

# Life In PROSPECT

by John Guevin

## 100 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1908

### Trouble with Horses

Frederick Hotchkiss was kicked by a horse and his leg was badly injured. In another incident, Mrs. Sophie Peterson was seriously hurt in a runaway horse accident. The horse had become frightened while she was driving with her guests, Mrs. Jones and son. It ran and threw out all the occupants from the wagon. Mrs. Peterson had one arm broken and the other was badly bruised. Mrs. Jones was bruised and shaken up. The little boy received a cut on his face.

### Morse Family Reunion

About forty descendants of Lent Morse attended the Morse family reunion. The gathering was held at Byron Morse's home in Prospect. Besides those living in Prospect, there were members of the family present from Waterbury, New Haven, New London, and Boston, Massachusetts. Although frequent rain showers interfered with some of the plans, all attending indicated they had a good time.

### Automobiles Come to Prospect

In 1908 the sight of an automobile in Prospect was rare. The roads were crude and the challenge of climbing the ascent to the summit was formidable. Albert D. Field was one of the first residents of Prospect to own an automobile, but that wasn't until 1916.

Former Governor Abiram Chamberlain, the Honorable Wales Lines, John Coe, and Mr. Schlater came to Prospect from Meriden by automobile and called at the home of Mrs. Agnes Hitchcock. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Williams, Mrs. F. M. Foote, and Mrs. John Brant also spent some time at the home of Mrs. Hitchcock. They returned by auto to New Haven on Saturday.

An auto party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Berger and two children and Mrs. Isbell, all of Naugatuck, called on Mrs. William E. Clark on Saturday.

### About Prospect

Mrs. Edgar Wallace was confined to bed with an illness for two or three days. Charles S. Fenn and son, Clifford, spent a day at the Methodist camp meeting. Rev. William H. Phipps of Waterbury preached at the Prospect Congregational Church.

### Prospect Baseball

A baseball game between teams of the Mad River and the Prospect Granges was held at

Hamilton Park in Waterbury. It was earlier reported that the Prospect team was beaten. That was incorrect, as the Prospect team was victorious, defeating the Mad River team by a score of sixteen to eight.

## 75 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1933

### Prospect Congregational Church

Services at the Prospect Congregational Church were announced by Rev. Thomas S. Cochard, minister. The sermon topic was "Is There a Camaraderie Peculiar to Christians?" The Church school began at 9:30 a.m. with Harvey Green acting as superintendent.

### Prospect Men's Club

The Prospect Men's Club met August 7 at the Prospect Grange hall for its monthly gathering. It began with a volleyball game between two teams captained by Oscar Swanson and Milton Fournier. Card games concluded the evening's program.

### Prospect People

Mrs. Harold Berger and daughter, Mildred, and Mrs. William Crochetier began a two-month motor trip to the Adirondack Mountains. Miss Florence Berger was recovering from an operation for blood poison in her hand. Mr. and Mrs. John Kieper, Sr. entertained friends and relatives at their home on Sunday afternoon.

### Hotchkiss Family Reunion

The 51st annual reunion of the Hotchkiss Family Association was held Saturday at the Prospect Congregational Church. About 100 people attended. Registration of members and informal greetings occupied the morning. A dinner was served in the church at one o'clock.

A feature this year was the award of two cakes, made by Miss Gladys Andrews, to the oldest woman and the oldest man present. The winners were Mrs. Alice Wedge, 87, of Prospect and Charles Russell, 91, of Milldale.

The youngest member present was Janet Bosworth, who was five months old. She was a granddaughter of Mrs. Harley Hotchkiss. There were four generations of that family in attendance.

The children enjoyed games in the afternoon under the direction of Ms. Ruth Bosworth. A program for the adults included recitations and also an original poem. The principal feature of the program was the address by

Charles Hotchkiss Norton of Plainville. Nellie Cowdell of Prospect spoke on the part played by the Hotchkiss ancestors in the town of Prospect.

Because of the absence of the president, it was decided not to hold elections. Officers continuing for the ensuing year included Miss Mabel Hotchkiss from Prospect as secretary.

### Prospect Congregational Church Choir

Saturday night choir rehearsal was held with President John Green presiding. A social committee was appointed. The committee consisted of Bernice Chatfield, Althea Main, and Alton Milton.

### Wedding

Earl C. Welton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Welton of Prospect, married Miss Bertha Morgan of Cheshire at the Prospect Congregational Church. The service was performed by Rev. Oscar L. Locke of Oakville. Miss Morgan was attended by Irene Morgan and Mr. Welton was attended by Harold Barber. A wedding breakfast was served at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Welton. The bride and groom left later on an unannounced wedding trip.

## 50 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1958

### Prospect Grange Supper

The Ways and Means committee of the Prospect Grange served a public supper on August 9. The menu included ham loaf, parsley potatoes, potato salad, fresh garden string beans, summer squash, hard dinner rolls and butter, and blueberry pie. The committee for the event included: Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Bender, Mr. and Mrs. John Schweitzer, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sills, and Mr. and Mrs. John Hoyt. They were assisted by Mrs. Samuel Lindsay and Mrs. Daniel Conner.

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was held for two weeks at the Prospect Congregational Church. A closing program was presented in Fellowship Hall. A collection was taken for the benefit of the new church building fund. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the program.

