

# Fancy dancing at Academy reunion

By Gordon B. Seavey

Among keepsakes of Westford Academy grades of long ago is a program of the Alumni Association (founded in 1882) reunion which, in conjunction with the 1896 graduation of the seniors, held a ball in the town hall

The reception committee consisted of past and present Academy teachers and principals. In other words they were the chaperones, probably seated in a conspicuous spot near the dance floor

The music was supplied by the Salem Cadet Orchestra, made up of members of that city's famous band. The leader was Jean M. Mis-

sued, who wrote popular marches of that period, some of which no doubt are being played today by Academy students under the baton of Blair Bettencourt

The concert preceding the dancing consisted of a lively march, an overture and a solo for piccolo entitled "Sweet Birdie". Would you guess there may have been a lot of tittering when the piccolo player's notes hit the air?

And then the order of dances followed, nine before an intermission, and nine afterwards. Partners had to be signed up beforehand....and my old program shows a number of initials and three names: Ruth Fisher, Fanny Banister and Edith Wright.

The dancing started off with a grand march and circle, something we know nothing about today. Then there were a series of square dances like the Quadrille Lancers and Portland Fancy

The young ladies in their fanciest dresses would then swirl around in the waltz, gallop and two-step. The schottische was always popular, as was the polka.

Hey, kids. Would this entertainment be up your alley? Your grand daddy and grandma never could forget those good times

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