

PART XVII: 1953-1967

Keene marked 200 years under its New Hampshire charter on June 28-July 5, 1953. Mayor Laurence M. Pickett named City Councilman Don W. Cook as chairman of the proceedings. Special events included exhibits, a street dance, an historical pageant, an air show, and a gigantic parade.

Youth Day, June 29, featured a road race around the Five Mile Drive, various other sports events, and a fireworks display at Alumni Field. Arts, crafts, and industrial exhibits were arranged in City Hall auditorium. An outdoor square dance was held on Main Street, with the assistance of Ralph G. Page of Keene, an authority on American folk dancing and a widely recognized writer on the subject. A special Bicentennial March composed by Karl R. Beedle was performed in honor of the celebration.

An historical pageant, "The Happy Valley," directed by Mrs. Dorothy C. Drew and narrated by her husband Harold F. Drew, was staged at Alumni Field on Thursday and Friday, July 2 and 3. Among its 18 scenes was a reconstruction of the Upper Ashuelot fort, tableaux from Keene's past, highlight events and personalities of local history, and a guest appearance by Neva Jane Langley, Miss America in 1953. A number of Keene's historic homes were opened to visitors for the celebration, a poster contest was held, and the air show at Dillant-Hopkins Municipal Airport brought Air Force and Navy flying teams to the city for special programs and demonstrations.

The Fourth of July Bicentennial Parade, the largest parade ever held in the city, featured marching units, elaborate floats, and 28 musical organizations, among which was Barrett's Band, a re-creation of a well-known local marching band formed near the turn of the century. Some 100,000 people were on hand for the parade and an equal number attended the air show on Sunday afternoon.

A copper time capsule, a cylinder 30 inches high and 8 inches in diameter, containing items of historical significance, was buried in Central Square Park during the festivities, to be opened in 2053, and a Bicentennial Tree was planted. Laurence Henry Russell 3rd was the "Bicentennial Baby," born in Keene at this time and given special honors.

The Keene Police Department added women officers to its force beginning in 1953. Mrs. Myrtle Jennison was the first, assigned to

traffic duty in West Keene at the Symonds School. In 1961 Mrs. Ruth Petrin became a regular officer in the department. Chief of Police William T. Bridgham served on a special honor guard at the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower as President of the United States in Washington in 1957. Albion E. Metcalf was named the city's first Deputy Police Chief of the force which numbered 15 in 1965. Following Chief Bridgham's resignation in 1967, Metcalf became head of the department. The police force was cited in 1963 for its work in connection with the capture of Boston jail escapee Norman Porter. Keene District Court, as a part of a state system, went into operation in July 1964, replacing the former Police Court.

The Keene Business Bureau was revitalized and became the new Chamber of Commerce in 1953. Among its programs, and in addition to promotional literature and information about Keene, studies of parking facilities were made in 1954, a slogan contest was held in 1957, investigations of community needs were made in a survey called "Operation Discovery," housing code studies were carried out, and a neighborhood analysis was undertaken.

In 1960, when Keene's population stood at 17,527, a traffic circulation study was submitted by the Keene City Planning Board and



Central Square in the 1960's

the New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission. It was estimated at that time that the city attracted between 2,800 and 3,200 vehicles a day from surrounding towns and that proposed Keene bypass routes then under study would not harm local business, as some feared.

Through state programs of public relations, 6 1/2-year-old William C. Barrett of Keene was named "Chippa Granite," a promotional figure in 1956. Mrs. Pauline Kendall, a Keene housewife, represented New Hampshire in the Mrs. America contest held in San Diego, Cal., in 1967. In October 1967 Keene was chosen for community achievement honors, with special coverage by Boston's WNAC-TV, the first New Hampshire community so honored.

The Otter Brook Dam project on Beech Hill was begun on October 17, 1956, with ceremonies led by Keene's Mayor J. Alfred Dennis. Carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it was completed in April 1958. The flood control project created a reservoir with storage capacity of 18,300 acre feet and a dam with a height of 133 feet and length of 1,288 feet. It required relocation of a part of Route 9 on the Concord Road hill in 1954, a first step in major highway construction around Keene. The site was promoted as a state park location and was dedicated in May 1960.

