

Academy Trustees establish scholarship

20 years of service by Mary Westcott is to be honored

By Gordon B. Seavey

A check for \$2,500 has been presented to the Trustees of Westford Academy to honor a long-time instructor with a scholarship in her name.

She is Mary Westcott, guidance counselor and co-ordinator who retired at the end of last year after serving in the local school system for 20 years, of which 18 were at Westford Academy.

Barbara Hildreth Parkhurst, president of the Board of Trustees, said the money would be invested by the trustees, and from the proceeds an annual scholarship will be granted to a graduating student.

Mary Westcott has been equally popular with faculty members as well as the many students with whom she came in daily contact.

Principal Joseph Listi, in summing up the feelings of many, said, "Mrs. Westcott's value to Westford Academy goes much further than her services as counselor and guidance co-ordinator. In her position she worked closely with the administration, organizing and coordinating school activities such as luncheons and teas for retiring faculty members and helping with many of the school's social activities.

"Her research regarding follow-up studies of graduating seniors and the co-ordination of the Academy's scholarship program were invaluable to the school administration and the Academy Trustees."

Westcott was a vital factor in selecting many of the scholarships available each year from proceeds from the trustees' \$1.1 million fund, which in turn is managed by a bank.

Principal Listi had more to say: "As a school counselor, Mary worked closely with over 200 students annually providing a full array of guidance services. She helped many a troubled student and she assisted parents of students with the formulation of career plans.

"Her association with college admissions officers was also a valuable asset to students as they pursued acceptance at college," he said.



Staff photo by Marc Holland

Mary Westcott reminisces with former student Eric Fryer (l) and Mike Parent, a special needs teacher and football coach, during a reception to mark her retirement as Westford Academy guidance department head, held in the high school library last fall.

The Mary Westcott Scholarship was the gift of her husband, George E. Westcott, a Boston attorney. The Westcotts live in Belmont.

While raising their family of two daughters and two sons, Mary West-

cott maintained her professional association with education by substitute teaching, adult education, directing a summer program and teaching kindergarten for five years.

She is a graduate of Salem State

and has an M.E. in Special Education from Tufts.

Mary Westcott is an active member of the Mass. Association of Children with Learning Disabilities and Mass. Kidney Foundation. Her hobby is collecting antiques.