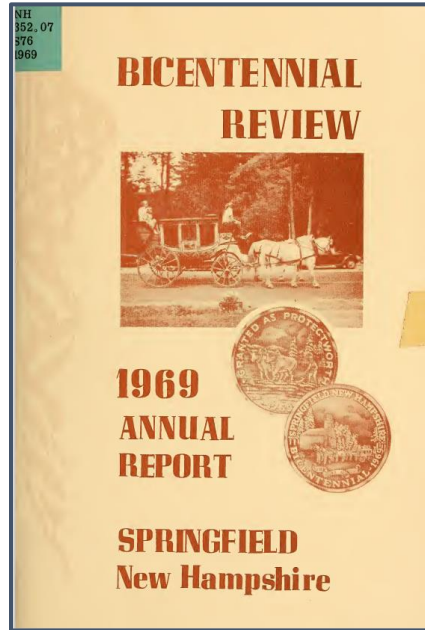


*A collection of Bicentennial photographs  
With captions from an interview  
with Bicentennial Chairman Fred Davis  
Fifty years later*

*Converted from 35 mm slides on file at the Springfield Historical Society  
Prepared November 2024*



## *Report of the Selectmen*

*It seems to us that Springfield's Bicentennial celebration on July 4-5-6 was quite possibly the greatest single event in the history of the Town. Far more than just the successful observance of an important milestone, it produced a spirit of cooperation and goodwill, neighborliness and self-sacrifice, of a "let's give it all we've got" attitude on the part of the whole town that far exceeded the fondest hopes of the planners of the celebration.*

*The Bicentennial Committee, comprised of Fred Davis, Chairman; Cheryl Patten, Carl Lewis, Pearl Wheeler and Evan George, with the help of the various sub-committees, produced the finest, most entertaining and inspiring program that human ingenuity could devise. Under Fred's able guidance, everything fell perfectly into place like pieces of a giant puzzle. No one could estimate the number of hours spent or the sacrifices- made by these people who worked in such harmony toward the one big goal. Our thanks go to each one of them as well as to the many people who contributed in other ways to the huge success of the celebration.*

*BENJAMIN KEZAR  
HENRY W. KIDDER III  
JOSEPH W. DAVIS*



Meeting House with the Libbie Cass Library in background. Fence with bunting was the parade reviewing stand.



General store on Main Street, owned at the time by Glen Matheson.





Sign with bunting at the old fire station on Main Street. It was a blacksmith shop before it was the fire station.



Sign hand made by Carl Lewis hanging at the corner of Four Corners Road and Main Street. The sign was restored June 2018 and hung above the retaining wall at the Historical Society building (previously the library).





General William Knowlton, a World War II veteran, addressing a crowd before the Meeting House. General Knowlton and his wife Peggy *ne'e* Downey owned a home on George Hill Road.



Crowd leaving after speech by General Knowlton





Fence and bunting put up by Fred Davis and Carl Lewis for the reviewing stand for the parade. In front of what was then the Libbie Cass Library, now the Historical Society Building.



Libbie Cass Memorial Library with bunting, later the Historical Society Building.





WWI Memorial with bunting in front of the Meeting House. It was moved to the corner of the building during the renovation of 1989. There was some controversy about the coloring of the letters.



Bicentennial Chairman Fred Davis accepting a flag from Fairfax Downey at the Meeting House. Mr. Downey had taken the place of Jim Cleveland, our representative in New London, who had to make an emergency trip to Vietnam. Mr. Downey was a famous author and retired Army major with service in WWII. He was the father in law of General Knowlton.



Another photo of Fairfax Downey presenting the American flag to Fred Davis.



Guest Speaker Harry Spanose, a lawyer from Newport, took the place of Representative Jim Cleveland. Mr. Spanose with a State Senator who ran for Governor a few times.





Guest speaker Harry Spanose, a lawyer from Newport, took the place of Representative Jim Cleveland. Mr. Spanosa was a State Senator and candidate for Governor.



Carl Lewis and Fred Davis hoisting the flag at the reviewing stand. The flag had been flown over the Capitol in Washington DC.



Fred Davis and Ben Kezar, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. At the bottom left of the photo is Fred's son Bernie Davis. Bottom right is Seelye Philbrick, a Justice of the Peace, a surveyor and Town Clerk for more than forty years.



Another photo hoisting the flag at the reviewing stand next to the Libbie Cass Library.





Sign made by Carl Lewis hanging at the corner of Four Corners and Main Streets. It was restored in 2018 and hung above the retaining wall at the Historical Society Building (previously the library)



New London veterans American Legion color guard marching past the Meeting House.





Color Guard marching past the old fire station on Main Street just before turning left onto Four Corners Road, the Meeting House and the reviewing stand. The site is now an open lot.



Following the color guard, stage coach owned by Colby Junior College (renamed Colby Sawyer College in 1976). Malcolm Patten driving his horses with Fred Davis. At rear are Princess Doreen Patten and Queen Pauline Philbrick (Fred's mother in law). The stage coach is permanently stored at the New London Historical Society.





Macolm Patten driving his white horses with Fred Davis.



Grand Marshal "Easy" Downey (wife of Fairfax Downey) leading the parade.





“Easy” Downey leading the parade. Photo taken from Meeting House second floor.



Color guard passing, all local veterans. Richard Weddel, Frank Anderson, Amy Anderson





Glen Matheson, owner of the Country Store and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, presenting the bouquet and prizes to Princess Doreen and Queen Pauline.



Queen Pauline Philbrick, Princess Doreen and Glen Matheson on the Meeting House steps.



