



Preparing a farewell party for Benjamin A. Prescott, 83, who retires Friday as custodian of the Westford post office after 15 years are these fellow co-workers. front, l to r, Richard Spinney, Postmaster Robert Connell, and Ben Prescott. Rear, Janice McDonough, Barbara Kovalchek and Frances Wright

Westford P.O. Custodian, Ben Prescott, Retires at 83

By Gordon B. Seavey

WESTFORD — While most workers active all their lives look forward to retirement by 65 years of age, not so with Benjamin A. Prescott. Just turned 83, he reluctantly has decided it's about time that he punches the time clock for the last time as custodian of the Post Office at Westford Center.

This will be this Friday and his co-workers and numerous friends have planned an informal farewell celebration for him at 9:30 a.m. Not many of his classmates are expected to be there, but a sizeable turnout is expected for this gentle and kindly person of a host of friends he has made in later years.

Ben has served under three postmasters his fifteen years at the Center office. They are Leo Connell, John O'Connell and now Robert Connell. All are high in praise of his faithfulness to duty, his good natured attitude and his Yankee wit.

When asked by Postmaster Connell if it were good, clean living that enabled him to keep on working until 83, Ben's answer was "That's as good a reason as any." As an independent contractor, he has been able to perform his duties long past the normal civil service retirement period.

He makes his home, living alone, since his wife, Freda,

died in 1973, at 2 Main St. in a quaint little cottage. He keeps the yard as neat and tidy as he has done with his regular duties at the post office. In addition, he has made a little park out of the triangle formed by the junction of two roads in front of his home.

Born March 9, 1893 in the Old Eben Prescott homestead (circa 1752) at Chamberlain's Corner, he spent many years in the grocery business and managed a chain grocery

store next to the Fletcher library. He has been active in the Grange for many years.

He and his family are a good example of the adage that hard work never hurts anyone. His sister, Cindy, who died earlier this year at 88 made custom drapes until two years ago. A brother Clyde who still farms the old homestead is 85.

Ben has a son, William, his wife, Barbara, and two grandchildren who live in Bound Brook, New York.