

The Buckland Times

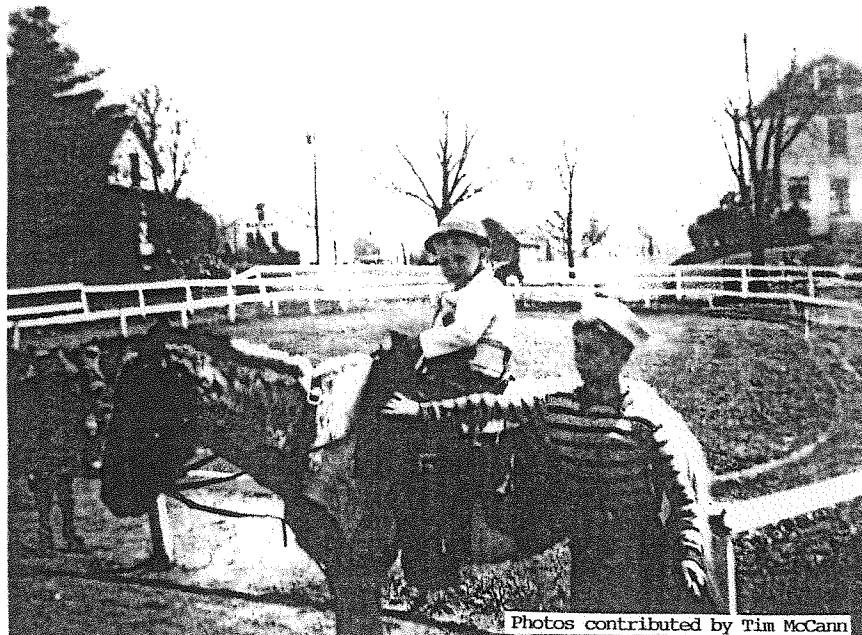
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Photos contributed by Tim McCann

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WOODLAND GARDENS

Celebrating their
60th

Anniversary



THE THRESHER PONY FARM

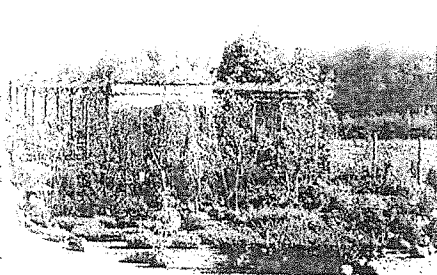
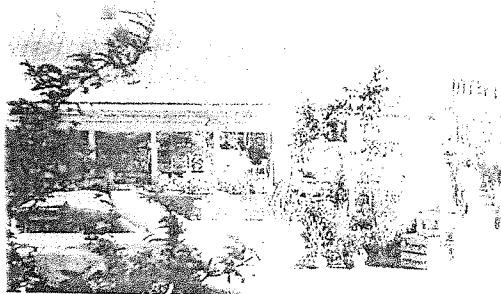
The Thresher Pony Farm about 1951. Above young Tim McCann sits on the pony. Herb Seymour's house on Depot St. is on the left with Gerich's garage behind it. The Thresher's house is on the right. In the distance may be Tom Hackett's house. Does anyone recognize the young man in the sailor hat? Below we see Tom McCann Jr. in his Hopalong Cassidy outfit, obviously a veteran pony rider. The barn in the rear was the barn Herbert S. Keeney insisted the State move when it built New State Rd. I understand that some of you remember the names of these ponies. The

Thresher Pony Farm was the place to be, especially on a Sunday afternoon for many a child growing up in Manchester between 1939 and 1960. For some parents this was a very good way to get the kids to behave well through a long church service! For more about the Thresher Pony Farm please see issue #4 in which Merv Thresher shares the story of the farm. Merv died during this past year, 1998 and Volume One of "The Buckland Times" is dedicated to him and all those who have taken the time to tell us their stories. Thank you.

THE FLOWERING OF MANCHESTER WOODLAND GARDENS CELEBRATES

Throughout the 19th century America grew. The American West was gradually opened up to agriculture,

creating economic competition with Eastern states. In Connecticut the answer involved adaptation and



innovation -"Yankee ingenuity". Many farmers packed up and moved west, others turned to industry. Both agricultural and industrial growth attracted immigrants who came in ever increasing numbers. Cities doubled and tripled in size. Many eastern farmers turned to specialized farming to serve the needs of the growing population. Dairy, poultry and egg farms prospered. Orchards, vegetables and strawberries were planted. Innovations in tobacco farming gave new life to that endeavor in the Connecticut Valley. Clifford Burr took a job with Chase Nursery Co. of Geneva N.Y. as an agent selling fruit trees and berry bushes on "commission" and set out on bicycle through Coventry, Bolton and Andover, and later other towns even into late winter. In 1898 Clifford Burr bought 39 acres on Oakland St. and established his own Nursery bringing this adaptation in agriculture to Manchester.

