Colonial Era costumery and many American Revolution militia groups such as the one pictured.



The Gilford Militia — The Gilford Militia Company was mustered early in 1976 and represented our Town at parades, celebrations and mock battles all over the state. In December of 1976, Frank Quimby, pictured above 3rd from left, participated in the re-enactment of General Washington's crossing of the Delaware that was held on Christmas Day in Trenton, New Jersey. He was one of 15,000 Bicentennial Year Militia Men from all over the United States to participate in the event. On New Years Day, Frank was joined by Jim Colby of Gilford in the re-enactment of the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey. Members of the 12th Militia Company, Gilford 10th New Hampshire Regiment pictured above, Left to right: Kneeling: George Olewine, Roger Moores. Left to right: Standing: Bill Lyon, Karen Quimby, Maj. Frank Quimby, Jim Colby, Bill Sauter, Frank Binnette, Capt. Doug Leitch.



Bicentennial Battle of Gilford Village Field — On August 28, 1976, hundreds of Colonial Militia Men reenacted an American Revolution field battle on the Gilford Village Field. The American Independence Army sparked by a gallant effort on the part of a battle unit from Gilford, New Hampshire, won a glorious victory, to the surprise of no one.



"Curses the Villain is Foiled" — or "Hearts and Flowers" was the title of an old fashioned melodrama performed at the Gilford Middle High School on Old Home Day during the Bicentennial Celebration week-end. The play was preceded by a bicentennial magic show and followed by a gala fireworks display and dance on the Village Field. The players, left to right: Sandy McGonagle, Peter Millham, Lise Howe, Larry Guild, Barbara Souza.

GILFORD OLD HOME DAY

August 27 & 28, 1976

Gilford Middle-High School Auditorium

8:00 p.m.

CURSES: THE VILLAIN IS FOILED

Or

HEARTS AND FLOWERS

(An Old-Fashioned Melodramar)

Author: Henry Rowland

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Jessie Jasmine

Sandy McGonagle

Willie Work

Peter Millham

Mrs. Goodheart

Lise Howe

True Hope

Barbara Souza

Godfrey Goodheart

Larry Guild

Blacky Blackman

Bruce Papps

Costumes and Properties:

Cecily Quimby

Rosanne Sheridan

Donna Lacasse

Sheila Weeks

Prompter: Sally Rowe

Pianist: Marian Higgins

Lighting: David Morrow

DIRECTOR: Al Blastos

Baker's Plays



Parade Entertainers

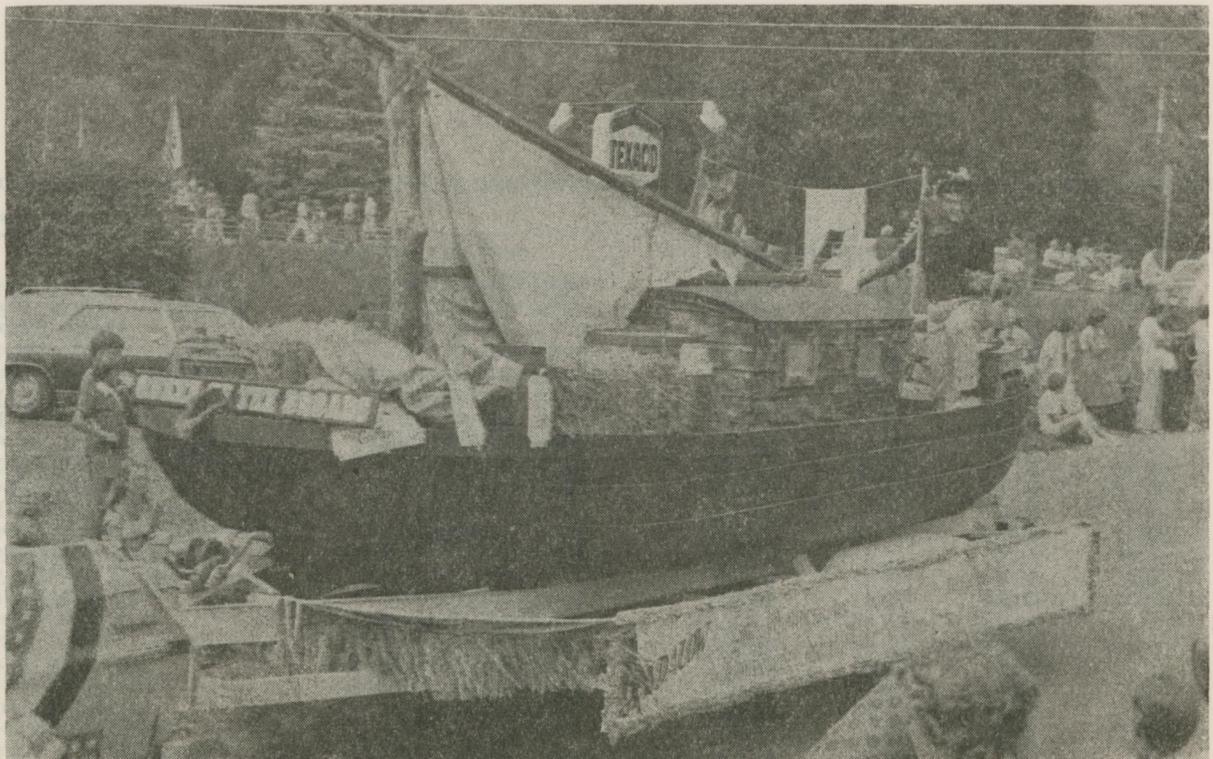
Six Pages of Dixie, led by Hal Donovan, entertained during Saturday's Old Home Day Parade in Gilford. The tailgate jazz band was the Laconia-Gilford Lions Club entry. They joined with

other drum corps and marching bands for the gala event, witnessed by several thousand people.

(made local)



Bicentennial Old Home Day Grand Marshall — Leading the Bicentennial Old Home Day parade, in his own horsedrawn carriage, is Grand Marshall John F. Weeks, Sr. Mr. Weeks is a descendant of one of the founding families of Gilford, a former Town Selectman and has, over the years, given unselfishly of himself to his family, and Gilford while creating a successful business through hard work, perseverance and faith in American enterprise.



Gilford's Bicentennial Gundalow — As a commemorative to the Bicentennial, significant to Gilford's own history, several townspeople led by Merrill Fay and Arthur Tilton, constructed this magnificent replica of a gundalow, the first form of commercial boat ever used on Lake Winnepesaukee. The gundalow was Gilford's entry in many area and state bicentennial parades and celebrations and won several float competition trophies.

Gala Old Home Day Parade for Gilford

Thousands of spectators were on hand for Saturday's Gilford Old Home Day parade witnessing one of the most colorful and longest spectacles in the history of the event.

The two-mile march, augmented by 10 bands and drum corps, was led by Gov. Meldrim Thomson and William Morrison, chairman of the town's selectmen. They were followed by honorary marshal, John F. Weeks Sr. and his granddaughter, Pamela Weeks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Weeks of Durham.

Competition for prizes was keen, making the judges' decisions difficult as the handsome floats passed the reviewing stand.

The Betsy Ross entry of the Sleeper Hill section of Gilford was given the nod as best overall float. It won a \$50 prize. Others in the neighborhood category which placed, included a barn raising by Gunstock Glen, first; a melting pot patriotic float by October Lane, second, and an old fashioned schoolhouse entry by Bacon Drive, third.

Family floats: Labonte and

Rogers, first; Sunday worship, second, and a pioneer family, third.

Best commercial float was the outstanding entry of J.V. Components of Conway. It featured a replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, flanked by four members of the armed forces in full dress. Second in this section was won by Laconia Savings Bank while the Laconia Needle Co. float took third prize.

