

# Trustees earmark \$10,000 for Academy bicentennial

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The Trustees of Westford Academy have set aside \$10,000 to help finance the observance of the school's 200th anniversary celebration.

This bicentennial program will start this fall and run through June 1992, two centuries after the founding of Westford Academy in 1792. The Academy is considered the oldest co-education secondary school in the commonwealth.

Over the years, Westford Academy has supplied many notables to the world of government, education, military and business. For

the first century, it was a private school but when the state mandated that each town support a high school, the Trustees gradually transferred control to the town, to be supported by tax money.

During the transition period, the Trustees relinquished its authority to the Westford School Committee but continued to control the money it already had. This became the basis for the current scholarship program. The trustees retained ownership of the second Academy building which eventually became the Roudenbush Community Center.

Later, this building was turned

over to the town with the provision that the school should forever be called "Westford Academy."

In the early years, old Westford families, such as the Abbots and Stones, created scholarships to help meet the needs of indigent students. In recent years, former Principal William C. Roudenbush left in his will a substantial sum for scholarships which started a trend of more donors.

Today, the assets of the Trustees amount to \$1,200,000. The income from these investments go mainly for scholarships and equipment for the school.

The 198 graduates of the Class

of 1991 divided up some \$50,000 in scholarship money, \$900 in graduation prizes and \$10,000 for Academy equipment.

According to Treasurer William Kavanagh, the special gift for the 200th celebration will come from capital gains from investments, which are now handled through the Central Savings Bank.

It was reported that \$6,000 is still due the trustees from students in default of loans made prior to 1976, when the program was deemed a failure and was cancelled because of the omission of student co-operation.

At the Trustees' 199th annual

meeting held recently, Eileen O. Anderson was elected to serve a third term as president, with Bette R. Hook as vice president. William J. Kavanagh continues as treasurer, Lloyd G. Blanchard as assistant, John E. Leggat as secretary and H. Arnold Wilder as auditor.

As the population of the town grows, so does the number of graduates of the Academy. The finance committee is sending a suggestion that perhaps now is the time for persons with substantial capital gains from investments to consider adding to the Trustees' scholarship fund, upon which the demands increase each year.