One of Manchester's immigrant families, the Zapadka family came to America about 1905 from Poland and lived on Nelson Place in North Manchester for quite a few years. Nelson Place is no longer there. It's entrance onto old North Main St. would have been east of the YMCA. Julius Zapadka worked for Cheney Brothers. He and his wife Mary had four children. Their son John was born in 1912. The Zapadka family moved to Irving St. in 1929. For many an American family their fondest hope was to save enough to buy a home of their own. Often the ideal was to move out of the crowded cities to a place where they could see some of God's green earth, perhaps plant some grass and do some gardening of their own. You might say that the Zapadka family has been very much a part of this story, part of the flowering of Manchester and America.

According to Burr Co. records John Zapadka worked there, perhaps in his teenage years. Is this where he learned to do his gardening, did he work for John McConville who did business as a nurseryman at 7 Windemere St. from 1932-1939 before moving his business to Woodbridge St.? Did he learn from his parents, or neighbors, or was he self taught, or all of the above? The Burr Co. was a prosperous and growing business. Was that his inspiration, or did he perhaps see that there was a market for plants that the Burr Co. did not offer - annual and perennial flowers, vegetable plants? Whatever his training and inspiration may have been he rented land on Tolland Trpk in the "Talcotville Flats" where he grew some of these plants. He then chose to use the time honored method of the Yankee Peddler. Adding fruits and vegetables obtained at the farmers market in Hartford to his truck he sold door to door. The original Yankee Peddlers were another 19th century adaptation setting out to sell tin pots and pans, the excess production of their shops. Their wagons traveled to all corners of North America. From these peddlers comes our nick name Connecticut Nutmeggers, but that's another story. The automobile by 1935 was well on it's way to changing life in America, but there were still many families that did not have one and certainly not one available to the lady of the house. Regular delivery of many foods was a way of life. There were three vegetable peddlers in Manchester with regular routes. Walter Perret Sr. told me of going with his father on his route, and remembered crossing paths with John Zapadka and Doug King. That business however was not going to last, the auto and the modern grocery store would see to that. The Perret family went on to bigger trucks and the Manchester Moving Co. Doug King bought Pero's Fruit Stand on Oakland St., and John Zapadka bought a house and a piece of property at 168 Woodland St. where he and his wife Anita established their home and set down the roots of their business. This 1944 add offers quite a variety of plants already. By 1947 they had settled on a perfectly natural name.

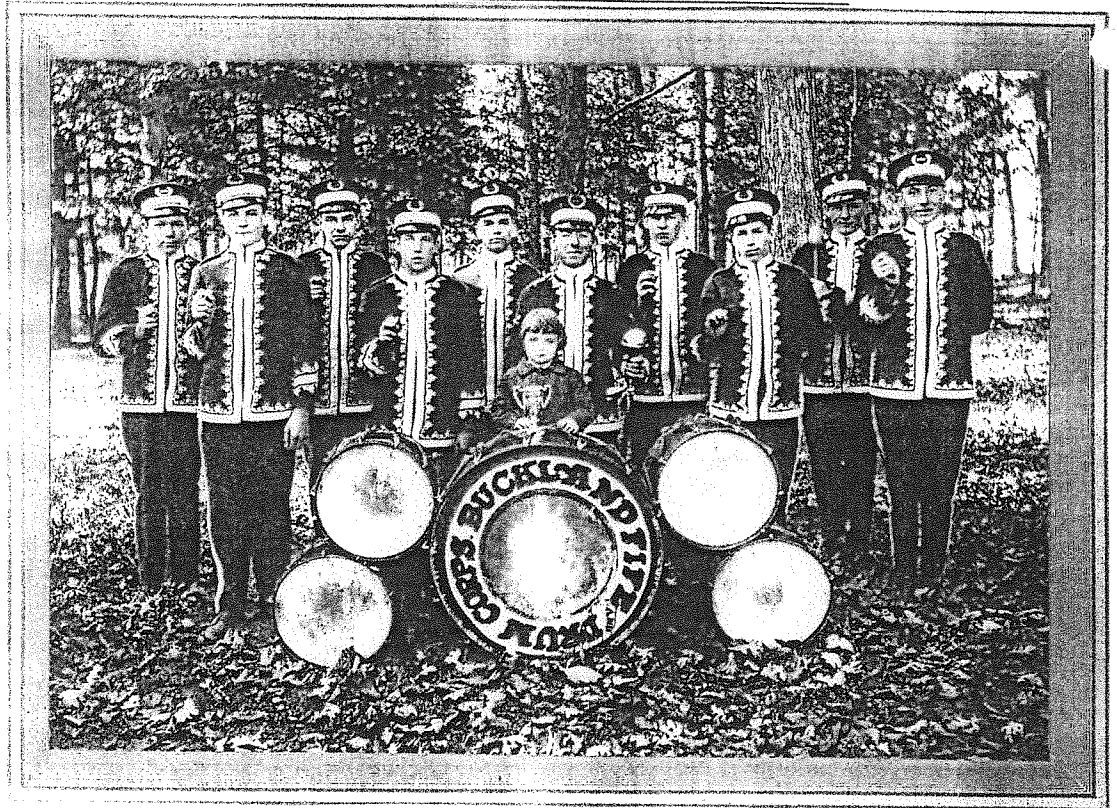
THE DONAHUE FAMILY OF CO. LIMERICK AND ADAMS STREET