There were many non-profit organization floats with the Sunny Slopes Poultry Farm, 4-H entry, placing first; United Methodist

PARADE, Page Three

Parade

From Page 1

Church, second, and the Gilford Community Church third.

The winners received their trophies at the new Weeks Family bandstand from Maurice Gouin, chairman. Members of the town's oldest family, for whom the stand was dedicated, shared the platform.

Activities continued well into the evening with a melodrama and magic show with Larry Frates, and a dance on the Village Green. Numerous clubs and organizations set up bazaars, food stands and displays following the parade.

Sunday events included three Bicentennial services in the morning and a concert in the afternoon.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1976

Plan Heritage Tour of Gilford

A heritage tour of the town of Gilford will be held on Sunday Aug. 29, during Gilford's gala Bicentennial weekend.

Nine stops will be included on the tour to be held from 12 noon until three o'clock. Maps may be picked up at the Thompson Ames Historical Society building anytime during those hours.

Several exhibits will be on display in conjunction with the tour. An extensive collection of old household utensils and kitchen gadgets will be part of the attraction at the site of the first meetinghouse. Located at the John F. Weeks home, the display is part of the collection of Joanne Weeks Bailey.

Don York will be in charge of an exhibit at the Mt. Belknap Grange Hall. Many types of old tools will be shown. Grange members will be on hand to tell guests the history of the local Grange and its building.

A carillon and organ concert will be presented at the Gilford Community Church by Peg Keller at 12:15, 1:15, and 2:15 p.m.

Members of the Gilford Militia will greet visitors to the grave site of John James, Revolutionary War soldier.

Several other stops will be included. Refreshments will be served at the Historical Society Building from 1:30 to three o'clock. The Historical Society Building is the first and last stop on the tour. There is no admission charge.

Following the heritage tour a band concert will be held at the new Bicentennial bandstand. Moulton's Band of Safford will play from 3:30 to five o'clock.

Heritage Tour
of Gilford
12 Noon to 3 p.m.

Pick Up Map at
Historical Society Bldg.

GILFORD HERITAGE TOUR

August 29, 1976

To commemorate the founding of the Republic and to honor the men and women who struggled to build and maintain it, the Gilford Bicentennial Commission invites you on a short historic tour. Although not famous in our nation's history, the early settlers of Upper Gilmanton (Gilford, as such, was not incorporated until 1812) were representative of all American pioneers who sought to tame a wilderness without promise of success. As you visit these sites try to imagine how they must have appeared 100 or even 200 years ago and what joys and hardships were encountered.

- #1 The Thompson Ames Historical Society (formerly the Methodist Church).
A fine collection of memorabilia pertinent to the history of the town and its citizens.
- #2 Mt. Belknap Grange Gilford Village.
Mr. Don York's collection of antique farm tools which recall Gilford's past as a bustling agricultural community.
- #3 Gilford Community Church - Gilford Village.
Organ and Carillon Bell Concert by Mrs. Peg Keller
Performances at 12:15 1:15 2:15
- #4 The Gunstock Meeting House - Gunstock Hill Road.
The meeting house site is marked by a bronze plaque donated by Mr. & Mrs. John Weeks. Also, see Mrs. Joann Bailey's expensive collection of household utensils used by a typical housewife of the past.
- #5 Gravesite of Major Jabez James-Cotton Hill Rd. (the Edward Peters)
The present day Gilford Militia paying homage to a soldier of that war 200 years ago.
- #6 Liberty Pole Site - the top of Liberty Hill Road
A site where patriotic Americans celebrated their defiance of the English monarchy.
- #7 The Sawyer Settlement (Frohock Place) - Off Rt. 11A. Right turn onto Curtis Road., end of the road.
The early settler had to produce most of the necessities of his livelihood right in his own "backyard". This site, with its blacksmith shop, slaughterhouse, pumphouse, store, etc., demonstrates this. The original homestead, occupied by the Peter Sabbow family, still contains some of the features of the 1770's.
- #8 Site of the Pest House - Goodwin Road.
Anyone catching a contagious disease, like the spotted fever of the 1800's, might well have ended up here for the rest of his life.....
- #9 Return to the Thompson Ames Historical Society.
Please join us for refreshments from 1:30 - 3:00.
- #10 Dedication of the Bicentennial Bandstand in honor of the Weeks family and presentation of a portrait of Alvah Wilson by Wallace Rugg
At the Village Field at 3:30 followed by a band concert featuring the Moulton Band of Sanbornton.

SITE OF THE FIRST CHURCH BUILT IN GILFORD, N. H.

A Bronze plaque marking the site of the earliest church built in Gilford, then Gilmanton's Upper Parish, has been set in a granite boulder located on Gunstock Hill Road at the driveway of the home of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Weeks, Sr.. The church, built in 1792, was the meeting place of the Freewill Baptist Society. The Reverend Richard Martin, whose dwelling was located one hundred and twenty-five (125) yards east of the Sanctuary, served the Congregation for nearly twenty-five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Weeks spent several years searching in order to verify the location of the church, and as their Bicentennial project for Gilford have had the huge boulder set and the bronze marker also set.

The church is described in Watson's History of Gilford: "It was a stately edifice, two stories in height, steepleless, with two porches for entries, leading to the broad aisle; galleries on three sides, the east, west and south; a sounding board suspended over the high and narrow pulpit and the singers' seats opposite in the left; square (and a few oblong) pews above and below, built-in panel work with rail and banisters; with double rows of small and thickly set windows, making a grand appearance."

Sources used to verify sites of the church and parsonage:

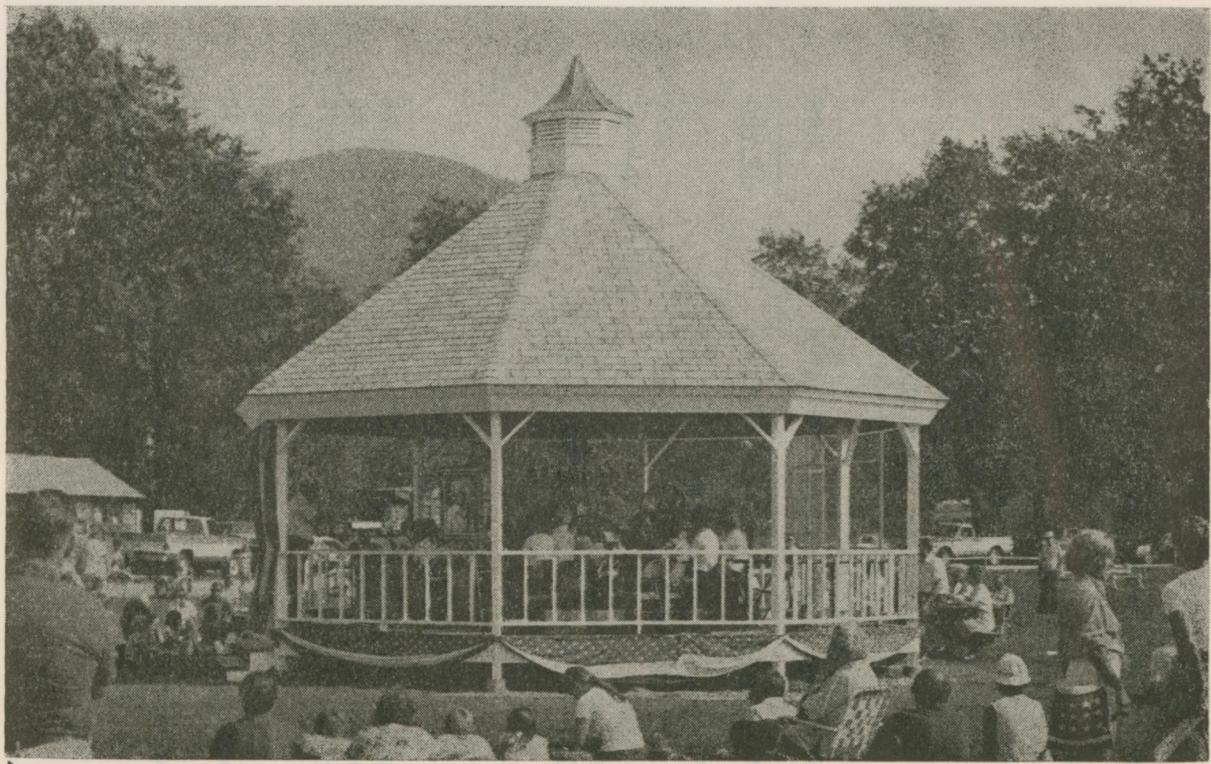
- I. Watson's History of Gilford
- II. Booklet titled: Program of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Town of Gilford, June 17, 1912
- III. Map: A Plan of Gilmanton. This map taken from the early surveys made by Sanborn, Page and others, drawn using scale of two hundred (200) rods to the inch by Josiah Gilman - 1772; copied by Walker - 1808; copied by Rev. D. Lancaster - 1845.
- IV. Ancient earth and stone remains of the church foundation removed in 1970 to make way for the driveway leading to the Weeks' home.
- V. Site of the minister's house: in 1945 the cellar hole, where some ancient, handmade bricks remained, was filled in to prevent injury to cattle pastured in the surrounding area. The Rev. Martin's well, covered by a flat granite rock, may still be seen near the site of the parsonage.

