

Westford Wanderings

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

Memorial Day 1981 was celebrated in its usual manner, but without the old-time long parades, the dinner in the town hall and the many speeches. Started here in 1884 to honor the local Civil War veterans, the observance now includes honoring servicemen and women of all wars.

The town purchased Lt. William Metcalf's equipment including his sword as he was the only officer in the local group who fought in the Civil War. Half-a-century later, his son Edwin honored his dad and the others who were in the service by erecting the Civil War monument at the head of the Common.

Just prior to town-wide observance, the four public cemeteries blossom out with American flags on graves of all veterans. The flags are furnished by the veterans' groups, but the

enormous task of placing them on some 250 graves has been for the past 34 years much the responsibility of Roland Cote. He is a member of the American Legion and VFW.

It has come down to the point that Roland, with his son Gary, have been a "committee of two" for the past several years. The townspeople salute them for doing an exacting job so well.

The devastation of tree foliage this season in this area by gypsy moth caterpillars has been enormous all over town. Some protection of the trees, particularly the oaks, has been done through the early use of Sevin, which has been quite effective. The old-fashioned method of wrapping bands around tree trunks has been most disappointing as these nasty creatures, even though they are slow-moving, manage to show up everywhere in great hordes.