Veterans' memorial swimming pools in honor of Keene servicemen were dedicated at Robin Hood Park and Wheelock Park on July 4, 1964. A gift of land from Edward J. Kingsbury in 1960 started community activities to preserve the natural beauty of some 46 acres along the Ashuelot River. With a "parkway" drive, picnic areas, and other recreational facilities, the planned Ashuelot River Park will eventually extend from the West Street dam to the Arch Bridge off upper Court Street. Clearing in the area was undertaken by civic groups, and this cooperative effort won a Sears Roebuck Improvement citation for Keene and its new park.

A new water supply for part of West Keene was added in 1953, and new mains were authorized in 1957. The need for additional water led to drilling wells and erecting pumping stations in 1962 and 1964. A Beech Hill storage tank was also established in the expanding water service programs of the city. Problems of the lower Main Street city dump location increased, and a new site on the Summit Road was opened in 1957. Major Ashuelot River channel improvements were undertaken between Keene and Swanzey in 1954, and drainage of Ash Swamp was proposed in 1954. This project was completed in 1962, reclaiming 1,580 acres of land.

In 1953 the new Arch Street junior high school opened with an enrollment of 700. Total school enrollment in Keene in the fall of 1953 was 3,450 pupils. In 1960 Keene High School was moved to the West Keene facility, while the junior high school pupils transferred to the high school's former Washington Street buildings. The old Central Junior High School building on Winter Street, erected as Keene High School in 1875, was torn down in 1956. The old Academy House bell from its tower was given to the Historical Society of Cheshire County.

In April 1959 the New Hampshire State School Science Fair was held in Keene, with 78 prize-winning displays and demonstrations, representing all sections of the state. "Dollars for Scholars" to provide scholarships for area high school students was begun in 1963. In 1965 Keene High School had between 75 and 78 courses, an enrollment of 1,314, and special classes and programs to meet varying educational needs of youth. A number of additions to school facilities were made with aid from the Academy Fund, including business machines, mechanic arts tools, scientific instruments, reading aids, and a modern language laboratory named in honor of William H. Watson, once principal of Keene High School and trustee of the Academy Fund.

The Keene Adult Education program of evening classes was launched in 1951, a service offering a number of educational courses, crafts, and skills to the whole community. Summer classes for high school students were instituted in 1960 for additional study opportunities. The physical education department of Keene High School was selected by the New Hampshire Department of Education as a pilot project to encourage the development of health, physical education, and recreation. Experiments in independent study by high school pupils were inaugurated in 1967, and Dartmouth College began a computer program with the high school's mathematics department the same year. Connection to the computer in Hanover by telephone and teletype permits the solving of complex problems and experiments in new approaches to technical education. The total school population in 1965 numbered 3,975, when approval was sought for another school, the first new elementary school in some years, to be located on Maple Avenue. Site studies were made in support of new elementary schools in the east section of the city, and major building renovations and expansion were considered.

Keene Teachers College postwar growth brought needs for expanded facilities. Authorization for a new men's dormitory on Winchester Street was given in 1953, and the cornerstone of Monadnock

Hall was laid in 1955. From designs by John R. Holbrook of Keene the construction included the unusual feature of raising whole floors in sections from the ground level. A need for more buildings was further recognized in 1957 as the school curriculum and enrollment continued to grow. In 1959 the 50th anniversary of Keene Teachers College was observed with special programs and ceremonies; the enrollment was then 770 students. Art displays at the college became a new feature during the summer of 1957; one of the first showed works by Keene's artist Barry Faulkner. In July 1963 the college joined in a major New Hampshire education reorganization to become Keene State College, a division of the University of New Hampshire, and trustees of the University of New Hampshire held their first meeting on the Keene campus in December 1963. Among new programs of Keene State College were expanded extension and evening classes, regular summer sessions, and the development of curriculums in the liberal arts and sciences, leading to Bachelor of Arts and graduate degrees. There were some 140 courses offered at the college by 1965.

The new library building, dedicated in June 1965, was named in honor of a former college president, Wallace E. Mason. Housed in Mason Library is the Thorne Art Gallery, a gift of Mrs. Beatrix Sagenorph of Dublin, N.H., which has become a focal point of college and regional displays and programs. George Rickey's kinetic free-moving sculpture was added to the library's facade shortly after completion of the building. In September 1964 the Lloyd P. Young Student Union, named for a former college president, was opened. In 1960 Dr. Young had acted as a consultant in Africa on educational matters and after his retirement accepted a post in Peru to aid that country's ministry of education. A new, women's dormitory was dedicated in May 1967, named in honor of the recently retired dean of women, Mrs. Dorothy A. Randall. The new dining hall, opened in 1966, won special recognition for its architectural design. A new gymnasium, an industrial technology building, and dormitories were planned as part of a \$4.9 million building program. Construction of the science and art building was launched in 1966 to house the departments of mathematics, science, foreign languages, and social studies. In 1967 the campus includes 35 acres, 8 academic buildings, 4 dormitories, and 5 auxiliary service buildings.

