

# Westford Wanderings

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

The gale force winds, accompanied by heavy rains on October 25, were a benefit in some ways other than giving us 1/2 inch of badly needed rain. The weathervane, atop the steeple of the Town Hall which had been stuck pointing NNW for many months, once again became activated. Didn't know that water could be a lubricant.

Sometime take a look at the building's roof on the west side. You'll see a mixture of colors on the slate roof. When the 1938 hurricane blew in from the South, the force of the wind began lifting the slates at one edge of the roof. Like toppling dominoes, the slates began lifting, one by one, until the entire south corner was laid bare.

Since the natural color of slate depends upon where it was quarried, matching material used in the old roof

was nowhere to be located. The roofers tried to match the new with the old as best they could. They missed a bit.

In a recent story in this newspaper about Ellen Swallow Richards, the Westford Academy graduate (Class of 1863), she was described as one of the great scientists of her time. Mrs. Bert A. Harless, a distant relative, notes that she is among the nine women depicted on a 14-foot mural entitled "The Notable Women of Boston."

It was created for the Workingmen's Cooperative Bank of Boston to celebrate the bank's 100th year, and is in the lobby of that institution's headquarters. It also coincides with the city's 350th year. In her later years, Ellen lived in Jamaica Plain. She died in 1911.