GILFORD BICENTENNIAL BANDSTAND
WEEKS BANDSTAND



Gilford's Bicentennial gift to its future citizens with hopes that it will be enjoyed and cared for by all until the Tricentennial.

Made by
Robert
Sweet



Bicentennial Bandstand — At the request of many citizens, and as Gilford's bicentennial gift to future generations, the Weeks Bandstand was built on the Village Field in 1976. A complete sound system was provided by the Interact Club at Gilford Middle High School and the first band concert was enjoyed on Sunday, August 29, 1976.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1976

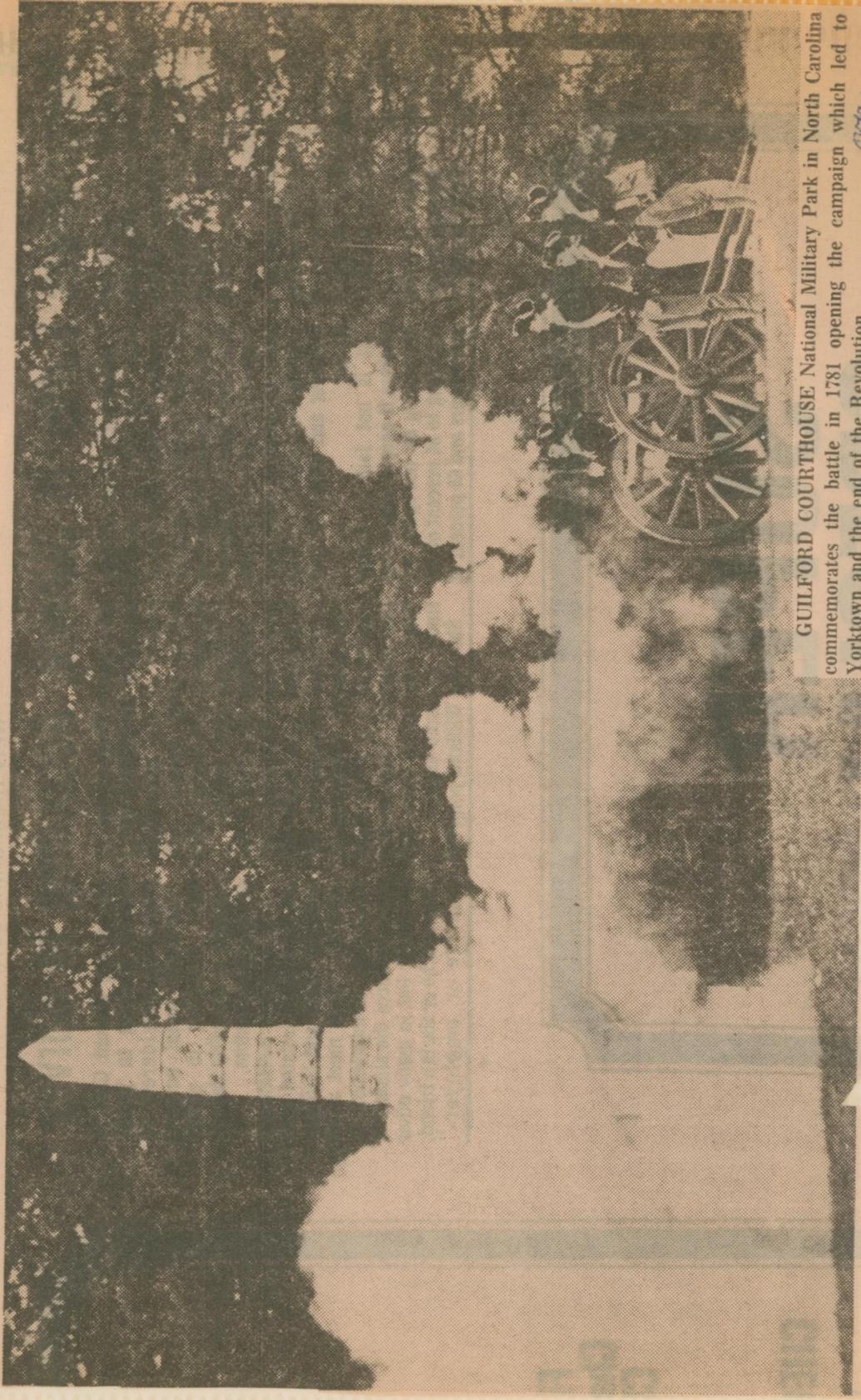


Off to War

Leaving Christmas Day for New York, New Jersey and Washington where they will join other units from throughout the country in reenactment of the Crossing of the Delaware and the Battle of Trenton, are Pvt. Frank Quimby of Gilford, left, postal employe, Jim Colby of Gilford, USAF retired, and Donald Hancock of New Durham, government employe at the Naval Shipyard in

Portsmouth. The trio are members of the 18th Company of the Second Regiment of New Hampshire. Three other regiments from the state will also participate. Mrs. Quimby, who made her husband's handsome red, white and blue uniform, will accompany him on the 10-day trip. Nationwide television coverage of events concluding the Bicentennial year is also anticipated.

NEW HAMPSHIRE SUNDAY NEWS, Manchester (N.H.) — Sunday, August 13, 1978



GUILFORD COURTHOUSE National Military Park in North Carolina commemorates the battle in 1781 opening the campaign which led to Yorktown and the end of the Revolution. *over*

GUILFORD COURTHOUSE

The Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, a 220-acre memorial in Greensboro, North Carolina, gives visitors a glance at one of the great battles of the American Revolution.

Ironically, the battle was won by the British, but at so great a cost that it is credited with losing them the war. American forces, under the command of General Nathaneal Greene, made their stand on the morning of March 15, 1781, at the Guilford Courthouse. The invasion of North Carolina was led by Lord Charles Cornwallis.

After a sharp two-hour engagement, Greene and his men withdrew, leaving in the wake of their retreat some 500 British dead or wounded.

