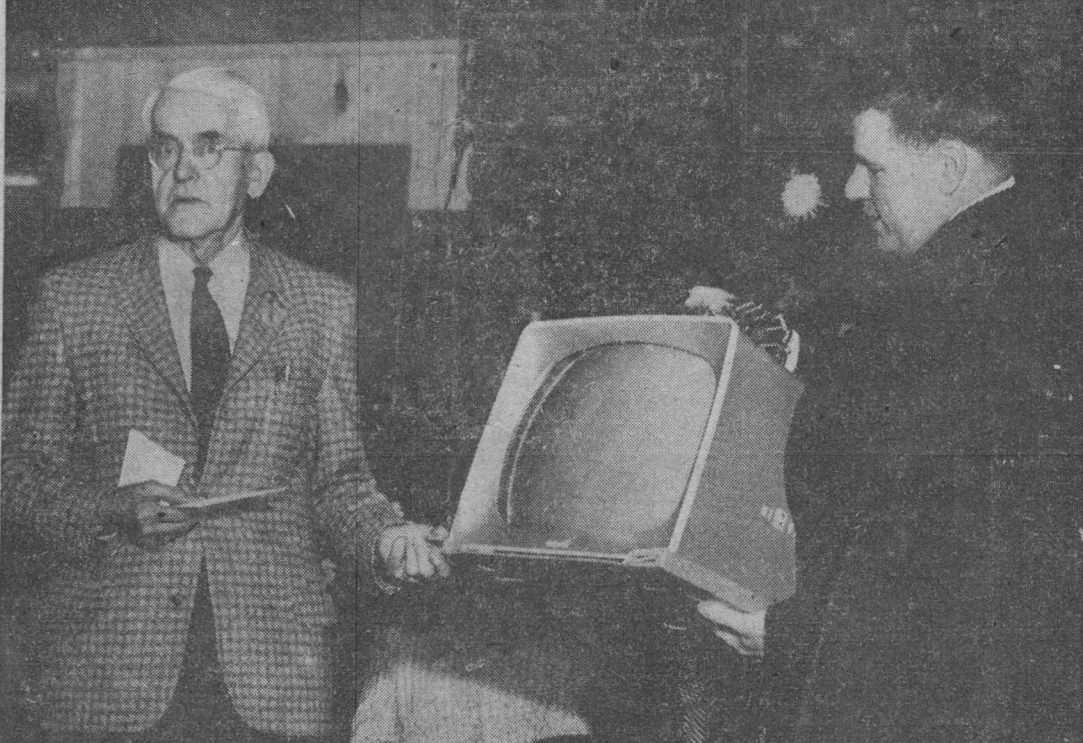


Milestones Recalled By Neighbors, Classmates, Pupil



WORTHINGTON—Friends and neighbors, associates past and present, classmates and a pupil combined in a Worthington Grange "This Is Your Life" tribute Tuesday night to Arthur Granville Capen, 77-year-old town personality of many decades' standing. Left to right are Cullen Tower of Agawam, a classmate; Harry Bates, another classmate and lifetime friend; Mr. Capen; Howard Johnson of Dalton, another schooldays friend, and Walter Tower, a pupil who treasures a report card signed by Mr. Capen.



WORTHINGTON—Charles Eddy, master of the Worthington Grange, presented Mr. Capen with a portable television set on behalf of its membership, one of several presentations during the evening.

By MRS. ROBERT W. HIXON
WORTHINGTON—The Worthington Grange paid tribute Tuesday night in the town hall to Arthur Granville Capen, by turning back the pages of his life so that he might relive again the memorable events and incidents.

He was born on Dec. 4, 1881, the son of Granville and Hattie (Blackman) Capen, in the house in the Riverside District now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Day, where his grandfather, Daniel Capen, settled when he moved from Windsor. Mr. Capen's early years were spent in the Riverside School, where happy memories were associated with Eva Fairman, Jim Corbett and others. Cullen Tower, now living in Agawam, brought those early days back to life.

Mr. Capen continued his schooling at the "Select School," as it was called, which was held in the town hall. Harry Bates, from his past, that of Arthur Capen, a classmate, lifetime friend and neighbor, and Howard Johnson, also a native of Worthington for many years now living in Dalton. Mr. Capen taught school in four of Worthington's district schools.