An endowment association was organized for Keene State College, and in 1967 the school received the gift of a 400-acre tract in Nelson and Hancock, the Louis Cabot Preserve, for use as a natural laboratory for educational programs in outdoor recreation and re-

search studies in the natural sciences. The Alumni Association was founded by Sprague W. Drenan, head of the English department at the college, in 1950. It now numbers over 5,000. A full-time alumni secretary was appointed in 1965. Since 1963 the alumni have had representation on the Board of Trustees of the University of New Hampshire.

The Southwestern New Hampshire District Mutual Aid System of fire department protection in the region was organized in 1953 and inaugurated in 1955. The Keene fire station was enlarged to house the radio communications center for the system in 1962. Fallout shelters in the city were designated in 1961 with a capacity of 1,023 persons. Civil defense programs were reactivated in Keene in 1950 and included airplane observation and test alerts in 1954-55. Keene became one of 500 American cities in a national air raid warning system in 1962. Heading the Keene Fire Department as well as a Civil Defense organization, Chief Walter R. Messer also served in fire and defense organizations on the state and national level.

The department added several new pieces of modern firefighting equipment, including a Ward La France pumper with a capacity of 750 gpm, in 1959, another in 1965, and in 1967 added a pumper with a 1,000 gpm capacity. In 1966 Rev. Gerard J. Vallee, chaplain of KSC's Newman Center, was appointed chaplain of the Keene Fire Department.

One of the city's oldest industries, Faulkner & Colony, closed in 1953. Dating back to 1815, it was the second oldest woolen mill in the nation run by the same family at the same location. In 1954 the former factory buildings were used by several industries, and the mill pond was filled in during 1955.

Keene young men participated in the Korean conflict, as they had in every national call, and are now serving in the Vietnam area; a number have given their lives in these two conflicts.

The city received nationwide recognition in 1960 when it united in a program to aid Korean orphans, called "Operation Orphans." Six tons of food, clothing, and supplies were airlifted to an orphanage in South Korea in an effort which involved participation of the entire community.

In 1954 it was necessary to close the auditorium of City Hall and upper portions of the building. The tower was removed in 1955, and the cast steel bell installed in 1868 was presented to the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge for its memorial bell tower. Public Works Department buildings at the rear of City Hall were removed in 1954,

and new lower Main Street quarters were occupied. Studies of the need for modern municipal office space resulted in major renovations to the City Hall structure in 1960. Remodeling, removal of the top stories, and extensive interior alterations changed the whole aspect of the building into a modern municipal center with expanded offices, council chambers, and police department quarters. In 1967 county officials began studies for improvements to the Cheshire County Court House, considering renovations, additions to the 109-year-old structure, or an entirely new building.

Another new building project was begun at Elliot Community Hospital with a 1954 drive for funds. This was aided by the Charles C. Abbott Trust Fund in 1955. The hospital saw the addition of a wing, expanded capacity, and an X-ray facility in 1957. With a staff of some 40 doctors and 175 nurses, the hospital began studies of future expansion, and Edward J. Kingsbury offered his property on Upper Court Street as a gift to the hospital. A vote to relocate the facility was passed by the trustees late in 1967.

In 1954 the *Keene Evening Sentinel* was sold to James D. Ewing and Walter C. Paine, though the Prentiss family retained ownership of the commercial printing firm established in 1799 by John Prentiss, who also founded the newspaper that same year. The weekly edition of this paper, the *New Hampshire Sentinel*, ceased publication on August 28, 1957. The *Sentinel* won several awards for the typographical excellence of its pages and editorial citations for public service in the fields of cancer information, safety, and community improvement. It was commended on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives by New Hampshire Congressman James C. Cleveland early in 1967. A new 24-hour news service over Keene cable television, Channel 12, was inaugurated in February 1967.