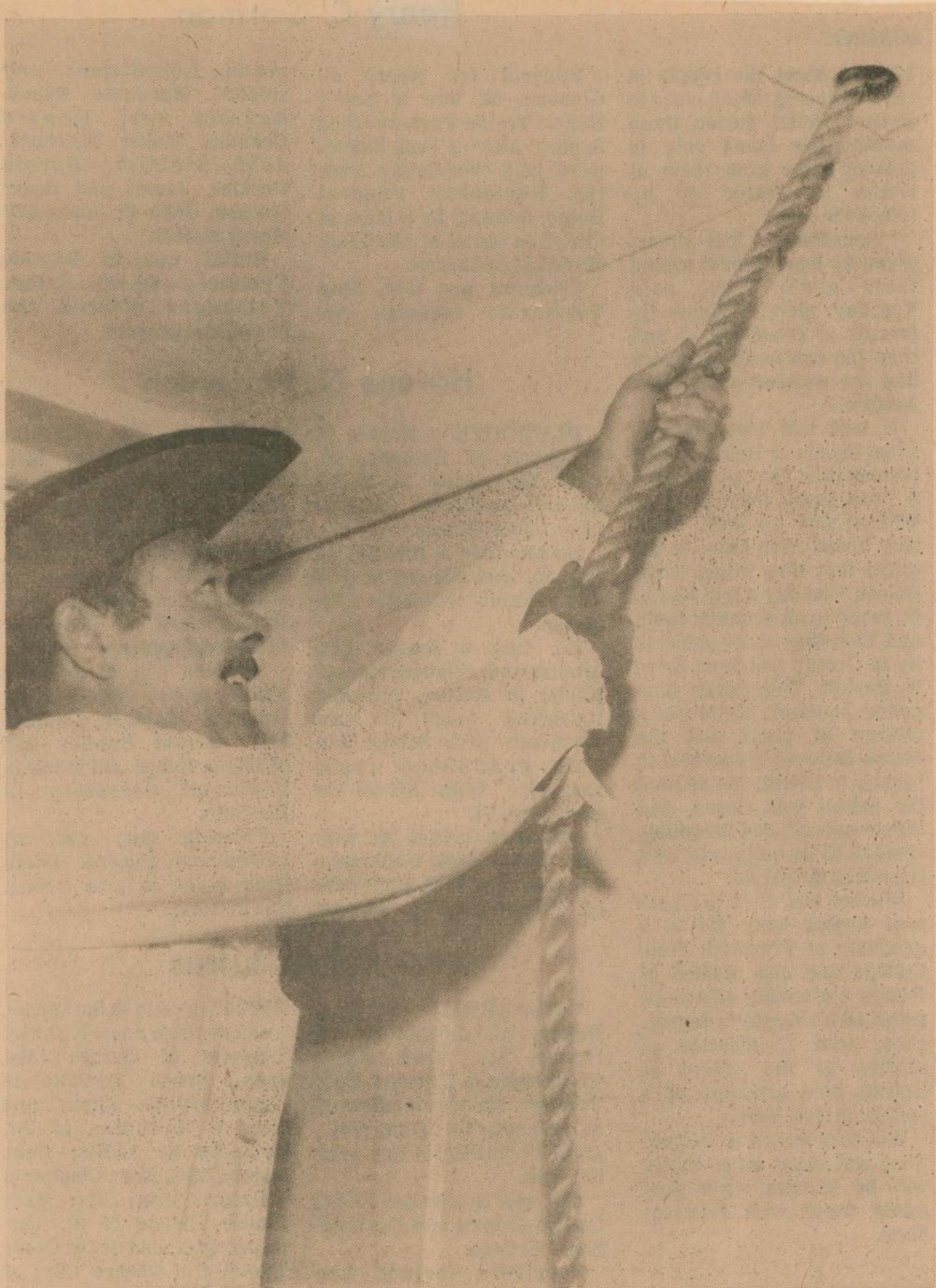
Too weakened to pursue the rebels, Cornwallis' army marched first to the British supply base at Wilmington and then into Virginia. The stage was set for the final collapse of British power in the South.

Depleted British forces were not match for French and American troops in Yorktown, and Cornwallis surrendered. Although the war technically dragged on for two more years, this defeat marked the beginning of the end for the British.

To commemorate the Guilford Courthouse "victory," the battlefield was restored as closely as possible to its original appearance. Museum exhibits and audiovisual programs in the visitor's center explain the battle and its historical perspective. Then visitors may embark on interpretive auto, bicycle or foot trails of the park, which is open year-round.

Interpretive "living history" programs presented by the park staff on summer weekends graphically illustrate the use of arms and equipment used by the armies in the Revolutionary War. Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is located six miles north of downtown Greensboro.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1976



Let Freedom Ring

John Bartlett of Old Lake Shore Rd., Gilford, an eighth generation descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of New Hampshire's signers of the Declaration of Independence, will ring the bell at the

Thompson Ames Historical Society Sunday afternoon during the simultaneous bell ringing throughout the country.

(next page)

Descendant of Declaration Signer Will Ring Bell

Sheila Weeks, chairman of the Gilford Bicentennial Commission, announces the Gilford Community Church, First United Methodist Church and the Thompson Ames Historical Society will participate in the nationwide simultaneous bell-ringing program on July Fourth at two o'clock.

The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration has established the time in accordance with guidelines enacted by Congress several years ago. The Congressional Resolution determined that

two o'clock on the afternoon of July 4 was the most appropriate hour to ring the bells symbolizing the moment in history in the year 1776 when the Liberty Bell proclaimed the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Civic and community leaders across the nation have been urged to encourage total public participation.

The bell-ringing will go on for two minutes in commemoration of the nation's first two centuries.

Prior to the ringing at two o'clock, families are en-

couraged to enjoy picnic lunches on the Village Field from 12 until 1:30. A short ceremony will then be held on the lawn of the historical society. Thomas Weekes, a member of the Bicentennial commission, will read the Declaration of Independence and Mrs. Donald York, regent of Mary Butler Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and there will also be music and a prayer.

The brief ceremony will be climaxed by the bell ringing.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1976

Gilford

Fourth of July Program

Bicentennial Family Picnic
Gilford Village Field
Sunday 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Patriotic Program
Historical Society Lawn
1:30-2:00 p.m.

Reading of the
Declaration of
Independence and
Bell Ringing Ceremony

Come One —
Come All

Gilford

EVENING CITIZEN, SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1976

Sunday, July 4 — Bell ringing at 2:00 p.m., at Historical Society, honor going to John G. Bartlett, a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of N.H. signers of Declaration of Independence. Thomas T. Weeks will read the Declaration. Gilford families encouraged to hold a Sunday picnic on the green. Most of the town's Bicentennial celebration will be during Old Home Days, Aug. 27-29.

Gilford

Ringling of the bells at 2 p.m., Sunday. At the Historical Society, the honors will go to John G. Bartlett, a descendant of Josiah Bartlett, one of New Hampshire's Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Thomas T. Weekes will read the Declaration.

Gilford families are being encouraged to hold a Sunday picnic at the village recreation field.

Most of the town's Bicentennial celebration will be during Old Home Days, Aug. 27-29.

MANCHESTER (N. H.) UNION LEADER — Thursday, July 1, 1976

TOWN OF GILFORD
N.H.

PUBLIC EXERCISES

July 4, 1976

One thirty to two o'clock
in the afternoon

*"Proclaim Liberty throughout
all the land unto all the
inhabitants thereof.
Lev. XXV, 10"*

Inscription on the Liberty Bell



Thompson Ames Historical Society Building

Sponsored by

The Gilford Bicentennial Commission

John H. Bartlett

The Invocation

Rev. Raymond C. Wixson
Minister
Gilford Community Church

The Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Donald P. York
Regent
Mary Butler Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United
States of America, and to the Republic for
which it stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with Liberty and justice for all.*

Song, "America the Beautiful"
(2nd verse)

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!*

Reading of

The Declaration of Independence

Mr. Thomas T. Weekes, II
Member
Gilford Bicentennial Commission

The Benediction

Rev. Robert G. Boisvert
Pastor
Our Lady of the Lakes Church
Lakeport, N.H.

