

PEOPLE LIVING IN PLACES, YEARS AGO, AND SOME THERE TODAY

Starting near the Scituate-Johnston Town line, and heading West, the first piece of property, of years ago was known as the Poole Farm, and was at one time called the Smith property, later known as the Barber Farm, and then later it was sold to Alvah W. Round. The original farmhouse, once used as a tavern, (it has been said), and the rest of the property was later divided among the Round family, the children of Alvah & Martha, (Page) Round. Today there are many owners of the property, that once was the Poole or Barber Farm.

Going West from the former Alvah Round property, and going on the what was called, at one time, the Hartford Pike, and now called Route 101, we come to the former Dr. Charles Davis property, which is on the North side of now Route 101. Dr. Charles Davis was a dentist, with his office in the city of Pawtucket. Edna Hohler, the daughter of Louis Hohler, a State Senator, from the Town of Scituate, at one time, was the nurse in the office of Dr. Davis. Dr. Davis had to give up his dentist work, because of ill health, but Edna Hohler remained at the Davis home to keep house and care for the doctor. I should tell you that Dr. Davis's Mother lived with the doctor, as well as the doctor's brother Frank, who took care of the outside work, along with keeping a cow, a horse, having a good garden in the summer, and cutting the hay for the winters use for the animals.

After the doctors Mother and brother passed away, Edna married Clifton Smith, and they both lived at the Charles Davis place, taking care of the Doctor as long as he lived. After a few years, Edna became quite ill, and passed away. After several years, Clifton married a friend of both the Doctor and Edna. Several years later Clifton passed away, and his widow stayed at the former Davis Farm, but then she sold the property and moved.

We next head West on the present Danielson Pike until we come to the first house, after leaving the fork of Route 101. This house is on the North side of Route 6, was formerly just a small summer cottage, unfinished inside, with a sign over the front porch that read, "WELCOME INN", and the place was rented to several people over the years, but at one time was owned by a Mrs. A. King.

Mary Aber and her husband, Judson, live there today, (Feb. 1986), Mary's Mother, Carrie (Edwards) and Mary's Father, Everett Adams, along with Mary's Grandmother and Grandfather, Bert Edwards, bought the property, and made it all over into a year round living house. Bert Edwards had lost his farm to the Water Supply Board, for the building of the Reservoir. The Edwards farm was south of the Danielson Pike, about South of the now Episcopal Church.

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Before going West, from this property, maybe we should go back to the junction of Routes 101 and 6 again, and name the places, on the South side of the Danielson Pike.

The first place that we come to is a cottage type house, that was built by a man by the name of Harold Durfee, who built the place and started to live in it just about as soon as he got the roof on the building, that would not leak, in the case of rain. He, and his wife, worked together, some nights, as well as days, until they had enough of it built so that they could live in it and work on the inside of the building while they lived in it. They finally had the house completed, but after a few years Mr. Durfee, had another job to go to, out of town, so they sold the property to a Henry Swallow and his wife. Mr. & Mrs. Swallow had three children: two girls and one son. The girls' names were Dorothy and Jessie; the sons name was Roland.

Dorothy married Adrian R. Plante: Jessie married Richard Dame: Roland married Caroline Rice: Dorothy and Roland have passed away. Jessie is in a nursing home in the Town of Foster.

Dorothy & her husband lived in the Henry Swallow home, after they were married. After Dorothy passed away, Adrian Plante lived there for a few years and then bought the property, but now that has been sold, and Adrian has moved away.

Jessie and her husband, Richard Dame had a cottage built just to the West of the Swallow property, and after her husband passed on, Jessie lived there for a few years until her health sent her to the nursing home, where she is today.

Going West from the Dame property, on the South side of the Danielson Pike, we come to another house that was built for Alvin & Mildred Durfee. That property is now owned by James Thornton and his wife, Theodora, and has been made into a two family house.

