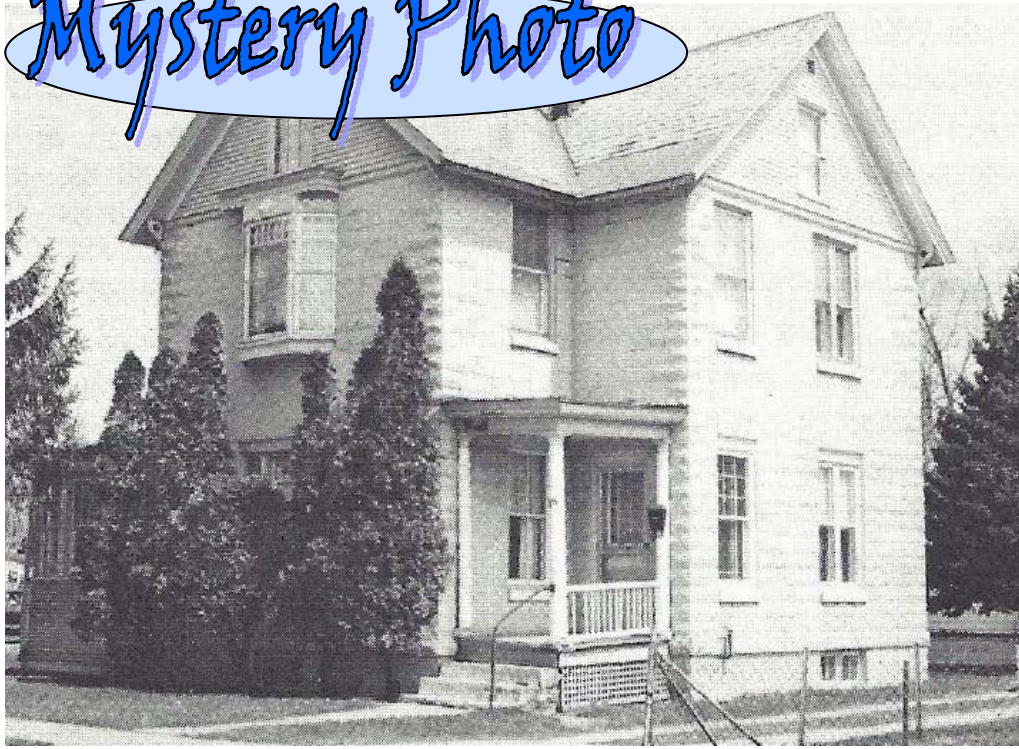


Mystery Photo



Here's another great "mystery photo" from our archives. Look familiar? Any specific memories? If you have any information about the building, please contact Leslie Turner at 655.7250 or e-mail jturnerii@yahoo.com.

Consider becoming a member of the Winooski Historical Society and receive the quarterly newsletter with articles on the rich history of Winooski. Please see application on reverse.



Winooski Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2013

WINOOSKI WOMEN CONTINUE TO BUILD ON 56 YEAR FRIENDSHIP

by Al Blondin



Back in 1957, while attending classes at Winooski High School, the friendship of five girls blossomed between Carol (Perrotte) Hamner, Janet (Gamelin) Duncan, Joyce (Venezia) Tasetano, Rita (Companion) Weston and Beverly (Myers) Villemaire. Two of the women, Rita and Janet attended St. Francis Xavier School, and the other three attended Memorial School on Union Street. The girls, at that time, were slightly aware of each other and through high school, their friendship really took hold. During their high school years, they would often be seen together attending school functions and social events. After high school, each married, had families, and careers of their own but they never lost touch with each other.

As their families grew and went their separate ways, the girls decided it was time to renew their "High School Friendship of 1957". In 1997, just after celebrating their 40th class reunion, they planned their "Get-Together" by spending more time as friends. The girls made a commitment to go out once a month to a local restaurant, enjoy a good meal, and talk over the last month's events. In the summer, they now spend time on a 3-day trip to Maine. They have been going to Maine as a group for the last ten years. They always stay at the same cottages, walk the Marginal Way, and enjoy the beautiful ocean while sharing each other's company. While in Maine, they also do a lot of shopping and dining out at some of their favorites seafood restaurants and occasionally, take in show at the Ogunquit Playhouse. Most of their evening is spent playing cards and reliving the good days.