Ringling of the Bell

Mr. John Bartlett
Descendant of
Josiah Bartlett
Signer of the Declaration of Independence

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1976

Gilford Old Home Day Bicentennial Feature

One of the largest Bicentennial observances in the state will be held in Gilford during Old Home Day Weekend Aug. 27-29. In fact, Sheila Weeks, Gilford Bicentennial Commission chairman, has been informed via telephone from Washington, that "Discover America Bicentennial News" will feature Gilford as the New Hampshire program for August.

Among exciting events planned are Friday, Aug. 27: large scale arts and crafts show at the elementary school, chaired by Rene Quigley and Bernice Hinds; and a weather balloon ascension during which hundreds of red, white and blue balloons will be released. Friday and Saturday evenings a drama will be presented at the high school under the direction of Al

Blastos.

Old Home Day on Saturday will begin with a gigantic parade featuring over 300 militia which will bivouac on the Village Field and engage in a mock battle. A huge number of floats and participants are also expected for the parade and other Old Home Day events which will be announced shortly.

Meanwhile, calendar of the 12th company of the 10th N.H. Regiment, which includes both Gilford and Laconia men, has been completely filled. Every weekend from now through fall, members will participate in parades.

A bandstand is under construction on the Village Field. Octagonal in shape, as is typical of old gazebo type bandstands, it will have a cupola on top and will be used as a reviewing stand for town events such as concerts,

speaking programs, etc. Cochairmen of this project are John Goodhue and Arthur Tilton.

Tilton, along with Merrill Fay, also co-chaired construction of the gundalow, Gilford's unique entry in all local parades.

Maurice Paradise is chairman of construction of a Bicentennial walkway along the Gunstock River between the Gilford Public Library and fire station. Clean up of the area is being conducted by Girl Scouts and the Interact Club of Gilford Middle-High School. Wild flowers will be planted beside the water and a granite bench installed. Dedication date for the walkway is set for Oct. 8.

And on Sunday, Aug. 29, special church services are scheduled as well as a Heritage Tour to historic sites throughout the town.

The Invocation

Rev. Raymond C. Wixson
Minister
Gilford Community Church

The Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Donald P. York
Regent
Mary Butler Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United
States of America, and to the Republic for
which it stands, one Nation under God,
indivisible, with Liberty and justice for all.*

Song, "America the Beautiful"
(2nd verse)

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!*

Reading of

The Declaration of Independence

Mr. Thomas T. Weekes, II
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Gilford Bicentennial Commission

The Benediction

Rev. Robert G. Boisvert
Pastor
Our Lady of the Lakes Church
Lakeport, N.H.

Ringling of the Bell

Mr. John Bartlett
Descendant of
Josiah Bartlett
Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Raymond Wisbar
Norman Ueber

John Bartlett, Rev. Robert Boussett, Rev.
Mrs Donald York, Mrs Robert (Shelia) Weeks,
Thomas Weckert, Harold B. Smart



July 4 1976 - Bell Tinging
R. E. R. #1





COMMEDED by the U.S. Postal Service for their involvement in bicentennial activities were Frank R. Binette, left, and Frank R. Quimby of Laconia. They were cited specifically for organizing the Gilford Militia. Congratulating the men here, right, is Laconia Postmaster Richard L. Richardson. Binette and

Quimby received citations from Frank M. Sommerkamp, the regional postmaster general, presented to them by James E. Howard of White River Jet., Vt., district manager of the postal service. Each man was also given a memorial folder containing a bicentennial medallion and a plate block of commemorative stamps.

(Photo by Earl O. Anderson)

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, SATURDAY AUGUST 14, 1976

Bandstand Will Carry Weeks Name

The bandstand to the entrance of the Village Field in Gilford will be known as the Weeks Bandstand after Saturday, Aug. 28, Old Home Day.

The motion was proposed at the selectmen's meeting by Selectman Clif Birch. The Weeks family is one of the oldest and most prominent in the town, having served in town government since the late 1700s.

Chairman William Morrison, presided.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1976



Bicentennial Project

Band stand is under construction at the Gilford Village Field as part of the town's Bicentennial. Shown putting the roof beams in place are Bob Swett and his son

John. The town will celebrate the Bicentennial at Old Home Day weekend on Aug. 27-28-29.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1976



Receives Gilford History

Dr. Duane Squires, chairman of the New Hampshire Bicentennial Commission, receives a copy of the History of Gilford from Ruth Pratt, left, Sheila Weeks and Mrs.

Clifford Birch. Squires was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Thompson Ames Historical Society of Gilford.



GILFORD HISTORY has been reprinted as a Bicentennial project. Above, a copy is examined by Dr. J. Duane Squires of New London at a meeting of the Thompson Ames Historical society. He was given a copy, as chairman of the N. H. American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. From the left, Mrs. Helen

Park, evening chairman, Dr. Squires, Mrs. Ruth Pratt, Gilford librarian and project chairman, and Harold B. Smith, historical group president. There were 950 copies of the history published, and they may be picked up by townspeople at the library, during open hours.

(Photo by Earl O. Anderson)



Arthur T. Tolson
David A. Holmes
Gundalow

11 Bands in Bicentennial Parade

Laconia Parade

By **ALINE JACOBS**

Lakes Region Bicentennial Commission's offering to the city for the nation's 200th birthday will be the largest parade ever planned and executed in the area. As of this morning it will consist of 11 marching bands, 36 floats, and large contingents of marchers representing civic, fraternal and military organizations.

The parade will form near Scott & Williams, Inc., in Lakeport at five o'clock in the afternoon. The first wave, headed by Gov. Meldrim Thomson as grand marshal, accompanied by N.E. March of Dimes Poster Child Lisa Taylor of Falmouth, Mass., will head the spectacle at six o'clock sharp.

Line of march will be from Lakeport down to Normandin Square, up Union Ave. The parade will then take a right over Main St. bridge onto Beacon St. East. The first reviewing stand will be in front of city hall. The line of march will proceed down Hanover St. and take a right onto Main St. past Newberry's and proceed the entire length of North Main St. to Opechee Park. Another reviewing stand will be in front or near the Central Fire Station.

Senior citizens or residents in wheelchairs or anyone incapacitated will have a section of the parade route reserved for them in the large parking lot in back of the Laconia Federal Savings and Loan and Laconia Peoples National Bank on Beacon St. East.

Innovation of the parade is that it has been strategically planned that marching bands will serenade the spectators along the route, and stop at intervals such as the Taylor Home, Sunrise Towers, and Tavern Apartments. While one band is playing for the residents of the Taylor Home, another will be playing for the residents at the Towers, etc.

Included in the bands are the Majorettes Olypique de Montreal with 75 members, and Majorettes Val de Metz of France with 55

members. Others will include the great Spartans and Trojans from Nashua, the Muchachos and Gauchos from Manchester, Lakes Regionnaires, 4-H Drum and Bugle Corps, the 5th Maine Regiment of Portland, Me.; the Suburbanettes of Hudson, the Crimson Cavaliers of Belmont, and the Twin Rivers Cadets Drum and Drill Team.

The Tilton Militia will march as will the 10th N.H. Regiment, Emblem Club 80, Knights of Columbus, Graduate Nurses Association, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Post 1, Fire Department call men, and the Bicentennial Coast Guard Color Guard from Massachusetts.

Much interest has been shown in the floats. Entries are coming in daily according to Robert Hawkins, parade chairman. They will vie for the eight prizes which will include, best overall float, best commercial, best civic, best parkhouse entry, most colorful,

outstanding antique car, antique boat, and the best Bicentennial float.

Following the parade, a carnival sponsored by the K of C and Jaycees will get underway at Opechee Park. On Saturday from ten o'clock in the morning until two in the afternoon a Family Youth Day will be held at the park. Fireworks such as the city has never seen will be set off at 11:00 p.m., on Saturday. The Knights of Columbus and Jaycee sponsored carnival will run nightly starting on Thursday, July 1 through Sunday, July 4.