Just West of the former Alvin Durfee property, we come to a house that was owned by a Mary Noble, the mother of Harold and Alvin Durfee. Later it was owned by Earl & Mildred Burnside. That property is now also owned by James & Theodora Thornton.

Just West of that property, we come to a four acre lot, that at one time was owned by Chester L. Smith & his wife, Ada, who lived at one time at the North Scituate Four corners, in the house on the South-East corner, and they ran a small store in that building on the first floor at one time.

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This four acre lot, so-called, was used for a pasture for cows that were owned by William E. Spencer, Sr., who ran the "Granite Farm" just West of the pasture land.

The first building to be built on this lot was built by a Joseph A. Levesque, which was a small cottage, so called, where he and his wife, Flora, and their children lived for a while. Mr. Levesque also built a shed there and was in the lumber business for a short time.

Later the Levesque Family built and maintained a Motel on the West side of that lot. The name of the Motel was "The Flying L", later they built another ~~house~~ on the upper East side of the lot, and also a cottage about in the center of the lot, at the South end. The property where the "Motel" stands, and the other houses have been sold several times since the Levesque's sold.

Norman Saute, a Pharmacist, built a fairly large brick building on the lower section of the lot to the East side, some years ago, and he occupies about one half of that building for his business. The East half of the building he rents to a man who run a Hardware store. The first man to run a Hardware store there was Frank Abruzzi, but he sold to a man by the name of Davis a short time ago. Norman Saute also has had several additions built on the West side of his main building. The first part to be built on was several Store or Office spaces on the first floor and then there were two housing apartments added to the first floor, by building them over the first floor area.

We will now go across the Danielson Pike, to the North side of now Route 6, to a farm that was originally known as the "Poole" Farm, & contained about 12 acres. This property was purchased by Ferdinand H. Allen, about 1916 or 1917, when the City of Providence Water Supply Board took his Mill property, The Ashland Mill. The Main house on the property when Mr. Allen bought it, was known as the "Jim Smith's Inn. The Inn folks moved out to the Post Road in Warwick, and is now known as "The Great House"

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After Mr. Allen purchased the property he had many changes made in the buildings. He had gas lighting installed in the houses. There were only two houses at the time the property was purchased, one large house, used for the Inn and a small cottage just to the East of that Inn. There was a large Barn next to the small cottage, which Mr. Allen had re-built into a two tenement house, as it is today. The two tenement house was used for his two hired men, and their families, to live in. The men that worked for Mr. & Mrs. Allen were a Mr. Lawrence Walker, who lived in the East side of the two tenement house, the Walkers had no children. The man that lived in the West side of the house was a Mr. Cyrus Salisbury and his wife, Lena, and they had three children, two girls and one boy.

The men took care of the cows, planted and took care of the garden, out the hay in the summer, mowed the lawn, shoveled the snow for the paths and driveways in the winter. The Allen had several cars, one an Late model "Stanley Steamer", and the men, Lawrence Walker or Cyrus Salisbury would do the driving for Mr. or Mrs. Allen, for their shopping or other business trips. Much of the time the Aliens employed a maid, a cook, and sometimes a nurse. There was also two women that lived with the Allen's, a Miss Cole and a Miss Battey, I believe they were both friends of the family.

Mr. Allen asked his nephew, Cassius L. Ramsdell, who lived in New Jersey, to come to North Scituate to help him with his business as he was getting along in years and needed someone to help him. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsdell and their son, Leland, came to North Scituate and lived in the small cottage between the large house and the two tenement house. Mrs. Ramsdell's name was Grace, (Sheldon). The former Etta Davis, worked at the Allen's home for years, and the former Gladys Arnold was a nurse at the Allen home. I should mention that Etta Davis's maiden name was Hopkins and Gladys Arnold's maiden name was Dustin.

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There was an Ice House on the Allen Farm, where Ice was cut on the Lake, and packed in the Ice House, to be used in the summer. The Ice was packed in layers with hay, straw and sawdust used to keep it from melting until it was taken out to be used in the refrigerators in the houses on the "Echo Farm."

