

First woman to head Academy trustees

By GORDON B. SEAVEY
Sun Correspondent

WESTFORD — For nearly two centuries, the trustees of Westford Academy have been in a man's world. No woman ever served on the board until re-

cently and no female was ever named to the top post of presidency. No woman ever served as principal.

All this has changed.

The fifteen-member board, at its 193rd annual meeting (on Thursday evening, May 22)

unanimously named a native daughter, Barbara Hildreth Parkhurst, as its new president. She was graduated from the Academy in the Class of 1935.

Parkhurst traces her ancestry to several of the founding families of the town as well as being

the tenth generation descendant of the original Hildreth arrival. She is the daughter of the late Arthur G. Hildreth, former Academy trustee, and Bertha Norris Hildreth, a former teacher at the school.

Although presently living in Chelmsford at 7 Overlook Drive, she and her husband plan to move to Westford to Hildreth Hills situated on land once owned by her forebears. She is founding president of the Chelmsford League of Women Voters.

The "second in command" is also a woman as vice-president. He is Eileen O'Neill Anderson

of the Class of 1953.

Long active in the Alumnae Association and a past president of that group as well as of the Westford Businessmen's Association, she is a busy member of the Nabnasset Country Club.

With her husband, Carl, they operate one of the last remaining large apple orchards in this area, the 170-acre spread at Chamberline's Corner, at various times called the Read, Drew and Mormon Farm.

Re-elected for the 10th time as secretary is Bette R. Hook, retired history teacher at the Academy. She was the first woman ever appointed to the

board.

Sole male among the officers is A. Dana Fletcher, '42, as treasurer. He is treasurer of C. G. Sargent's Corp.

To fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees, William J. Kavanagh, Jr., of 46 Depot Street, town moderator for the past 11 years and a graduate of the Academy in 1946, was named. He is a graduate of Bentley College and is a certified accountant.

A native of Westford, he was chairman of the Westford finance committee for ten years and is a faculty member of the Tufts University School of Medicine.



Trustee officials

New Westford Academy trustee officials talk at last night's annual meeting. From left are Vice-president Eileen O'Neill

Anderson, President Barbara Hildreth Parkhurst, Secretary Bette Hook and Treasurer A. Dana Fletcher.