Large crowds are expected for the Bicentennial Ecumenical Service with 15 churches participating at the Laconia High School football field at seven o'clock Sunday evening. In case of rain it will be held in the auditorium. The worse thing that could happen to the entire plans would be rain on Friday evening. In that event the parade will be re-scheduled for the following Friday evening, according to Hawkins.

LACONIA, N. H., MONDAY, JULY 5, 1976

Laconia

Bicentennial Parade Viewed By 15,000

The long awaited Bicentennial parade of last Friday evening was viewed by an estimated crowd of 15,000 enthusiastic and responsive spectators.

The three-hour spectacle dampened by heavy rain at about 8:30 did not deter the last division marchers and floats from completion. Wild cheering and appreciative applause greeted the rain soaked crepe floats and their riders as they cleared the last reviewing stand on North Main St. shortly before nine o'clock. They were thoroughly soaked but undaunted.

Judging by the Lakes Region Bicentennial Commissioners followed at the Chamber of Commerce office. Arwood's of Tilton was judged best industrial with a working forge. Laconia Peoples National Bank and Trust Co. captured the award for best commercial, while Laconia Savings

Bank got the honor for the most colorful. The Lions Club float was deemed the best of the civic group, while the United Baptist Church of Lakeport float won best overall. An antique 1929 roadster owned by John Fuller of Franklin captured the prize in the antique division.

Trophy for the best Bicentennial theme was given to a small marching group made up of three families from Belmont. They depicted an 1876 family complete to baby

buggy. Included in the group were Donnie Muzzey, Bonnie and Charleen Moulton, and Sheila and Matthew Donahue.

Prize for the best parkhouse entry had not been completed Friday. Dick Tapply, director of Parks and Recreation, could not be reached today. The winner will be announced later this week.

The parade which formed in Lakeport Square saw Gov. Meldrim Thomson as grand marshal, walking the entire route. He was accompanied by Mayor Roger B. McGrath. Mrs. Thomson followed in the 1929 roadster. Sharing the spotlight with the first lady was Lisa Taylor of Falmouth, Mass., N.E. March of Dimes poster child.

The parade was organized and directed by Robert Hawkins, and Steve McNeil.



LACONIA, N. H., MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1976

Youths Burned by Cannon Flashback

Parade 1:30 Sun Aug 8 1976 - Rain - Drizzle

MEREDITH — Mark W. Noyes, 11, of Plymouth, and Ceylon Moorehouse, 15, of Concord, Vt., were reported in satisfactory condition at the Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia this morning.

The two were hospitalized yesterday with probable second degree burns following the flashback of a kohorn cannon which ignited some black powder in the Bicentennial Parade.

The cannon, which the boys were firing, was mounted on a flat-bed truck, and it was not determined whether the two boys jumped from the truck or were blown from it.

The black powder explosion was on a unit entered in the parade by the 3rd Vermont, Company C. William Noyes,

of Plymouth, in charge of the unit, said that his wife Linda was driving the unit.

An estimated 3,000 spectators turned out despite the rain as the one and half mile line of march swung past, paced by four bands.

Best overall float honors went to the Sandwich Fire Dept. ladies that featured a theme of people helping their neighbors. It included a log cabin on fire and smoking with a bucket brigade of men and women attempting to put out the fire.

Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant took top honors for the best commercial float that featured a number of young people made up as gourmet dishes surrounded by others dressed as a knife, fork and spoon. Grad's store

took second in this category and Annalee Dolls took third.

The Snow Streakers of Meredith won the first prize for the Best organizational float; the Gifford Bicentennial Committee, second, and the Tamworth Sporting Club third.

Best marching unit honors went to the Royal Eagle Drum and Drill of Plymouth. Taking second was the Inter-Lakes High School Band while the Belknap County 4-H Club marching unit took third.

The Moultonboro Lion's Club won the top trophy for the most patriotic entry. It depicted Washington crossing the Delaware. This float also took a first at the Moultonboro Bicentennial parade on July 31.

Second in this category was the Griggs-Wyatt Post American Legion color guard and firing squad that led the line of march. The Jaycee components were third.

Period entries honors were also awarded with the Sandwich Fire Dept. again taking a first in the period 1776 to 1826; the Calvary Bible Church of Meredith was second and The Mug of Center Harbor was third.

From 1826 to 1876 the Wicwas Lake Grange was adjudged the best; the Meredith Banks Concord Coach, second; and the 4-H Medicine Show, third.

Best entry in the period of 1876 to 1926 was the Inter-Lakes High School Dixie Land Band; the Meredith Rotary Club took second, and the Wallace Oil Co., third.

From 1926 to 1976 the Jaycee components won the first place nod; Grads Store was second and Lumbertown,

third. A total of 25 trophies were awarded.

Judging was done preceding the parade and trophies were announced and presented as the unit passed the reviewing stand on Rte. 3. Judges were: Town Manager Russell Brown, Dr. Carl Marshall of Meredith and Ray Ruchamkin, drama coach at Newfound Memorial High School.

Robert Valliere was general chairman of the event. Mrs. Henry Stark, chairman of the Meredith Bicentennial Committee, handed out the trophies.

Bands in the line of march included the Royal Eagles of Plymouth, the Inter-Lakes High School Band, the Inter-Lakes Elementary School Band, the Granite State Highlanders of Dover, and the Belknap County 4-H Drum and Bugle Corps of Laconia.

Belmont Holds Largest Parade

BELMONT — The annual Old Home Day celebration Saturday was highlighted by a 113-unit Bicentennial parade, the largest ever held here. Grand marshal was Earl M. Sweeney, former police chief.

The 10th New Hampshire

Militia Regiment and its modern-day equivalent, the N.H. National Guard, were saluted. Also participating were militia companies from Alton, Barnstead, Gilford, Loudon, New Durham, New London, Tilton-Northfield and Wolfeboro.

A mock battle was staged during the afternoon and demonstrations of fighting skills were also held at Bryant athletic field.

A 10-mile road race commenced the day's activities which concluded with a concert by the Belmont High School band and an address by Col. Leon

T. Parker Jr., chief of staff, N.H. National Guard.

The Fire Belles served a chicken barbecue in the evening.

The town's oldest resident, Mrs. Ethel P. Young, 95 this month, was honored. Stanley F. Hill, honorary mayor, officiated.

Overall chairman for the day and also for the horse show and gymkhana Sunday, was Robert L. Stevens.

Also a highlight of the day was dedication of the John M. Sargent Park and Playground as tribute to a town benefactor. It was sponsored by the Belmont Recreation Commission

headed by Arthur J. Horan.

Clarence B. Dearborn of Penacook, state veterinarian, whose mother was a cousin of Mr. Sargent, unveiled a granite marker. Horan, assisted by Susan Burpee, six and Scott Mooney, seven, raised a large American flag. Citing Sargent as a God-fearing man interested in the residents and welfare of the town, Dearborn said: "I cannot visualize any more appropriate use of his gift to the town of Belmont than the construction of this playground and the naming of it in his memory."

PARADE, Page Two

Parade

From Page 1

Cost of the project has been estimated at about \$75,000. The sum of \$27,500 was received from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and about \$21,000 from a flood control agency. The balance came from the town through the Sargent fund.

Others participating in the ceremonies were the Belknap County 4-H Drum and Bugle Corps, selectmen, members of the Recreation Commission and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service of the Dept. of Agriculture.

Winners of awards in the parade include the following:

Grand marshal's award, Jamestown Road family; commercial, first, Laconia Savings Bank; second, Cate's Mobile Home Park, and third, Banfill's Service Station; youth organization, first, CCD, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; second,

Belknap County 4-H, and third, Belmont baseball team; adult organizations, first, Belmont Bogie Busters; second, Belmont Historical Society, and third, Baptist Ladies Circle; area groups, first, Town of Gilford, second, Lewis and Clark Expedition, and third, Tucker Shore Road; family entries, first, Washington Crossing the Delaware, second, Freddy Starkweather, and third, 1929 fire truck, Arthur Roach of Laconia.