In the winter, the girls will take an occasional 3-day trip to New York City around Christmas-time, and while there, they may go to Rockefeller Center or to a Broadway show. Their favorite restaurant in New York City is Sardi's. The *Maitre d'* there now refers to them as the "Ladies from Vermont." Other places in New York City they have visited include Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, Chinatown, and Little Italy. They have also enjoyed a pleasant carriage ride around Central Park.

At this point, I might add, that the Winooski High School class of 1957 has held a 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 55th reunion, with each reunion being very successful; attended, by classmates returning from California, Lake Tahoe, Arizona, Montana, Tennessee, Florida, and Kentucky. Not only have these girls been close; but I might mention, the whole class of 1957 has managed to remain in touch over the years.

(Continued on next page)



MUSEUM MOVE UPDATE

To date we are still waiting for our new location, on the third level of the Mill, to be vacated. We anticipate the Winooski Historical Society Museum to move within a few weeks. Until then the museum will be closed but if you need information please call Al Blondin at 878.3861 or Rita at 655.1846.



Winooski Historical Society
Champlain Mill
20 Winooski Falls Way
Suite 42
Winooski, VT 05404

MUSEUM HOURS



CONTACT US

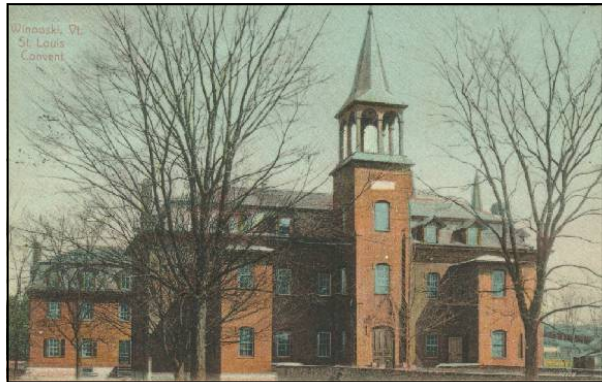
E-mail: winooskihistory@yahoo.com

Website: www.onioncity.com



Mystery Photo Revealed!

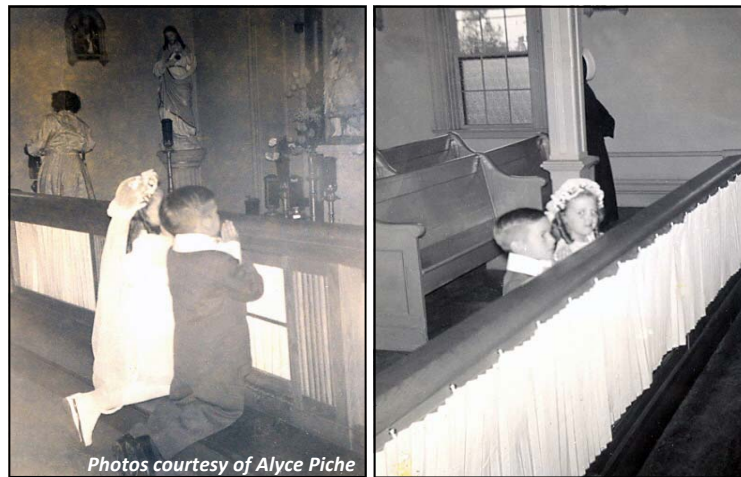
Our picture shows the chapel that was located in the old Saint Louis Convent. The convent and school were built in 1869. The building was demolished in 1967. At the present, Our Lady of Providence residence is located at 47 West Spring Street. Our Lady of Providence (OLP) is a 44-resident, Level III Residential Care Facility. OLP was originally a Convent for the Sisters of Providence, who taught at St. Francis Xavier School.



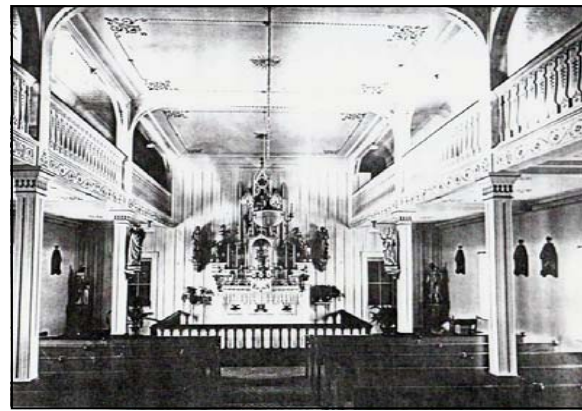
This photo stumped quite a number of people although it did spark some memories for a few. Elaine (Loiselle) Read recalls spending some time in the chapel with other students assisting the nuns with a special chore. The nuns would instruct the children to remove their shoes and glide around buffing the floors with their stocking feet. Mike Viens remembers walking down the wide hallway/balcony above the chapel with a nun and some fellow students towards a