Walter Tower of Worthington was one of his pupils at Riverside School in 1910 and 1911 and still has a report card to prove it. Mr. Capen also taught in Austin, Texas, one year under the American Missionary Board, and 10 years in Enfield. Mrs. Howard Wheeler brought back to life the days in 1918 in Enfield, where she also taught. Mrs. Wheeler now lives and teaches in Springfield. Mr. Capen swapped houses with Walter "Pop" Shaw, acquiring the house in which he now lives.

Mrs. Elizabeth Torrey spoke as his friend and neighbor. She reminded him of the time her mother, Mrs. Anna Cole and he were on the School Committee. Mr. Capen had no phone at the time and when Mrs. Cole wanted to see him on school matters she would hang a red table spread out in a certain place, and he would go to find out what she wanted. One day Mrs. Torrey washed and happened to hang something red in that particular spot. As if summoned he appeared at the house and stood around for a time, finally asking, "Did you want me for something?"

Mr. Capen joined the First Congregational Church of Worthington in 1903. Since then he has been active as a trustee for 20 years and secretary of the board of trustees. For 49 years he has been the church organist and clerk of the church for 30 years. Lawrence Mason, chairman of the board of trustees of the Worthington Church, spoke highly of his dependability and the absence of critical and belittling remarks of suggestions he did not agree with and ready always with answers to questions pertaining to church affairs and records.

Mrs. Harriet Osgood, treasurer of Worthington Church, has been a neighbor for many years and she spoke of her "orders" from Mr. Capen on church affairs. For most these many duties would be quite enough, but Mr. Capen manages many more. He has served as clerk-treasurer of the Worthington Fire District for 26 years. C. Kenneth Osgood, Worthington fire chief, spoke as a friend and neighbor.

Miss Marion Bartlett, a friend and neighbor and vice president of the Library Assn., visits regularly on Wednesdays and Saturdays the library where Mr. Capen has given 50 years of faithful and dependable service as librarian. She spoke of his other activities as secretary-treasurer of the Worthington Historical Society, secretary of the 4-H town committee, chairman of the local Civilian Defense Organization during World War II and town auditor at times.

In 1904 Mr. Capen joined the Worthington Grange No. 90 when it was reorganized. A charter member, he received his 50 year pin in 1955. His Grange work was started on the music committee and he supplied the music for all the Grange activities. He was elected and installed as secretary of the Grange and has held that office for 35 years. Charles Eddy, master of Worthington Grange, congratulated him and spoke of him as "the man behind the man behind the wheel."

Walter E. Kellogg III of Williamsburg, master of Hillside Pomona Grange, told of Mr. Capen joining Hillside Pomona in 1936. In 1942 he was elected and installed as secretary, an office he has held for 17 years. He is also a member of the state and national Granges. Deputy C. Wesley Thayer from Feeding Hills, gatekeeper of the Massachusetts State Grange, extended greetings to him as a true and loyal Granger. Mr. Capen has been correspondent for the Berkshire Eagle since 1942, keeping the public posted on the various activities of the community.

Mrs. Horace Bell, nee Marjorie

Bartlett, reminded him of a play "The Ready-made Family," that was put on to raise money for the choir to go to Ocean Park. Mrs. Bell played the part of a widow with three children and Mr. Capen the part of a widower with two children.

From all this busy life Mr. Capen has spare time to act as overseer for three private homes while their owners are out of town.

Mrs. Ruby Manning, assistant lecturer of Worthington Grange, presented Mr. Capen a chocolate cake. Charles Eddy, master, presented on behalf of the Grange members, a life membership to Worthington Grange No. 90 and a portable television set as tokens of their appreciation for his many years of faithful service.

Walter E. Kellogg II, master of Hillside Pomona Grange, presented to Mr. Capen a life membership in that organization. The TV set was purchased with the proceeds of a mammoth food sale that Mrs. Ruby Manning promoted and to which Mr. Capen himself contributed by ordering some of the food; and several donations from friends. The entire program was recorded on tape.

WORTHINGTON
For Sale
COLLEGE GIRLS—good used clothing. Special rack of clothes one dollar each. College Shop, 277 Main St. Open Thurs. Fri. & Sat., 9 to 5. 24t-3/19*

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