The *Keene Shopper News*, in its 8th year of publication, was awarded top honors in June 1967 by the National Association of Advertising Publishers as the most improved paper in its field. The Keene weekly was chosen from among nearly 300 papers submitted to a jury of distinguished authorities in the field of advertising.

State Civil Air Patrol headquarters were moved from Keene to Grenier Field, Manchester, in 1954 after being located in Keene for six years.

Northeast Airlines launched air freight service at Dillant-Hopkins Municipal Airport in 1954, and Mohawk Airlines proposed to include Keene in its service that same year. Wiggins Airways lost its battle to stay in business with service to Keene in 1953, yet the city

became the first in the state to be served by two airlines in April 1954, with flights to New York, Boston, Albany, Lebanon, and points north.

Airport runways were extended in 1956, night lighting and other improvements were added in 1958, and further additions were made in 1962-63. Keene became the third airport in the state in passenger service and the second in freight service during the latter half of 1958. Mohawk proposed to replace its DC-3's with Convairs, and a 54-passenger Convair 440 was one of the largest airplanes ever to land in Keene, in May 1961.

In September 1966 Northeast Airlines began turboprop service to Keene. A Fairchild-Hiller 227 turboprop seating 48 arrived from the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City in 50 minutes. About 500 persons, including city officials and airport personnel, greeted this new service. The Federal Aviation Administration early in 1967 recommended airport improvements to cost \$1.8 million, including extended runways, better buildings, a control tower, and other facilities made necessary by greatly increased airport activity, and a capacity of nearly 24,000 itinerant aircraft operations per year. Both airlines serving Keene began study of routes west in 1967, with flights to Chicago seen in the near future.

Keene Public Library inaugurated its audio collection in 1950, and became one of the first public libraries in the state to circulate phonograph records. In 1954 it began the circulation of framed pictures, in 1957 started the loan of films, in 1959 added slides to its audio-visual services, and in 1961 first circulated filmstrips. In 1957 microfilming of the *New Hampshire Sentinel* and *Keene Evening Sentinel* files from 1799 to date was completed. The Wright Room, housing a collection of works on the local history of New England and presented by John P. Wright, was opened in 1958. The Library was named a service center for the area by the New Hampshire State Library Commission in 1966. A new workroom addition to the building was completed in 1967.

New and improved roads and highways in and around the city continued to be major projects from 1954, when the first section of a proposed bypass was begun, the largest such project in the state up to that time. Lumen mercury vapor street lamps were installed along streets in downtown Keene in 1953, and the original number of 79 was increased in 1954 and 1956. In 1957 a Main and Marlboro Street traffic circle was proposed, but was rejected in favor of preserving the unique character of Keene's Main Street. Winchester, lower Main, and West Streets were widened in 1957. A house was moved



View of Main Street-1960's

from the corner of Marlboro Street during the work, and a new office of the state department of employment security was erected. Major West Street construction and replacement of the Ashuelot River bridge were carried out during the summer of 1967. The first overpass in the city was opened over West Street on Route 12 in 1967, and an impressive view of Mt. Monadnock became a feature of this new highway through what had been, since colonial days, Tenant Swamp.

Keene voters returned the city manager and council plan of city government in the 1955 elections. Donald E. Chick was named to the post and was cited as "Man of the Year" by the Keene Chamber of Commerce in 1961. After seven years in Keene Chick resigned in May 1963, and was succeeded by Frank R. Saia, who came in September 1963. Saia resigned in June 1965, and James C. Hobart was named city manager the following December.

The city saw 114 new homes built in 1955 and 140 in 1956. Development projects played an important part in the rapid growth, especially at Pako Park on Court Street in 1956, and a new area on Maple Avenue in 1959. Keene adopted a Housing Code in Septem-

ber 1963 as part of its civic planning and zoning programs.

Keene City Band observed its centennial at a concert in 1955, directed by veteran Keene musician Karl R. Beedle. In 1966 the regular summer concerts were transferred from the bandstand at Fuller Park to a newly-built music shell at Robin Hood Park. Because of its dilapidated condition the Fuller Park bandstand was taken down and burned under the watchful eye of city employees. The American Legion Band, formed in 1945, represented New Hampshire at National American Legion conventions and was judged a championship band at several state conventions. It has won frequent awards.

In September 1955 Better TV, Inc. established the first cable television service in the city. It grew to become the largest such system in the state, New England Video of Keene, with 4,500 subscribers in 1967. It is now a subsidiary of American Cablevision Co.