big wooden door. He recalls looking down and always seeing nuns praying. On the other side of the door was a room with a high ceiling and a lot of old trunks lined up around the room. A rather mysterious room to a youngster! He recalls helping to move some of the trunks out. He humorously admits that this task was not a voluntary one but rather more "detention" oriented. Alyce Piche recalls a special First Communion that took place in the chapel in May of 1953. Her daughter Lorraine had been all set to receive the sacrament with the rest of her class a few weeks earlier when she and another classmate, Richard Loiselle, contracted the mumps forcing them to miss the ceremony. When the two of them recovered they received their first communion in a small ceremony in the chapel.

If anyone has more information or memories regarding the Chapel we would enjoy hearing from you. Please contact Leslie Turner at 655.7250 or e-mail jturnerii@yahoo.com.



Photos courtesy of Alyce Piche



Blast from the Past...

A vintage article from
The Burlington Free Press
Transcribed by Leslie Turner

Thursday, December 26, 1907

J.P. Lavery of Barre has begun the setting of a handsome monument in Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery for the Council St. Laurent, St. John the Baptist Society, of this village. The design of the monument was made by Hector Huard and Edward Duprat, members of the council, and is in the shape of a cross eight feet high, with a rock face base, polished die, with the emblem of St. John the Baptist Union carved in center. The emblem is arranged with the flags of the U.S. and France crossed in the center, beaver at the foot of the cross, with a wreath of maple leaves carved at head of the die. The whole is to be surmounted by the statue of St. John the Baptist cut in Italian marble. Mr. Lavery had personal charge of the cutting and building of the monument which will cost the society in the neighborhood of \$500.



PHOTO MEMORIES

Contributed by Diane Germain

The truck pictured belonged to my father, Clement L. Germain. It was stuck in the snow bank on the curve on Chase Street. He delivered heating oil to people all over Winooski and the nearby Burlington area. It was 1943 and we were living at 226 Main Street at the time. My father said sometimes he'd be warm at home after dinner when it was mid-winter, 10 degrees or colder out and he'd get a call from someone who had run out of heating oil. He didn't have the heart to say no so out he'd go. In those days he had to haul 2 5-gallon cans up icy sidewalks and slippery stairs to deliver the oil.



The monument as it stands today, over one hundred years later.

IN MEMORIAM

Recently our community lost two treasured Centenarians:



Dorothea Cameron (left), was born on June 21, 1909. She was a Teacher in Winooski for 40 years; also, an Organist at St. Stephen's Church for 63 years. Dorothea, 103, died on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the Starr Farm Nursing Center.

Stella Frenette (right), 100, passed away in the comfort of her home on Sunday, January 6, 2013. She was born in Winooski on July 1, 1912. Stella raised her ten children in a small home on Audette Street.



WINOOSKI WOMEN CONTINUE TO BUILD ON 56 YEAR FRIENDSHIP

(continued from front page)

On January 22, 2013, I caught up with the girls at Junior's Restaurant in Winooski, and they were making plans for this summer's trip to Maine. They told me how this friendship that blossomed in Winooski, is so precious to them, and how they enjoy sharing their many good times, reminiscing, and laughing about the old days and yes, crying; listening to each other's tales of good times and bad; aches and pains too.

While writing this article, I was told that there are a few other groups in Winooski that have also managed to stay in touch and do similar activities with their former classmates. We would like to hear from you and share your stories with our readers. I can be reached at 878.3861 or alalfie@comcast.net.



Do you have any old Winooski photos, slides or negatives (buildings, street scenes, portraits, class photos, etc.) that you'd like to donate or share (we can scan a copy and give you credit) with the Winooski Historical Society? Contact: Leslie Turner at 802.655.7250 or jturnerii@yahoo.com.



Winooski Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Amount _____
E-mail _____ Date _____

2013 Annual dues \$7 (individual), \$10 (family), or \$5 (student and 65+) are payable to:

Winooski Historical Society
c/o Leslie Turner
119 Bellevue St.
Winooski, VT 05404

Please note: Any question regarding your membership call Leslie (802.655.7250) or Rita Martel (802.655.1846)