It took about 35 tons of coal to heat the buildings on the farm, until up to date furnace's were installed in the buildings. There was 2 hot air furnace's in the large building, that used to be the "Jim Smith's Inn", 1 furnace in the small cottage, that also was a hot air furnace, as was the 2 furnace's in the two Family house.

There was a good sized barn, on the East side of the property, where a cow and a horse were kept, along with the farm wagons and other farm tools. The barn was made into a two family house, in later years, after Leland Ramsdell inherited the property, after the Allen's and Leland's Mother and father passed on.

Mr. Allen passed away in 1924, and Lucy Allen, his widow, passed away in 1927. Cassius Ramsdell, and his wife, Grace, and their son Leland were living in the small cottage at that time and they moved into the large house. That Ramsdell's had a woman, by the name of Lelia Atwood, doing the house work and cooking, for a number of years. Cassius Ramsdell passed away in 1937, and his son, Leland, who had married, Evelyn Sundberg, some years before, and were living in the large house with Leland's Mother and father. In 1936, Leland and his wife wanted to move into the two tenement house, which was just East of the small cottage, so they asked the tenants, in the West side of that house to move out. The tenants were Frank K. and Elizabeth A. Spencer, who had moved into that tenement on their wedding day, October 25th, 1928. The Spencer's moved out of the tenement, and moved up in the North Scituate village, onto the second floor of a two family house, that at that time was owned by Henry Phillips and his wife.

The cottage, at the "Echo Farm," was occupied by a Mrs. Walls, her two daughter's, Ethelyn and Frances. Ethelyn was a School teacher, in the Scituate Schools.

The large house was let to several tenants for a few years and then it was sold for the Bailey-Shippee Funeral Home.

The Scituate Town Tax, on the "Echo Farm" property, for the year 1922 was \$520.00.

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C. Leland Ramsdell died in 1962, and his widow, Evelyn, died in 1964. Grace Ramsdell, Leland's Mother died in 1941.

The property has changed hands several times since the death of the Ramsdell's. The large house is now a Medical Office Building, owned by Dr. Robert Brochu, and quite a number of Doctor's are in attendance there.

We will now head West, on the North side of the Danielson Pike, to the location of a cottage style house, built about 1920, by a building Contractor, by the name of George Andrews, for Mr. Allen, who thought that by building a home or two, on his property, he could make some extra money. I believe Mr. Andrews had talked the idea into Mr. Allen. It was quite a long time before the building was sold. A Mr. Wilson, of Providence, finally bought the property, for his daughter, Mrs. Millard Hopkins, who lived on the Trimtown Road, with her husband. After a few years, Mrs. Hopkins passed away and Mr. Millard Hopkins moved to West Woodstock, Conn., where he had relatives. The Wilsons sold the property to Dr. Richard Shea and his wife. Doctor Shea carried on his practice in North Scituate, and nearby Towns, for a few years. After Dr. Shea passed away, Mrs. Shea sold the property to a family by the name of Paine. Later the Paine's sold the property to Mr. & Mrs. Carl Johnson, who had three children, two boys, David & Robert and a girl, Lynn. The children are all married, and live in other States, they all have children of their own. Carl Johnson passed away several years ago, and his widow, Muriel, lives there today. She is a teacher's aid, in the Scituate School system.

Next, heading West, on the North side of the Danielson Pike, we come to the former Elder Reuben Allen property, with the house, with one acre of land on that side of the Pike. The house was built in 1846, for Elder Allen, who was the first Baptist Minister in North Scituate. There were large barns and other land, about 13 acres, on the South side of the Pike at one time. The house has 9 rooms, plus halls, double stairways, and bathrooms on both first and second floors. With a walk-out basement doorway.