A new telephone building at No. 64 Washington Street was opened in 1956, as the city changed to dial telephones; Keene's telephone exchange received the code name Elmwood and became 352 under the later all-number dialing system of the telephone company.

In 1956 the Edgewood Civic Association and Edgewood Club turned over to the city park system the "common" at Edgewood, given to them in 1945 by the Keene Forestry Association, and formerly a part of the Keene Driving Park. The Rural Improvement Association again became active in 1952 and 1956 in matters relating to civic beautification. Flooding of Beaver Brook each spring prompted formation of the Beaver Brook Sewerage and Drainage Association in 1959 to seek improvements in the area of the stream. Studies led to proposals in 1962 for a dam, and further investigations were carried out by city and army engineers in 1963. Work on the brook in some measure improved the situation, but a dam project was recommended as a future need.

The Keene Forum was organized by eight citizens in 1956 to sponsor outstanding lecturers and speakers. The Keene Art Festival was begun in 1958, and from this came the Keene Art Association, formed in 1963. A Senior Citizens Center was organized in 1957 and opened in the former Washington School building. In 1960 activities were moved to Mechanic Street, and two years later to No. 70 Court Street in a house first built in 1828 by John Prentiss for Rev. Thomas R. Sullivan of the Unitarian Church. YMCA supporters began raising funds in 1957, and purchased the Roxbury Street property formerly the headquarters of the Odd Fellows fraternity, and in August 1958 broke ground for an addition which would include meeting rooms, a

swimming pool, and gymnasium. The new headquarters of "Y" work were dedicated on September 20, 1959. Programs for all age groups were instituted and included swimming, evening meetings and classes, and Wakonda, a summer day camp.

The Boston & Maine Railroad began curtailing passenger service through Keene in 1954 with the removal of several trains of their Cheshire Division. The end of an era was marked in the late spring 1958, when the last passenger train from Boston arrived in Keene. With little ceremony, train No. 659 with 2 engines and 11 cars, one a combination baggage and passenger coach, ended 110 years of service on the railroad line. The arrival of this train in the late evening with only 23 passengers was a contrast to the celebrations which greeted the first train on May 16, 1848. The city purchased the railroad station and had it torn down in 1958. Transportation services now include the Vermont Transit Co. and People's Bus Line, as well as the local Cheshire Transportation Co., Ideal Taxi Service, Inc., and Callahan's Taxi Service.

In 1961 New England industrialist F. Nelson Blount began old-time steam excursions on the railroad between Keene and East Westmoreland, and in 1962 "Steamtown U.S.A.," a steam railroad museum, was proposed in Keene. Although the steam train rides operated for a short time and proved popular, and the museum concept attracted much attention, the project failed to gain the necessary state approval and support. Blount moved Steamtown to Bellows Falls and the former Rutland Railroad line.

A new state armory on Hastings Avenue was dedicated in September 1959, and the former upper Washington Street armory became a recreational center in 1960.

A second Keene radio station was established in 1959. WKBK, the Monadnock Broadcasting Corp., an independent station with a power of 10,000 watts at 1220 on the AM dial, went on the air during daylight hours beginning May 30, 1959. The new station pioneered broadcasting of local news twice each hour, a transmitter-equipped mobile unit, and a popular music program format.

The other local station, WKNE, moved to new Stanho^Pe Avenue studios in 1965. It had begun FM broadcasting late in 1964 with a power of 18,500 watts, more than three times its AM power, at 103.7 on the FM dial. New studios included facilities for broadcasting during national emergencies. A local television station, UNF-TV, operating in conjunction with WENH-TV, Channel 11, was projected for operation in 1968.

Mayor Richard P. Gilbo was feted by the city in February 1960 with "Gilbo Day." He died in office in May 1960, and Gilbo Avenue, a new street west from Railroad Square, was named in his honor. Also paying tribute to the late mayor, the Knights of Columbus established a second group named the Richard P. Gilbo Council in April 1963.

Elections in 1961 were spirited. Robert L. Mallat Jr., who was elected mayor, also served on the state Executive Council in 1964.

