

Westford Museum requests artifacts

By GORDON B. SEAVEY
Sun Correspondent

WESTFORD -- The Friends of the Westford Museum recently issued a call for articles, preferably with a local historical interest and value, for placement on exhibit in the town's first museum which will formally open in mid-spring.

Work in the restoration of the original Westford Academy building, erected in 1794, has been completed and the Friends are anxious to arrange displays of old-time pieces and memorabilia for "a grand opening," according to the Chairman Lloyd Blanchard.

A burglar alarm system, complete with scanners, has been installed, the heating system renovated, storm windows and other insulation put in place, and adequate insurance provided in readiness for anticipated donations.

It is hoped local residents will search attics and closets for materials suitable for appropriate display. It is expected that some articles will be duplicated and others, because of their nature and size, not suitable to receive at the present time. Curator Kristin Szylvian urges all prospective donors to list their offerings with her. They will be catalogued by her and her committee which consists of June W. Kennedy and Jane Hinckley.

Offers of an ox-drawn snow roller and several wagons have been made, which just now pose

a problem of space for the committee.

Articles of the type displayed at the Garden Club's Christmas show in the museum building are most welcome, Szylvian states. She would like volunteers with creative ideas to help build displays.

The J. V. Fletcher Library has donated a group of show cases, some of exceptional value, but more can be used.

Filing cabinets, an office desk and a chair are needed; and an Underwood typewriter with 50 years of dependable service but still in good condition, has been donated, complete with a new ribbon.

In common with other museums, the committee asks that articles be given outright rather than put on loan, if possible. This is to avoid any legal entanglement which might crop up later.

Also needed is metal or wooden shelving for use in storing materials in the basement. Mannequins for display of old gowns and costumes are also badly needed.

A plaque, on which names of donors of \$25 or more will be listed, is being made from the copper sheets taken from the cupola. Treasurer Frances Cooper reports that additional funds are coming in regularly, with some substantial donations from out of town.

The curator's telephone number is 692-8117, and the museum address is Box 411, Westford.