

Museum Fund Drive Off to a good start

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD Early tabulation of returns for funds to complete restoration of the original Westford Academy building for a long anticipated town museum are encouraging, reports Mrs. Robert Shaw Jr., secretary treasurer of the newly formed Friends of the Museum.

Response to the town-wide mailing last week indicates that there are many who wish to establish finally the museum as a going landmark in the community, she said, especially since only a strong push is now needed to obtain a budgeted \$4,700 to ready the building for occupancy.

A surprise lift came from an anonymous donor who has pledged \$2,000 in matching funds to help attain the goal. With the \$650 already received, automatically \$1,300 is assured toward the target.

Even though the goal, set purposely low, is reached, additional funds will be

needed later to set up the museum with display cases, frames, tables and various furniture items, also for operating expenses.

Three groups are now working to get the stalled program again on the move. They are the Friends who are revitalizing the program by the fund drive, the Historical Commission appointed by the selectmen to oversee the renovations and restorations, and the Historical Society.

With only a prime coat of paint existing over the ancient clapboards, one of the most costly items will be an exterior uplift. Then, too, the interior will need a couple of layers of paint.

A warning system, to alert against vandalism and to give early detection of fire, must be installed. Water has to be brought into the building.

New Driveway

Another expensive project will be re-grading the driveway, which is now being used for parking by unauthorized

vehicles. The Garden Club has offered to do the landscaping.

A ramp for the handicapped will be needed as well as more electrical work. The fireproofed interior doors must be hung.

Said to be one of the oldest wooden secondary school structures in the country, the idea of restoring it to its former glory was the brainchild of Allister F. MacDougall, a graduate of the Academy seventy years ago and a past president of the Board of Trustees.

Built in 1794, two years after the founding of the school, the sturdy structure initially stood at the head of the Common. Here local and boarding students attended at a manual school to learn the "English Latin and Greek languages, together with writing, arithmetic and the art of bookbinding. If desired, practical geometry, logic, geography, and music."

The entrance reconstructed was that
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