Family marchers, first, Donahues; second, Weeks, and third Mike Sweeney and Sara Marie Lavature; doll carriages, Laurie Cailler; costumed marchers, 12 and over, Mrs. Leslie Hanson and Barbara Cailler; costumed marchers, two to 12, Belmont or Bust; second, Kelley and Smock; costumed riders, first, Becky and Jeff Caldon, and second, Peggy Cremen.

Judges were Audrey Ekberg, Dorothea Betourne, Cheryl Ellis, Richard Bailey and Beth Ide.

Parade Climaxes Weirs Celebration

By NANCY HARRIS
Union Leader Correspondent

WEIRS BEACH — A gigantic parade with 45 entries ended the three day Weirs Beach Bicentennial celebration held here yesterday afternoon, with Gov. Meldrim Thomson, Jr. leading the parade down Lakeside Avenue.

A welcoming program was held at the bandstand, when several guests, introduced by Robert Lawton, president of the Weirs Beach Chamber of Commerce, spoke briefly. Fritzie Baer was commentator for the parade which followed.

Gov. Thomson paid tribute to the late Ed Hoaglund who gave so much of his lifetime to promote Weirs Beach. He called the large crowd's attention to the fact that this state was the first, and for seven years remained, capital of all New England. He also recalled the history of the Granite State's flag. Gen. John Stark's participation in the Battle of Bennington.

"New Hampshire has maintained its independence, and it is important that we recapture the great spirit of our founding fathers who made the great sacrifices so that posterity might be free," said the Governor.

Other guests speaking, were Cleon Heald, past national commander-in-chief of Sons of Union Veterans; Roger McGrath, Mayor of Laconia and Mrs. McGrath; John Lawton, chairman of the Bicentennial committee; State Sen. Edith Gardner, Dist. 5; Charles Beard, representative of Ward 5 in General Court, and George Webber, Councilman from Ward 5.

Float winners in the parade were the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by J.V. Components of Conway, first place; Laconia Savings Bank, second; and Gilford's gondola depicting transportation 200 years ago, third.

In the Walking and Horse group, Tilton's Militia took first place, followed by the Concord

Coach and the Twirlers of Rochester.

First in the motorized group was the Bektash Temple Mini Patrol; with Donald York's antique Model T second, and John Fuller's three antique cars third place.

Best overall entry was the U.S. Navy float with mini car and the "Constitution."

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1976

TV 5 Weatherman At Balloon Release

Bob Copeland, well known Boston meteorologist for Television Channel 5, will be in Gilford on Friday, Aug. 27, to take part in the Bicentennial Balloon release.

Copeland will participate when 1776 red, white, and blue helium filled balloons are released at three p.m. at the Gilford Village Field.

There will be a contest to see how far the balloons travel. People may purchase a ticket for a small fee that can be attached to a balloon. The tag will carry instructions for returning it to the name and address on it. A prize of \$17.76 will be awarded to the person whose tag is returned from the farthest distance away.

Copeland will explain about the wind currents and will be available to meet and talk with people between 2 and 3 p.m. People are invited to come to the Gilford Village Field at that time to meet him.

Also planned for Friday's

program is a Colonial Crafts Fair to be held at the Gilford Elementary School from noon until 8 p.m. Over 30 exhibitors will participate. Many old time crafts will be demonstrated including quilting, spinning and weaving, tin craft, needlework, rug braiding, and many others.

Bicentennial Balloon Release

Come and Meet
Weatherman
BOB COPELAND
Gilford Village Field

Friday, Aug. 27, 2 to 3 p.m.
1776 Balloons to
Be Released at 3 p.m.

Bicentennial Ball Held

By ALINE JACOBS

Gilford Bicentennial Commission kicked off the first of its many activities at a glittering ball, held at Pheasant Ridge Country Club attended by over 300 persons.

The lively crowd entered the large hall decorated with red, white and blue buntings and properly displayed American standards cleverly decorated containers for popcorn and chips designed in the form of small drums added color and charm to the tables.

Elegantly dressed women in Colonial costumes escorted by their husbands as Country Squires and Minutemen enhanced the festivity. Judging was by the Colonial Dames of the New Chester Fyfe and Drum of Bristol.

Rated as best in the women's division was Sheila Weeks, commission chairman, in a printed green taffeta evening dress. Others were Mrs. Corey McAllister, second; and Phyllis Deflise, third. First prize winner in the men's division was Frank Quimby as a Minuteman. Second and third prizes were awarded to George Olewine and Donald Laflamme. The judging had followed a lively grand march to the peppery tunes of Dixie, and When Johnny Comes Marching Home, furnished by the Common Good, a Boston dance band. It ended with The Battle Hymn of the Republic, sung and long-applauded by the large crowd.

Mel Gurshin, dance chairman, served as announcer and master of ceremony.

Money raised from the affair will be used for Gilford bicentennial expenses.

Plans call for the town's young men to erect a bandstand in the Village

Green. Other events will be the construction of a Bicentennial Walkway to run along the Gunstock River from the library to rear of the fire station, publishing a history of the town, and a gala three day Bicentennial Weekend during the Old Home Days in August.



Gilford Bicentennial Ball

Saturday, February 21, 1976

Pheasant Ridge Country Club

DANCING 8-12

\$5 PER COUPLE



GILFORD BICENTENNIAL BALL Saturday night was a glittering affair, with many of the patrons attired in colonial costumes. Approximately 300 persons attended the event at the Pheasant Ridge Country Club. Above, two of the men drink a toast to America's future. From the left, Mrs. Robert B. Weeks, chairman

of the Gilford Bicentennial Commission; Selectman Robert B. Weeks, Paul B. Sheridan, a member of the Gilford Militia; Mrs. Neil J. Flaherty, a commission member; and Merrill D. Fay, a direct descendant of the town's early settlers.

(Earl O. Anderson Photo)

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1976



Bicentennial Gown

Bicentennial plans for Gilford were discussed at a meeting of the Mary Butler Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution by Mrs. Sheila Weeks,

town chairman. Pouring is Mrs. Donald York, Mary Butler Chapter regent. Mrs. Weeks wore a hand-made gown of Early American style.

(OVER)

Speaking of 200 Years

To most appreciate the Bicentennial become informed and involved is the advice of Mrs. Robert Weeks, Gilford Bicentennial Commission chairman.

Shelia spoke to fellow members of Mary Butler Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, this week at a meeting in Martha Prescott auditorium.

Wearing the beautiful colonial gown which she made from remnants including an old curtain, Mrs. Weeks told of the work of Gilford residents preparing for events to mark the nation's 200th birthday and how the town qualified as a Bicentennial community.

She mentioned the enthusiasm which has been generated by the militia and the interest of the children. If Winthrop Buswell's class students have special days to wear their colonial costumes.

Climax of Gilford's celebration will be the weekend of Aug. 27 to 29 when Old Home Day will become a Bicentennial event with a

huge parade, craftsmen at work and many other programs.

Mrs. Donald York, chapter regent, presided at the business meeting at which a moment of silence was observed for Miss Lydia Moore who died in Florida.

Mrs. Weeks suggested the

chapter check into replacing the 48 star flag in the auditorium whose field of blue has faded to maroon.

Mrs. York announced arrangements are being made to have the June meeting, Flag Day, at the Belknap Mill.

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1976 - PAGE FIVE



Bicentennial Projects

Books which list activities and projects throughout the U.S. in observance of its 200th anniversary, were presented the Gilford Public Library by the Bicentennial

Commission. From left: Mrs. Ruth Pratt, librarian; Kim Willis and Evelyn Tobey, sophomores at Gilford High School.

