

William C. Edwards — contractor

(Gordon B. Seavey, a Westford native and 1922 graduate of Westford Academy, has been a trustee of the local high school for over 50 years.)

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — Two of Westford's most notable buildings and long-time landmarks are on the verge of observing a century of service to the community.

They include the J.V. Fletcher Library, dedicated in 1895 and the second Westford Academy building, now the Roudenbush Community Center, erected in 1897.

Both are landmarks of sturdy construction, built by a Westford contractor whose integrity was never questioned. His name is William C. Edwards, a native son who became well known throughout much of New England from his association with the Boston & Maine Railroad at the time the line was expanding and erecting new stations and freight warehouses.

Another bit of construction, which indicated that he was equipped to take on any size contract, was the \$113 gazebo in Fairview Cemetery. It is located in a prominent spot near the center of the grounds, among the slate and granite markers of the period.

One of his masterpieces was the Union Station on Causeway Street in Boston.

When the cornerstone of the local library was laid on Sept.

12, 1895, he had a section cut in the granite cornerstone in which was placed, among various other mementos, a copy of his contract with the town.

Physically, Edwards was a stalwart, study person, forever on the go. He had little time for other than his contracting work, although he did serve several years on the Westford School Committee.

Born in Westford in the year 1844, he lived to be 85 years old. One of his favorite organizations was Troop F Cavalry, Mas-



Roudenbush Community Center

sachusetts Volunteer Militia — which was a prestigious group at the time.

Edwards took on a neighbor, John J. Monahan, who lived almost next door (but in West Chelmsford), as a partner and treasurer of Edwards & Monahan. The latter attended Westford schools as well as those in Chelmsford.

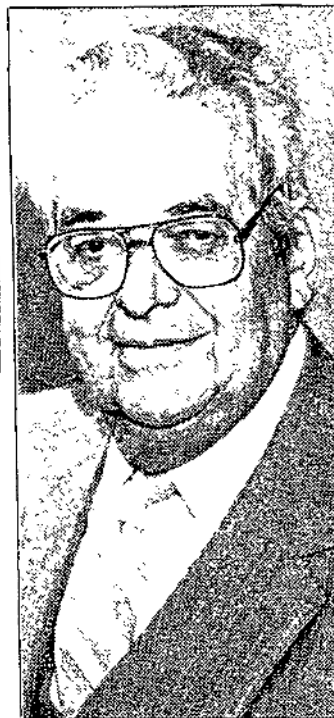
Like Edwards, he was a long-time member of Troop F, and attained captaincy

A grand niece, Mrs. Rita Edwards Miller, lives at 59 Main St., coincidentally halfway between the library and the old Academy building. She is the retired principal of the Frost-Cameron-Sargent elementary schools.

(Persons who would like to write a guest column can contact Richard P. Cook at 458-7100 Sunday through Thursday eves for further details.)



William C. Edwards



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