Students participating in the pre-primary class included: Deborah Talmadge, Ronald Pierpont, Kathy Fullhart, Robert Heald, David Murray, George Gillott, Betty Naylor, Nadine Finke, Raymond Chandler, and Arrol Chatfield. The teacher was Mrs. John Chatfield and she was assisted by Miss Susan Caouette.

The primary class pupils were: Billy Fullhart, Cynthia Pierpont, Harry Pugliese, Nancy Naylor, Holly Shattuck, Blanche Jeannin, Kenneth Wilson, Bobby Stevenson, Peggy Humphrey, Donna Ferrari, and Joan

Woodward. The teacher was Mrs. Alfred Greenwood, assisted by Miss Cheryl Barker.

Grades one and two included: Richard Gillott, William Pugliese, Edward Wallace, James Wilson, George Pilkington, Charles Claridge, Kenneth Wallace, Doris Klein, David Foster, Gwenn Talmadge, Martha Benson, Claire Mae Houseknecht, Michael Nabors, Evelyn Klein, Susan Milton, Ellen Veneziano, Cynthia Chatfield, and Linda Humphrey. The teacher was Mrs. Edward Naylor who was assisted by Miss Judy Wallace.

Grades three and four included: Marian Pilkington, Karen Shattuck, Ronald Humphrey, Fern Bredice, Marjorie Chatfield, Cathie Pugliese, Susan Naylor, Eric Kudzma, Barbara Jeannin, and Freddy Voegeli. The teacher was Mrs. Harry Pugliese and she was assisted by Miss Susan Bradley.

Grade five and six students were: Aleta Bredice, Debra Foster, Lynn Greenwood, Lois Klein, Ada Mae Pilkington, Judie Voegeli, and Sheila Wallace. The teacher was Mrs. Theodore Hansen, who was assisted by Miss Penny Benson.

### Democratic Town Committee Candidates

The Democratic Town Committee announced its endorsement of Eraine Genest as its candidate for state representative. Miss Genest was a prominent Democrat in Prospect and had been very active in town affairs. She was the former secretary to the Board of Selectmen, a member of the Board of Education, and elected member of the Library Board where she served as secretary.

The Democratic Town Committee also endorsed for justices: Michael Pugliese, Fred Green, Jr., Robert Graney, Fred Mrazik, Jr., and Oscar Montambault.

### Boy Scout Summer Camp

Twenty-six boy scouts from Troop 27 spent a week at Camp Mattatuck in the Maple campsite. The week was climaxed by the most advancements in one troop at the camp. Troop 27 gained its first Star Scout, three additional First Class Scouts, eight Second Class Scouts, and five merit badges.

Those advancing in rank were: Star Scout: Frank Clyma; First Class Scout: Phil Noble, Steve Noble, and Tom Howson; Second Class Scout: George Selee, Alex Iosa, Donald Hansen, Dave Benson, Billy Sereduck, Francis Sullivan, and Frank Burnham.

## 25 YEARS AGO AUGUST 1983

### Republicans Pick Candidates

Challenger Douglas Merriman won endorsement for a Town Council seat, knocking out

incumbent Councilman Walter Semrow by nine votes in a caucus attended by more than 100 local Republicans. Semrow later said he would not force a primary for the job unless one of the defeated candidates for other offices did. Semrow said he did not want to subject the town to the expense of a primary. Meanwhile, three-term Mayor Robert Chatfield received the caucus endorsement for reelection without opposition.

In the race for Town Treasurer, incumbent Diane Gray defeated challenger Barbara Schieffer 78 to 62. Incumbent Region 16 School Board member Sandra Hayes and newcomer Anthony DiGennaro received 81 votes and 73 votes respectively to turn back challenges from Rosemary Marczewski and James Quinn who got 57 and 61 votes respectively.

James Mullins, a challenger for the Planning and Zoning Commission, was defeated by three endorsed candidates: Robert Majoros, Steven Rifkin, and Richard Sergeant.

Candidates nominated without opposition in addition to Chatfield were: Walter Hack and James Duffy for the Board of Tax Review, Fran Duffy and Charles Pierson for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Town Clerk Patricia Vaillancourt, and Tax Collector Lucian Fortier.

### Flood Damage Funds

Prospect was slated to receive a total of \$84,000 from the state and federal governments. The town would also receive another \$23,000 after the Federal Emergency Management Agency audits the town's flood account according to Mayor Robert Chatfield.

### B-Tween Senior Citizens Club

The B-Tween Senior Citizens Club sponsored a trip to Annie's Famous Three Hour Clambake Feast in Deerfield, Massachusetts. The trip included a boat ride on the Connecticut River.

### Safety Committee

Mayor Robert Chatfield appointed four people to a new committee designed to promote safety on Halloween. The committee members included: Chatfield, Resident State Trooper Paul Vance, Betty Salerno of the Prospect Nursery School, Fran Jackson, and Donna Dean.

### Federal Revenue Sharing

Townpeople would get an opportunity to decide where to spend \$12,800 in federal revenue sharing funds to revamp the town's payloader, install a pipe to help firemen pump water from a pond, and buy three signs. Mayor Robert Chatfield proposed the expenditures, which must be brought to a town meeting for approval. He put off plans to spend \$9,800 for an engineering study of the town dump and \$2,500 to resurface the tennis court at McGrath Park.