**N.H. Bicentennial
Conestoga Wagon**

**Will Be At
Gilford Grade School
Tues., March 2
10 - 4:30 p.m.
Stop By and Visit
Sponsored by
Gilford Bicentennial**

LACONIA N.H., EVENING CITIZEN MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1976

Cancelled due to snow storm

Conestoga Wagon To Stop in Gilford

Sheila Weeks, chairman of the Gilford Bicentennial Commission, announces the N.H. Conestoga wagon, one of 60 which will cross the nation from west to east this year as part of the country's 200th birthday celebration, will be at the Gilford Elementary School Tuesday from 10 to 4:30 p.m.

their children with them, Mrs. Weeks said.

**N.H. Bicentennial
Conestoga Wagon**

**Will Be At
Gilford Grade School
Wed., April 21, 9:30-4 p.m.
Stop by and Visit.
Sponsored by
Gilford Bicentennial**

Those wishing to view the wagon and sign a scroll bearing signatures of New Hampshire residents which will be taken to Valley Forge, Pa. on July Fourth, are invited to stop while en route to the polls, and take

LACONIA, N. H., THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1976



Wagons Ho

New Hampshire's Conestoga wagon, carrying thousands of town scrolls signed by citizens rededicating their faith in the United States, will roll from the Rochester Fair Grounds on May 18, along with those from Maine and Pennsylvania. Yesterday, Gilford

residents visited the wagon during its daylong stop at the grade school. Wagon master is Judson Sanderson Sr. of Concord. Scrolls still may be signed at the town library, town hall, and Village Store for the next two weeks.

MANCHESTER (N. H.) UNION LEADER — Thursday, May 20, 1976

Flag and Certificate Presented to Town

Spencer presented these scrolls at the train

Northwood Welcomes U. S. Bicentennial Wagon Train

By JOE DESPAIN
Union Leader Correspondent

NORTHWOOD — An estimated 1,000 persons packed Coe Brown Academy auditorium Tuesday night to see Northwood be officially designated a Bicentennial Community and to participate in the planned Bicentennial Wagon Train activities.

After introductions by Walter Flander, chairman of the Northwood American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, John Shaw, representing the New

Hampshire American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, presented the official certificate and Gov. Meldrim Thompson Tuesday night to see Northwood be officially designated a Bicentennial Community and to participate in the planned Bicentennial Wagon Train activities.

In brief remarks, Gov. Thompson stressed New Hampshire's participation in the revolutionary effort 200 years ago.

He noted that New Hampshire was the first to "raise a flag of protest against a repressive tax levied by Great Britain." Further, he stressed New

England's efforts in securing material from Fort William and Mary in December 1774, and later in supplying 60 per cent of the men to use that material in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

"But the one question that faces us," he stated, is "why were they fighting?"

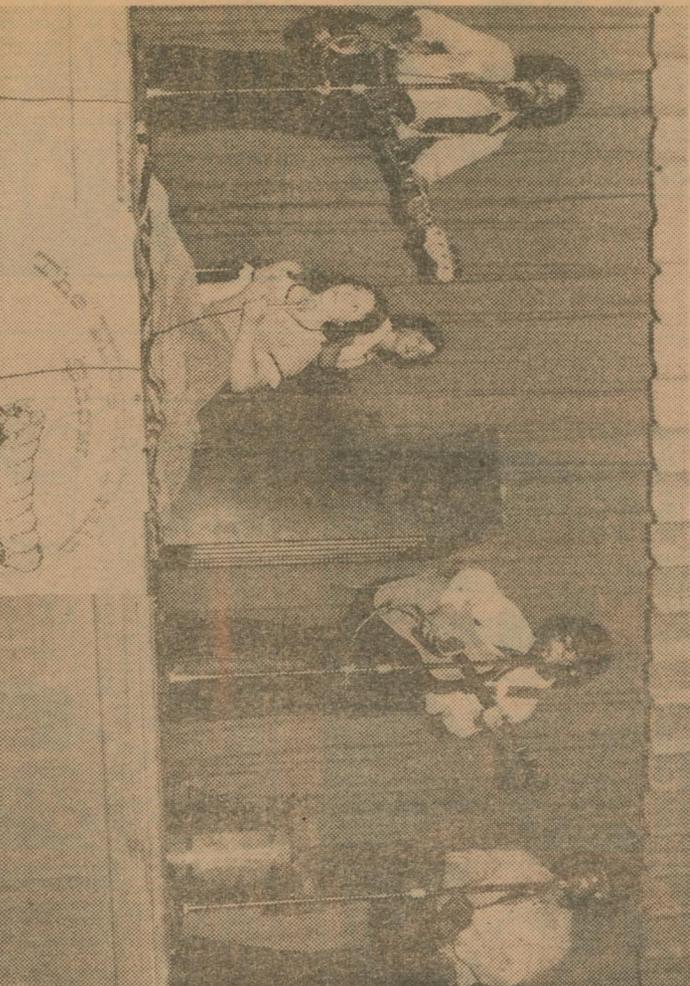
"They wanted, above all else, to be free. They wanted the right to determine their own destiny," he continued. "And the thing we can draw from such an occasion as this is to

dedicate ourselves to pass on to our children the desire to participate in government and to make democracy work."

After the flag presentation ceremonies, the crowd was then entertained by a 30 minute program performed by a Penn State University sponsored troupe traveling with the Bicentennial Wagon Train now passing through New Hampshire.

Velm a Armstadt, Michael Landau, Doug McGraw, Kerry Palanjian and Sherry Smith perform the music written by Bruce Trinkle and Don Tucker with lyrics by Roger Cornish. Trinkle and Cornish are faculty members at Penn State University.

After the musical entertainment, 23 towns presented scrolls containing hundreds of names to Sandra Cabot, New Hampshire teamster and wife of the New Hampshire wagonmaster, Paul Cabot. The name-lined scrolls will be combined with scrolls from other New Hampshire and



MICHAEL LANDEAU, Velma Armstadt, Sherry Smith at the piano, Kerry Palanjian, and Doug McGraw, all members of the Penn State sponsored Bicentennial

Wagon Train Show, entertained a packed house at Northwood during the Wagon Train's encampment there Tuesday night. (Photo by Joe Despain)

LACONIA, N. H., THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1976



Durable Float

Desiring a float which would be durable enough to last the whole season, the Gilford Bicentennial Commission decided on a gundalow, a scowl-like freight barge used in New England during the 19th century, especially on certain rivers. Commissioner Arthur Tilton, left, and David Selvis Sr., right, are building the craft at Fay's Boatyard. Plans obtained

from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, are an adaptation of early ones constructed by Capt. Adams of Great Bay, Dover. These were the first mode of transportation on lakes and rivers after the Indians' birch bark canoes. Tilton hopes to have the boat completed in time for the city's Bicentennial parade July 2.



A GUNDALOW is under construction at Fay's Boatyard in Gilford, for entry from that town in this Friday night's Bicentennial parade in Laconia. Such craft were in popular use two centuries ago on Lake Winnepesaukee to carry freight. The workmen are David Selvis Sr., left, retired Nashua machinist, summering in Gilford, and Arthur Tilton of Gilford, a carpenter. It is the first boat

project for either man. The craft is 24-feet in length, with a seven-nine foot beam. About two weeks is being required for the task. It's name will be Queen of the Broads. Merrill Fay, who gave use of his boatyard for the assembly, feels that the finished product will be a "museum piece."

(Photo by Earl O. Anderson)

LACONIA, N.H., EVENING CITIZEN, MONDAY, JULY 5, 1976



Early Lake Freight Transport

A contribution of the Gilford Bicentennial Committee in the
Laconia parade Friday was a replica of a gundalow, work horse

of the freight business on Winnepesaukee in years gone by.

David Nelson Sr. + Arthur Telton