

June 13, 1992

THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF LOCAL NEWS
ITEMS FOR 1892, 1917, 1942 AND 1967

1892

Maggie Murphy, a mill hand in the Willimantic Linen Company's number 4 mill, was a well known character in town. In the spring, a nasty accident with a carding machine had removed the end of one of her fingers. The injured member was dressed by Dr. Weldon, and Miss Murphy took several weeks off work, to rest her painful injury. When she returned to her old job, the overseer asked Maggie how she had lost her the end of her finger. Maggie re-enacted the accident with her uninjured hand - and the carding machine obligingly removed the end of another member, nail and all. Dr. Weldon was again called, and another throbbing vacation began. It was circulated that the overseer was satisfied with Miss Murphy's demonstration.

William Swift of Windham sent the following invitation to several leading Norwich families;

"In the year 1675, Joshua, sachem of the Mohegans, by his last will, gave to 16 gentlemen of Norwich and adjoining towns the tract of land now included in the town of Windham. It was settled in later years by Norwich families, - Bingham, Backus, Arnold, Birchard, More, Millard and others. On June 8, 1892 Windham will celebrate the bi-centennial of its incorporation as a town. It is very proper that the descendants of these Norwich pioneers, or their representatives, should visit the wilderness of 1683 and observe the change that a Christian civilization has effected these two centuries. A cordial welcome awaits all such who visit the home of their ancestors."

1917

The people of Willimantic were treated to an exhibition of war posters from Europe and Canada. 150 of these colorful and highly effective exercises in propaganda, produced in Europe and Canada, were exhibited in the town hall. The display was sponsored by the Willimantic branch of the American Red Cross, who benefited from all proceeds. The collection belonged to Newton C. Brainard, part of the firm of Case, Lockwood and Brainard of Hartford. It was estimated that the posters were worth over \$1,200. Promotional bills for the exhibit declared that, "...artists and cartoonists bring to the posters all their skill in drawing, and preachers, orators and poets, all who had the gift of firing men's arts, gave liberal thought and time to 'doing their bit' in this way...feel the pitiful agony of devastated France and Belgium, the grim determination of England stiffened by horror after air raids on helpless women and children." The horrors depicted in the graphic posters attracted large crowds to Willimantic's town hall,

swelling the coffers of the local Red Cross.

1942

Clifford J. Alpaugh was elected president and chairman of the Willimantic Trust, replacing the late E. Frank Bugbee. Alpaugh had been a director of the Company for 28 years, and was elevated to the presidency from the vice-presidency. Roland Jordan became the new vice-president. Alpaugh was well known in local business circles. He was an executive of the Willimantic Linen Company and its successor, the American Thread Company. He was also a founder of the Windham silk company and president when that concern was dissolved.

Camp Nathan Hale, the Salvation Army's fresh air camp at Lake Wangumbaug for under-privileged children, was preparing for the first group of summer interns. Boys and girls were arriving from Hartford, Manchester and Springfield, Mass. The summer of '42 witnessed the opening of a large new dining hall at the camp, erected from funds made available by a number of private citizens in Hartford, and the local Kiwanis Clubs. Mrs. Major Zealy and Captain Ella Ross were to take charge of the operation.

The Reverend Francis Hinchey, the popular pastor of St. Joseph's Church since 1939, celebrated 25 years as a Priest. He was ordained in June 9, 1917 by the late bishop of Hartford, John Nilan. Hinchey was born and educated in Bridgeport. His first assignment was as curate at the Church of the Blessed Sacrement in Waterbury, where he remained for ten years. For the next eight years he served as an assistant pastor at St. Bernard's church, Rockville. He gained his first pastorage at St. Patrick's church, East Hampton where he served for four and a half years before being transferred to Willimantic in August, 1939.

1967

Mrs. Josephine Greer, Electro Motive Manufacturing Company president was named chairwoman of Willimantic's Israeli Emergency Fund Drive. Funds obtained were used for rebuilding and rehabilitating areas damaged in the recent Arab-Israeli conflict. Mrs. Greer called upon area residents, regardless of creed or nationality, to support the drive.

Willimantic State College's 151 degree candidates were addressed at the colleges's 77th commencement by Dr. Stanley Izerda, dean of Wesleyan University. He congratulated the "survivors" before him, as typically, only 55% of those who start finish a college education. He spoke on the north campus, where temperatures rose above the 90 degree mark. Izerda announced that because of the heat, he had decided to reduce his address to 12 minutes. The 151 degrees consisted of 112 bachelors of sciences, 17 bachelor of arts and 22 master of science degrees.

This was the last degree ceremony conducted under the current name, as on July 1, 1967, the college was renamed Eastern Connecticut State College. The Willimantic

Normal School was established in 1889. It became the Willimantic State Teacher's College in 1937. In 1959 it became the Willimantic State college and a liberal arts program was added to the curriculum. The college was then authorized for the first time to grant bachelor of arts degrees as well as bachelor of science degrees.

Students at Storrs were also receiving their degrees. UConn's 84th annual commencement was addressed by Peace Corps Directors Jack Hood Vaughn, who introduced an international political theme to the state university located in the rural backwater of eastern Connecticut. He reminded the undergraduates of events four short years earlier, in 1963, when the students were registering for their first freshman courses, to illustrate how rapidly the world changes. Kennedy was U.S. president. Kremlin watchers were guessing who would follow the disposed President Krushchev. U Thant, U.N. Secretary General, proposed a Vietnam peace solution. Nasser was welding Arab unity and Governor Nelson Rockefeller was viewed as a prospective Republican presidential prospect.

The current commencement, including advanced degrees, was a record for the number of degrees awarded at UConn. The overall figure exceeded by 270 the previous record, set in 1966.