Keene was a successful candidate in 1964 for the All-America City award of the National Municipal League and *Look Magazine* becoming, in 1965, the first New Hampshire city so honored. The Citizens Committee that prepared the comprehensive presentation for the All-America City contest were Robert M. Clark Jr., general chairman; Robert L. Mallat Jr., Keene mayor; Frank R. Saia, city manager; Kenneth F. Zwicker, assistant publisher, *Keene Evening Sentinel*; Richard W. Clarke, Chamber of Commerce president; Ernest L. Bell III, attorney, and William W. McGowan III, Chamber of Commerce managing director. Some of the achievements which earned for Keene the title of All-America City included the adoption of a non-partisan mayor-council-manager form of government, the formation of the Keene Regional Industrial Foundation which fostered local industrial growth, a revitalized 300-member Chamber of Commerce which helped bring about the lowest unemployment rate in New Hampshire, flood control projects in cooperation with federal authorities, improved automobile parking facilities, modern air service, active civic and community organizations, cultural events of a high character, and programs of assistance to the needy, aged, and ill.

For years Keene citizens have played hosts to more than 100 New York Fresh Air children each summer. They have also invited United Nations delegates to their city and their homes and introduced a citizen exchange program with Bolivia. The Community Chest campaign, established in Keene in 1952, is conducted annually and various social service agencies benefit from this drive.

The Monadnock Area Family Service agency was opened in 1961, established on the work begun by the Cheshire County League of Women Voters in 1957 and a merger with the Bureau of Public Service and the Keene Mental Health Association formed in 1957. Thomas E. Dwane, a professional social worker, became the first executive director. The Monadnock Children's Special Service Center opened in 1967 to provide special help for handicapped school children of the region.

Moves to amend the city charter were considered by a commission appointed in December 1963 under authority granted by the legislature's act in that year permitting communities to revise their own charters. In 1965 the city had 11 representatives in the legislature from its five wards. Leading the city government, Mayor Richard E. Bean was elected to a second two-year term in 1967.

The Court Street Congregational Church voted in 1963 to join with the First Congregational Church, from which it had been separated almost a century earlier, and the new combination became the United Church of Christ in a denominational unity movement. The Lutherans organized a church and erected the Keene Chapel, Lutheran, on Arch Street in 1955. Nearby a second Roman Catholic Church, St. Margaret Mary, was built in 1956. Unitarians joined with the combined Unitarian-Universalist denominational reorganization and erected an educational wing to their Washington Street church.

Ecumenical movements in the city brought together groups of various denominations in projects sponsored by the Cheshire County Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Churches, and the interdenominational University of Life. Richard Cardinal Cushing was one of the University of Life speakers in February 1966, and others included lay and church leaders discussing a variety of subjects associated with the growing movement of cooperation. The Festival of the Arts, sponsored by church groups, featured art displays, music, poetry, and plays beginning in the summer of 1966.

Area churches united in sponsoring a campus ministry for Keene State College, where Rev. Fay L. Gemmell, formerly pastor of Grace Methodist Church, was installed in 1963. A new center for the Roman Catholic Newman Club was opened at the college in 1966 under the direction of the chaplain Rev. Gerard J. Vallee.

Through cooperation with the Experiment in International Living of Putney, Vt., students from foreign lands are brought to Keene for extended visits, where they share the home life of local citizens, and students in the community are sent abroad as "ambassadors" to foreign countries as part of this program.

The city has played host over the years to a number of national athletic contests. In 1963 the national finals of the American Legion Little League World Series were played in Keene before 23,000 spectators, including the baseball great, Ted Williams. In 1965 Keene was host to the National Horseshoe Tournament, with participants from all over the nation.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, shocked Keene as it did the entire world. The *Sentinel* published an extra before the afternoon was over, and special services were held in Keene churches of every faith. Keene residents remembered a visit paid to the city by Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, the slain President's mother, when she spoke at Keene State College during the 1960 primary campaign in support of her son.