In 1879, Edwin C. & Virgil V. Phillips bought the property. They kept a few cows, and Edwin C. Phillips, (he was called Chancy) delivered milk in the North Scituate Village, in a Wheelbarrow, and on a sled in weather with snow on the ground. For thirty-odd years he peddled the milk, charged five cents a quart, for most of the years, and after his brother, Virgil, died in 1915, he only farmed it for a short time and sold out.

Edwin C. Phillips passed away in 1917, about two years after his brother, Virgil, passed away. Frances E. Phillips was the sister of Virgil V. and Edwin C. Phillips, and she lived with Edwin C. and kept house for him, in the house formerly owned by Elder Reuben Allen.

In 1918, William E. Spencer & his wife, Josephine V. (Phillips) Spencer, purchased the Reuben Allen property from the heirs of Virgil V. & Edwin C. & Frances E. and the W.E. Spencer Family moved there on February 13, 1918. Josephine V. Spencer was the daughter of Virgil V. and Sarah E. Phillips. Sarah E. Phillips and Frances E. Phillips, lived with the William E. Spencer, Sr. family also. A woman by the name of Walker, was hired to care for Frances E. Phillips, as she was not able to care for herself.

William E. and Josephine V. Spencer were the parents of seven (7) children: Emily J.; William E. Jr.; Alston P.; Harry P.; Ruth Elizabeth (who died when only a few months of age); Frank K.; and Leland G. Six of the children grew up and lived beyond their seventh birthday.

As the family was in the milk business, the boys used to peddle milk before going to school, at times, but our Mother not only done the house work, the cooking and helped with the barn work also. We have never forgot how hard she worked, and never complained, while cooking for twelve people, besides all of the other work, seven days a week.

Grandma Phillips, (Sarah E. Phillips) did about all the mending and sewing, as well as helping with the other work. Frances E. Phillips passed away, in 1919, at the age of 96. Sarah E. Phillips passed away in 1939.

There was no electricity in any of the buildings, on the property, until 1921, as no electricity was brought into the village of North Scituate until about 1920. The Farm buildings were out of repair and needed much work done on them as well as adding on to the buildings to make room for more cows. Several cows were brought from the "Spencer Farm", in the North end of the Town when we moved here. Hens and pigs were also brought here. Pens had to be built for the pigs and a new henhouse had to be built. Until a new henhouse was built, James A. Hopkins, who lived just to the West, let us put our hens in his buildings for a while. A new Henhouse was built in the summer of 1918, and work was started on the barn, especially on the large front doors that were so hard to open and close. A man by the name of Benjamin F. Boss, a carpenter, along with William E. Spencer Jr., started that work. The Farm was named "Granite Farm", because of the many rocks & stones.

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Many changes were made in the farm buildings over the years, until 1944 when all the farm building on the South side of the Danielson Pike were sold after the death of William E. Spencer Sr., and her son, who worked on the farm for years for his father and mother, to sell the buildings, the cows, bull and the milk business.

Two big elm trees used to stand on the North side of the farm buildings, one at the East corner and one at the West corner, just a few feet from the edge of the State road. When the Danielson Pike, Route 6, was rebuilt, including widening, the trees were take out a large section of the original barn had to come down. A new cow shed was built, along with a barn large enough to house some of the cows and high enough to hold a lot of hay. 2-55 Ton Silos were put up and filled with silage corn for quite a few years, with the 5-acre lot just west of the present Bishop Garage that was built by Byron W. Page, some years ago, stands, where Mr. Page ran a Garage and Gas Station for several years. Besides the corn raised on that 5-acre lot, William Spencer leased a lot up an the Pine Hill road from a Mr. I.H.S. Steere, and between the two locations the two silos were filled, with some left over each year.