On the Meeting House steps. Queen Pauline, Princess Doreen, Cheryl Patten (Malcolm's wife and Fred Davis's secretary), Fred Davis and Glen Matheson. At lower left is Mabel Patten (Dallas's wife and mother of Princess Doreen). Most of the ladies' costumes were hand made.



Stage coach passing the Meeting House. Malcolm Patten driving his horses, seated with Fred Davis. Princess Doreen and Queen Pauline seated at rear. Terry Davis approaching the coach – she had something important for her husband Fred.





Another photo of Malcolm Patten driving his horses with Fred Davis, Princess Doreen and Queen Pauline seated in the rear.



Queen Pauline Philbrick and Princess Doreen Patten at rear of the stage.





The parade had a number of antique cars. Owners and drivers unknown. Most likely these Fords were from Bill Kidder's collection at the Ice House Museum in New London.



Another special interest automobile. A 1932 Hudson owned by the Nulsens.





Unknown pair of oxen approaching Four Corners Road.



All manner of participants – just before turning on Four Corners Road.





One of many bands passing before the Meeting House.



Ford Econoline pulling a float by Lake Sunapee Plumbing and Heating. Float has a child in a wash tub and an outhouse with half moon on the door. Photo taken from second floor of Meeting House.





Float by Lake Sunapee Plumbing and Heating.



4H kids passing the Meeting House. Mike Todd (lawyer from New London) on the high wheel bicycle.





Mrs. Reesburg, a summer time resident, dressed as a clown with a few of her grandchildren.



Alan Waddel dressed as a hunter with his bloodhound.





Seth Lamson of New London dressed as a native American. He owned a real estate business and was a friend of Glen Matheson. Both “may have partaken” of a little fire water. Words on sign are not remembered. Followed by Mike Todd – dismounted. Riding slow was hard work on that thing.



Another photo of Seth Lamson.





Taken from the second floor of the Meeting House, the Patten brothers float pulled by oxen followed by Malcolm Patten's tractor.



Float by the Patten brothers farm pulled by oxen. Sign on the shed reads "Future milk for the moon." Neil Armstrong walked on the moon fifteen days later.





Sullivan County Sheriff's Mounted Posse – close to twenty horses.



Glen Matheson photographing the Sullivan County Sheriff's Mounted Posse.





Float from Kirk Heath's sugar orchard on Route 4A where Sugar House Road now runs. Theme is "Sugaring Then and Now."



Another photo of Kirk Heath's float themed "Sugaring Then and Now."





Maybelle Colby demonstrating sugar operations. She was a very hard worker on her farm on Philbrick Hill Road.



Float from one of two or three children's summer camps.





Music group on float from the Sugar House Campground.



Another photo of the float with music group from the Sugar House Campground





One of many antique cars in the parade. Driving past the old highway shed next to the Meeting House.



A Ford Model T passing before the Meeting House.





Model A Ford towing the Sunapee Fire Department's six man fire pump.



Sunapee's six man fire pump on a trailer.





Springfield's Engine Number 1 passing the old highway garage next to the Meeting House.



Engine Number 1





Display from Dick Jackson's summer/winter camp on Route 114 (driving toward Grantham). Property was owned by Ken Rogers in 2019.



Leapin' Lena passing the old fire station.





Bud Colcord with a pair of hinnies. At right is Frank Easton who owned Star Lake Farm with his is wife Ann. Frank Easton was a retired Marine Colonel, fighter pilot and Town Selectman.



Bud Colcord, a miner, with his pair of hinnies loaded with mining equipment. Hinnies are a cross between a stallion and a donkey jenny





Beaver Grange float passing the old fire station on Main Street.



Beaver Grange float pulled by a pair of ponies – just before turning on to Four Corners Road.





Harry Cole with a team of four oxen pulling a sugaring tank on a scoot from Star Lake Farm. Followed by Ann Easton with a yoke and two sugar buckets. She and her husband Frank owned and operated Star Lake Farm.



Harry Cole with his team of oxen. Harry was a World War II veteran who participated in the Normandy landing June 6, 1944. He was a lifelong resident – passed away in 2022.





Ann Easton following the Star Lake Farm scoot.



Bicentennial Chairman Fred Davis in buckskin with Betty Collins.





Fred Davis in colonial uniform in front of the Meeting House with Seelye Philbrick and Justin Nichols. Fred is presenting them with a Bicentennial medallion. Philbrick was Town Clerk for many years. Nichols served as Fire Chief, Road Agent as representative to Concord.



Chairman Fred Davis cutting the anniversary cake which had been made by Twin Lake Village.





In front of the Meeting House. Auctioneer Kenny Barton from Grantham, Bud Colcord, Elsie Heath and Harry Cole.



Auction in front of the old highway garage. Articles had been donated and stored in the garage. At left is Selectman Ben Kezar. Fred Davis, Frank Easton (red plaid shirt) and Warren George (red ball cap).





The library was open for the entire event.



Glen Matheson pumps gas at the Springfield General Store.





Winnie Wigg in the middle with her family of summer folks in costume.



Pauline Rudner Philbrick (left), Queen of the Bicentennial with friends in front of the Meeting House.





Mabel Patten and her daughter Doreen, Princess of the Bicentennial. Fred's son Bernie in the background.



Girls in costume. Anderson (green dress), Wheeler in background, Heath in polka dot.





Betty Collins, a “Grandma Moses” artist who donated pictures for the auction



Terry Davis and Chairman Fred in front of the Meeting House.