At least four generations of Donahues have lived on Adams St. Cornelious Donahue appears in the 1870 U.S.Census aged 24 on Adams St.. He "works in the papermill". Below his name is listed a female no name given, but age shown as 60, born in Ireland. I think this must have been his mother Catherine who's death is recorded in town records. She is buried with Cornelious and his wife Mary Ann in St.Bridget's Cemetary. The inscription reads "Native of Garadine(?) Co. Limerick" apparently no need to add Ireland to that. St. Bridget's parishioners knew very well where Co. Limerick was. Cornelious appears next in the 1891 Manchester City Directory as employed by the PA Co. (Peter Adams CO.) and living on Tolland Trpk. He and his wife Mary Ann had three sons William J. born in 1884, F. Joseph born in 1886, and J. Charles born in 1890. Joseph worked for the telephone company. He and his wife Grace had 9 children Jim, Joe, John, Grace, George, Margaret, Ann, Jean and one child who died in infancy. For a number of years they lived next door to Bill and his family, on Adams St. Charles eventually became a chauffeur for the Wickham estate, and lived there. Cornelious died in 1893 when his youngest son was just 3 at the young age of 42, the cause being consumption (tuberculosis) which at the time was the leading cause of death in the U.S.. He was the son of William and Kate(or Catherine) Donahue. Chances are that his son Bill, 9 years old when his father died went to work at a very young age to help out his family perhaps at the Hilliard Mill.

Today a family like this might be broken up or forced onto Welfare rolls. From our point of view is that necessarily a better alternative? The Hilliard family did show concern for it's workers and their families. His mother Mary Ann (Tammany) Donahue married again in 1896 to John Carroll a stone mason, related to the Carroll family that worked on the Hartman Plantation.

William J. Donahue is listed in Manchester Directories as having had several occupations. He 1st appears in 1902 -emp. EEH CO (E.E.Hilliard Co.), in 1915 -emp. Morton & Dwyer a grocery store on Depot Square, in 1922 -emp. NYNH & HRR, Htfd.. Can you figure that one out? . . .The railroad. In 1923 he took on the job of maintaining Buckland School. The new school building was completed in 1922. After all the work of getting the school built I'm sure that Buckland appreciated having the building well taken care of. I've been told that Bill also was active in local sports teams. Bill was in a serious Auto accident about 1935 and died rather suddenly in 1940 of acute bronchitis and pneumonia. He had married Ella Bennet in 1911. Their only child William V. was born in Feb.1914. It should not be too difficult to guess his middle name or understand why he kept that a closely gaurded secret from his Buckland school chums. However I'm not going to be the one to give up the information.

THE BUCKLAND FIFE & DRUM CORP-1917 and about 1910



Buckland about 1903. "A group sitting around in front of a country store discusses the possibility of organizing a drum corp. . .Main draw back, Money! 'Tell you what, boys' said Julian Palmes, 'I'll supply the strawberries if you want to run a Strawberry Festival. So I mowed off a section of hay lot and the fellers got some planks from the lumber yard and built a platform. They found a fiddler and piano player and had dancing at ten cents a shot. They were able to purchase the drums with the proceeds." The words of your old neighbor Julian Palmes comes to you from an interview done with Julian in 1954 by Ed Olsen for The Company of Fifers and Drummers museum, library and archives which is located in Ivoryton , Ct. This interview is now part of their Julian Palmes collection which includes one of his

See inside



Buckland Fife and Drum CORP continued from back page:

drums and a handwritten book of drum beats. Including one called "Nancy Lee" dated Buckland ,Ct.Mar.20, 1909. Julian was a member of the Talcottville Drum Corp founded in 1892. In 1939 after his mother's death he moved to Moodus where he was a long time member of the Moodus Fife and Drum Corp.

