



A GATHERING OF teacher, students and mothers outside the Long-Sought-For School reveals the wide age group that was educated in the one-room schoolhouse before the turn of the century. Located on Gould Road, it serves today as a storage building on a private farm.

(Photo courtesy 'Westford Recollections')

## Bleak outlook for teachers in 1872

# Long-Sought-For Schoolhouse No . 8

By June W. Kennedy

The following is part of a series on Westford district schools.

**I**n the "north end" of town, a new schoolhouse sat on Keyes Pond Road in the year 1872. In the absence of students' yarns from that time, it might be entertaining to read of the duties and rules imposed upon the "school marm" of New England:

Rules for teachers, 1872

- 1) Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
- 2) Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
- 3) Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
- 4) Men teachers may take one

evening each week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.

5) After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.

6) Women who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.

7) Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years, so that he will not become a burden to society.

8) Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his

worth, intention, integrity and honesty.

9) The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without faults for five years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

When Long-Sought-For School No. 8 closed, it was moved by Edward Keyes and Horace E. Gould to the Forest View Farm on Gould Road, where it served as a blacksmith shop for many years. Today it provides good shelter to repair farm equipment and trucks on the property of Albert and Bernice Picking.

June Kennedy is a Westford resident and author of "Westford Recollections", a series of historical vignettes and photos.