

# The Buckland Times #1

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## Some Buckland History

Richard Keeney is known to most people as someone who has been around town for a long time. Most people call him Dick, but there are those who refer to him as "the Mayor of Buckland". He was born in Buckland in 1916, in a house on the S.E. corner of Adams St. and Tolland Tpke.. The house is gone. Some of the trees are still there. There were three houses on the corner. The third house from the corner was his Grandfather's house. His Father, Walter W. Keeney was probably born there. This house was a big house with a barn and an enclosure out back, where Agway is today. In this branch of the Keeney family this was known as the "Homestead"

Dick's grandparents were Herbert and Elsie (Risley) Keeney. Herbert rented out some of his land, but there at their barn on Adams St. lambs were herded from the Buckland train Depot nearby into their enclosure. The lambs were butchered there in the barn, and the meat was sold locally at \$.08 per pound.

Dick's father Walter became an auto mechanic. That was a new job when he was a young man. I would guess that he probably learned his trade by working on farm machinery, or by helping out the blacksmith whose shop was near the train depot. Walter's first shop was on one side of Herbert's barn. It was about 1930 when he built the garage that still stands next to the old Buckland School. At that time there was a general store on the other side. The Buckland Post Office was on one side of the general store. When Dick returned from 5 yrs. of military service during WWII he eventually took over that garage, and worked there as a mechanic for more than 40 yrs.. There at the center of Buckland for so many years he earned his nickname "the Mayor of Buckland" or just "His Honor". I feel sure that Mr. Cassano won't mind sharing the honors.

Dick's mother was Mabel (Birdsey) Keeney. She was born in South Windsor, and died as a young woman in 1924 when Dick was just 8 yrs. old. The women in the family were all great cooks according to Dick. He seems to remember very well the pot roast and other local specialties he grew up on. Women in those <sup>days</sup> often fed the hired hands as well as the family, so it could be a good sized job.

*as told by Dick Keeney to Sue Way*

Do you have a story about Buckland or Hilliardville that you would like to tell? Do you have an add that you would like to place in the next edition of the Buckland Times? Is there a birthday or anniversary that you would like to announce? Please call 643-8313, or write to me Sue Way at 180 1/2 Center St., Manchester, Ct. 06040. I don't have an answering machine, so please call back if I'm not at home.

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