

# Westford's attic treasures benefit new town museum

By Gordon B. Seavey

Old treasures, hidden for years in Westford attics, came to light as history-minded folk brought antique items to the town's proposed museum for inspection over the weekend.

They already have been catalogued and will be arranged for display when the museum, located in the original Westford Academy building (1794), opens in mid-May.

More than a score of donors showed up with a wide variety of items. Those accepted are under protection of an intricate burglar alarm system and covered by insurance.

Topping the gift items in numbers were those donated by Frank Jarvis, whose home is at 62 Griffin Road where he was born 76 years ago. His farm tools included a hand corn planter used by his grandfather Alvin Blaisdell, and a calf nursing bucket.

A mechanical toy, a black minstrel in tattered garments, was the prize possession of his father when a child. It is another item that will go on display. Household articles used by Jarvis' mother were included, as well as a large set of greeting cards, circa 1912.

A sign which hung on the facade of the Center store, rescued long ago from the dump by Edward Szylyan, indicated the location of the Post Office Dis-

carded mannequins from a plush Boston specialty shop will be used to display garments worn by Westford's finest years ago.

A set of report cards, issued between the years 1898-1901 by the then Principal William W. Frost, came back to the Academy as a donation of Mrs. John Eliassen. They belonged to her mother, Laura Adeline (Tallant) Parfitt, Class of 1901, with scores of at least 90 including Virgil and Homer.

Among the variety of items presented by Mr. & Mrs. Austin D. Fletcher were a section of post office mail boxes and a keg of nails from the old Wright & Fletcher store.

The donations received on Saturday were appraised for \$7,000 by Mrs. Edward F. Chambers, local antique specialist. These historical gems were catalogued by Curator Kristen Szylyan, June W. Kennedy and Jane Hinckley.

Speaking for the friends of Westford Museum, Chairman Lloyd Blanchard said the enthusiastic response to their call for old items were overwhelming and much appreciated. We hope now that we are better organized, there will be more historical pieces coming through our door in the next few weeks, he said.