A Milk room was built at the East end of the New Barn, where the Boiler was for heating the water to make the steam for washing the milk bottles. This Boiler, by the way, was inspected each and every year by an Boiler inspector from the State of Rhode Island. There was also a large refridgerator Compressor along with a large storage room for the milk. A cane shaped aerator was used for cooling the milk as it was brought from the cow barn. There was a large dish shaped container at the top if this unit, with cloths for straining the milk as it ran down the sides and was cooled and as it ran into the big drum at the end it was strained again, so nothing could have been much cleaner then the milk after running through that system. From the large drum the milk was drawned off in milk cans and poured into the unit, that bottled the milk and then the bottles were capped and put in racks and then into storage.

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The storage refrigerator would hold about one thousand quarts of milk, bottled, plus milk in cans. The milk was bottled in both pint and quart bottles. The bottles had the name "GRANITE FARM" on them. Every day after the empty bottles were brought back from the milk route, they would be stacked in the washroom where they would washed, hot water and steam along with a rotary brush to make sure that the bottles were clean. One a month a State Milk inspector would meet the man that was delivering the milk to the various houses and take one bottle of milk with him for a State test, and then later on, within a few days, you would get the report of the State of Rhode Island Test.

One of the buildings in the cow barn area was a building where the Bull was kept. His station, as well as the sides of his inside housing as well as his outside pen had to be very tough and rugged. The Pen was generally built of Oak Lumber.

In the West corner of the cow pasture, as it bordered on the Danielson Pike, William E. Spencer, Sr., sold a piece of land to Byron W. Page, so that he could have a Garage built, as he had to get out of his Garage at that time. That Garage was located at the foot of the Pine Hill Road, just opposite the Institute Lane and the Danielson Pike. A building Contracting Company by the name of "Hanson & Erickson" built the Garage for Byron W. Page. That Garage building has been sold twice since it was built. The first time to a Mr. Drew, an oil man, and then to Howard W. Bishop, the present owner.

Josephine V. Spencer, the widow of William E. Spencer Sr., died in 1969. She, and her family, had sold the Buildings and land on the South side of the Danielson Pike, in 1944, to Alvah Round, who was going to run a farm and milk business, but it never worked out. Alvah Round sold the Barn and the other buildings, to a Paul Lathers and his wife. Mr. Lathers was in the Commercial Refridgerator Business. Mr. and Mrs. Lathers changed the type of the buildings around so that they made the main barn into living quarters.

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After adding on a Garage space to the North end of the Main Barn and finishing building his house the way they both wanted it, Paul Lathers then moved the, so-called Milk house, from the East end of the Barn to a piece of land on the West side of the barn, just North of the Bulls Barn. Paul had plans to make that building into a small tenement, by making it larger, but during the work on that building something went wrong during the working on same and there was a fire, and that seemed to end any plans for a new tenement.

Paul Lathers and his wife sold his property, in that area to a Anna M. Rowe, et al, for a Restaurant, but that too, did not work out for a profit going business. Anna M. Rowe sold out to a man by the name of Dennis Kimball, who ran the Restaurant for several years and then he sold to a woman who ran the Restaurant under the name of "Judith Helene's", for a few years and then she sold to the present owners, but the Restaurant is still run under the "Judith Helene's" name.

We now go to the five acre meadow, (that was a meadow), west of the present Garage, (Byron W. Page Garage), which was part of the original "Granite Farm" property, which was sold to Alvah W. Round, by the Josephine Spencer family. This meadow used to be planted every summer with field corn that was cut and put into the two silos on the farm and then after the corn was harvested the meadow was plowed, harrowed and winter Rye was planted and in the spring that would grow quite fast and would be cut and fed to the cows. By planting the rye in the fall and have it grow early in the spring it helped to keep the weeds down for the planting of the corn,

Today on that five acre meadow there are three houses facing the Pine Hill Road, a large building facing the Danielson Pike, with a printer, Cardinal Printing Co. at the East end, Bishop Cement Contracting & Supplies in the middle of the building with offices on the 2nd. Floor, a Machine Shop on the West end of the 1st. Floor and a Paper Products Company on the West end of the first Floor, The Bishop Paper Co..

