

# Academy trustees allot money for scholarships and equipment

By Gordon B. Seavey

With the demand increasing for financial assistance, Westford Academy students headed for institutions of higher learning were excited to learn that the trustees of the 190-year-old school have allocated nearly \$20,000 towards scholarships to worthy students.

This is an increase of \$7,000 over last year. The names of the recipients will be announced at graduation exercises this Friday.

For the first time, a substantial award under the newly established Fisher Family Fund will

years prior to his death, he stated. 'The Trustees have been very generous with their scholarships and Academy graduates ought to show appreciation by attaining their best possible grades. There are other things to consider in awarding scholarships beside just high marks in studies but such marks are quite likely to indicate a good degree of character as well as mental ability.'

Other recent additions, some large some small, have been made. Most notable is when the

son, Bruce Scott and Treasurer A Dana Fletcher

At its 189th annual meeting, the trustees elected John E. Leggat, president and E. Kennard Fletcher, vice president. A. Dana Fletcher continues as treasurer with Mrs. Anderson as an assistant. Former president, H. Arnold Wilder, was named auditor and Mrs. Hook continues as secretary.

Because of problems with arthritis, Alan W. Bell of Forrest



**WESTFORD ACADEMY TRUSTEES** dispense scholarship money, buy new equipment and elect officers at 189th annual meeting. Shown seated, left to right: Secretary Bette R. Hook, Treasurer A. Dana Fletcher, President John E. Leggat, Assistant Eileen M. Anderson and Vice President E. Kennard Fletcher. Standing: Past Presidents Gordon B. Seavey and Allister F. MacDougall, Barbara Hildreth Parkhurst, Edward M. Abbot, Auditor H. Arnold Wilder, Bruce Scott, John A. Kimball and Past President Maurice H. Huckins, Jr.

(J.F. Lisi photo)

be made to a graduate who intends to pursue the study of English in all forms. The new grant was announced last week as coming from the estate of Frederic Alvan Fisher adding over \$70,000 to the scholarship funds of the trustees.

In addition to the income derived from funds, some of which were invested nearly two centuries ago, the program has had substantial support from recent donors.

President John E. Leggat reminded the trustees that over past years with few exceptions, the original fund has grown slowly through prudent management of money left by parents, friends and graduates from past generations.

The practice of giving memorial scholarships was revived by Principal William C. Roudenbush head of the Academy for 25 years. He died in 1967 at age 95, and his fund is valued at \$4,000.

## Show Appreciation

When this fund was set up ten

Nabnasset Boosters Club disbanded four years ago, \$15,000 was presented the trustees. Other memorials include the Peterson, Seavey, Hildreth and Hall.

The trustees are in overall control of nearly one-half million dollars of investment funds, half of which is in general funds. The board, since 1905, has been a separate entity from the high school itself which now operates under laws of the Commonwealth.

John and Joel Abbot were among the original founders of the Academy. Accumulating over the generations, the family's monetary contribution now amounts to \$107,000. A descendant of the family, Edward M. Abbot Jr. will represent the trustees at graduation.

A special committee on scholarships from the board works with Guidance Counselor Mary Westcott and Principal Joseph F. Lisi in determining recipients of trustees scholarships. It includes Bette R. Hook, Eileen M. Ander-

Road resigned as a trustee after 27 years. A member of the Class of 1929 he was treasurer for twenty years.

Lloyd G. Blanchard, retired after 26 years as Westford School Superintendent was elected to the board.

On the recommendation of Principal Lisi the trustees voted to replace the 10-year-old portable sound system used for graduation, music and other school assemblies as well as for town meetings at the school.

Additional computer terminal equipment will be added to the present system, described by Lisi as one of the best and largest in the area schools. A graphic lettering machine to be welcomed by the Media Center will be ordered.

Estimated cost of the new equipment is \$5,350. \$6,600 was spent the previous year on various other needed equipment.

Serving the longest on the board, 47 years, is Allister F. MacDougall who was recognized on the occasion.