The murder of 26-year-old Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a student at Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Mass., slain in Hayneville, Ala., while engaged in civil rights work in the summer of 1965, brought international attention to Keene. Born here in 1939, Jonathan, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Philip Daniels, spent a part of his childhood in the South, where his father was stationed as a medical officer during World War II. Undoubtedly some of his early impressions concerning the racial problem surfaced again when he left Keene to attend the Virginia Military Institute, where he became valedictorian of the class of 1961. Young Daniels was buried at Monadnock View Cemetery on August 24, 1965, his funeral attended by nearly 1,000 persons with an overflow crowd standing in respectful silence on the sidewalk outside St. James Church. Many faiths were represented, as were the city and state governments. Messages of sympathy came from the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, Governor and Mrs. John W. King of New Hampshire, from senators and congressmen and from people in all walks of life throughout the country. A delegation from Selma, Ala., paid its respects, and memorial services, Masses, and sermons in churches of many faiths responded in a truly ecumenical spirit to Jonathan's "ministry of reconciliation" and supreme sacrifice. A fellowship was established in his name for work in areas of continuing social concern and for the strengthening of theological education. Statuary was given in his honor to the Trappist Monastery at Gethsemani, Ky., and to the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Mass. A building was named in honor of the martyred civil rights worker by Keene's St. James Episcopal Church. This was dedicated in 1966 by the Rt. Rev. Charles F. Hall, Bishop of New Hampshire. The City of Keene sent eight tons of food and clothing to Mississippi Negroes and renewed its support of civil rights.

The welfare programs of the city won commendation from President Johnson in 1964. A "Neighborhood Analysis," conducted by the Keene Housing Authority, the Planning Board, and a citizens' advisory committee was authorized in 1964 and completed in May 1966.

A resolution for 100 units of housing for the elderly was adopted by the city in November 1966 and for 90 units of low-income housing in February 1967.

A need for expanded post office facilities and office space led to consideration in 1966 of a site at the intersection of Main and Marlboro Streets for a new post office and federal building. The plan to locate the building at some distance from the Square created opposition and reconsideration of the project; however, architectural drawings for a post office on the Marlboro Street site were submitted in 1967.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County observed its 40th anniversary in 1967, as plans were being formulated for a society-sponsored museum, the Wyman Tavern at No. 339 Main Street, a building of local historical and architectural importance.

Interest in a revised history of the city led to the formation of a citizens' group in December 1965. Kay Fox, City Library director since 1952, was named chairman of the Keene History Committee, and funds for publication of the work were voted by the City Council. Representing the city on the project were Councilmen Arnold F. Shea, Don W. Cook, and Thomas P. Wright.

In July 1967 Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey made a brief stop in Keene as he arrived by air to attend a Vermont concert. Some 200 people were on hand to greet him at Dillant-Hopkins Airport.

One of the city's most persistent problems, Dutch elm disease, continued to cost the city many trees each year. Some 90 trees were condemned in 1963 and 88 were felled in 1964. The threat became so serious that plans for new trees and a landscape design for Central Square Park were drawn early in 1967, and planting programs were carried out in the city; 100 trees had been planted in May 1966. All but two trees in Central Square Common were felled in June 1967, and were replaced by more disease-resistant varieties. At the same time the tourist information booth, located in the Common for some years, was moved to the corner of Main and Marlboro Streets.

City observances of Christmas include the annual municipal tree in Central Square and decorations in the business district. The Chamber of Commerce sponsors a house-decorating contest and programs for the needy. Harlan Barrett played Santa Claus for more than a generation of children at these affairs. In 1953 a living Christmas tree was planted in the Common as a symbol of peace. An annual Christmas parade to usher in the holiday season has been revived and features floats, marching units, bands, and, of course, Santa Claus. The

city also sponsors an annual Halloween party for children, with a parade and prizes for costumes, and a window-decorating contest.

Two writers of Keene who have had books published in recent years are Marzieh Gail and Charles H. Hapgood. Marzieh Gail, Boston-born daughter of Persian-American parents (her father was Persia's chief diplomatic representative to the United States under Presidents Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson) was the first woman employed on a newspaper staff in Persia. In addition to writing and lecturing, she has translated works from the Persian. Her published books include *Persia and the Victorians*, *The Sheltering Branch*, and *Avignon in Flower: 1309-1403*. Hapgood, a professor at Keene State College, has made history and science lifelong studies. His *Earth's Shifting Crust, a Key to Some Basic Problems of Earth Science* was published in 1958, and *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings, Evidences of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age* in 1966.

A coordinated program to improve the appearance of the business district was launched in 1966, and under it a number of alterations have been made. In 1967 municipal leaders began a determined evaluation of long-range community goals. Among aspects studied are technically-oriented manufacturing plants, now dominant on the industrial scene, and the future of the city as a shopping, banking, medical, educational, and transportation center.

"This is Keene, New Hampshire. Keene, a community of people working for people. . . ."



"widest paved main street in the world"