The interview goes on to say that, "The corp (Buckland Fife and Drum), unfortunately, didn't last long. Julian was unable to be active due to his farm work, and dropped out when chided. He added, 'An' I guess I was the only one that knew much about drummin' to rudiments. . .It didn't last long after I left.' Julian mentioned that a 'new Buckland Corp' was formed some years later." All of this information came to me through Susan Cifaldi music Librarian and Assistant Archivist for the Company of Fifers and Drummers. Perhaps this dance platform was the one that stood behind the farmhouse on Buckland St. directly behind the General Store. Dick Keeney remembered this as the Boukus Dance Hall open two nights a week, when the Boukus family lived there others remember the pavilion being rented out to various groups, but perhaps it began it's life as a place to raise money for the Fife and Drum Corp. If the idea of a Buckland Fife and Drum Corp died for a while for the lack of a capable leader eventually the Corp found a leader in William J. Donahue.

William J.(Bill) Donahue remembered in past issues of the "B.T." as the man in charge of maintainence at the Buckland School is the man at the center of both of these photos (see next page) holding the leader's baton. The pictures were found recently in the attic of the home he built at 126 Adams St. by his daughter-in-law Evelyn (Gilbert) Donahue, along with lots of sheet music. The two groups in the two photos are made up of entirely different people with the exception of Bill, and seem to be a 1st and 2nd generation with new uniforms and a new bass drum in the 2nd picture as well as a trophy of some kind. Both of these pictures were published in the Journal Inquirer in the hope that someone would be recognized. The only other person identified so far is John Coughlin who is the 2nd from the left in the more recent photo, recognized by his daughter, Joan Furlong. She realized that picture was the same as one in their family's collection. A note on the back says "Daddy at 15". According to the 1910 U.S.Census he lived with his family at 76 Woodland St. in 1910. However it's important to remember that some street names and many street numbers were changed in Manchester in 1915. The 1915 Manchester City Directory gives his address as 299 Woodland St. John Coughlin was born in 1902 which would put a date on this picture of 1917. I think this date and the age of all the young men in this picture may tell us what became of the Buckland Fife and Drum Corp. I've asked several longtime Buckland natives about the Buckland Fife and Drum Corp. So far I haven't found anyone who remembers a thing about it. A third picture of a young man in a sailor's uniform holding a rifle provides the clue. The note on the back reads "Bill,

"Hang this up in the clubhouse as a reminder of your star drummer". If that second picture was taken in 1917 then perhaps many of these young men were called on to serve their country during WWI. Perhaps they hoped to get back together after the war but never did. It may be that each member of the corp got a copy of the picture. With this in mind Earl and Dorothy Armstrong sent me the Buckland Honor Roll, a list of the men who served in WWI.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Allen Balch | *John Glode | Arthur Keeney |
| Alfred Bean | Fred. Galinet | Eugene Keeney |
| Charles Bean | James Healey | George Kennedy |
| Clifford Beebe | Otto Heller | John Kennedy |
| Ephraim Cowles | *Harold Irish | Clement Lewis |
| Ernest Cowles | *Fred Macie | Joseph McDermott |
| Harry Fogarty | Clarence Jeffers | Samuel Newbury |
| Joseph Glode | Frank Jeffers | Clinton Webb |
| James Cowles | John Jeffers | Frank Williams |
| Lyman Cowles | | |

* Indicates those who died while serving.

It occurred to me that I could look these men up in a set of books at Mary Cheney Library called Service Records of Ct. 1917-1920 and perhaps learn who had served in the Navy. Looking over the names it is striking how many brothers served. I'm sorry to report that Harold Irish, James Healy, Harry Fogarty and Joseph McDermott don't seem to be listed in this book. I did find that Clinton Webb, George Kennedy and the 4 Cowles brothers served in the Navy. Perhaps someone can fit one of those names to the young man in the sailor's uniform. If you remember anything at all about the Buckland Fife and Drum Corp or recognize anyone in the photos please give me a call 643-8313, or the Manchester Historical Society 647-9983, or write to The Company of Fifers and Drummers Museum, Library and Archives, Ivoryton, Ct., and that museum sounds like it would be an interesting place to visit.

This photo and Drum Corp contributed by Evelyn Donahue

