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A Special Corner of Weston

A SPECIAL CORNER OF WESTON

By Jeanne C. Howes

(PART THREE)

TELEPHONE PROBLEMS

Telephone service came early to the area with a 544 exchange to cover the Georgetown circle which included the top corner of Weston. Then, the rest of Weston was tied into the Westport-Norwalk line. Split between two exchanges, one side of Weston could not call the other without paying toll charges. Worse yet, residents with the 544 numbers were not listed in the same telephone book with the others.

As a result, Weston residents of Georgetown paid tolls each time they called our schools or town offices and were often ignored when Weston area calls were made. This annoying situation caused many individual complaints to the phone company, but nothing was changed.

Then in 1957 Ruth Keeler of Georgetown Road and Gertrude Walker gathered petitions and met with the company to present them and their arguments for change.

Gertie, as Town Clerk, was especially annoyed because this dichotomy interfered with official town business as well as the personal calls to her home on Whipoorwill Lane. Company representatives were very negative, and Gertie was feeling very downhearted as she discussed the situation next day with her husband Walter over their early morning coffee. She reported: "They said they couldn't do anything for us because there were about 70 other towns with a similar situation and they couldn't afford to change them all." Right away Walter saw the solution, "Tell the company you want the names of those other towns, and together you'll all get some action through the State Assembly."

When Gertie asked the telephone representative for those 70 other names and unfolded her plan, she was told that they would work out something better for Weston. Not long afterwards, the 544 exchange was hooked into the Weston exchange and all Weston numbers were listed in the same book.

THE POSTAL PROBLEM

Now that telephones re-united the two parts of Weston, separate postal districts still kept them apart. Residents in the north corner were assigned a Georgetown, not a Weston address. Many Weston residents here were disturbed that mail addressed to them in their proper town would shuttle back and forth between districts before coming to their homes. Invitations to Weston affairs and notices of town and committee meetings often arrived too late.

Again there were protests, petitions and meetings. This time feelings were divided. Some old-timers wanted to continue service from the neighborly and efficient first class Georgetown post office, but many other residents found it very awkward and inconvenient not to have a Weston address.

Postal authorities effected a semi-solution by admitting part of the area to Weston delivery. Eight streets however, would have to wait.

SECESSION?

Suddenly, in 1974, there came disturbing rumors from Hartford. Adventurous individuals in another section of Georgetown had advanced legislative proposals to pull together the four disparate pieces of Georgetown to create a new Connecticut township.

After all the valiant efforts to win full recognition of its legitimate Weston title,



Helen Hansen Rosendahl, former Town Clerk and native of Georgetown.



Niles Hansen (standing), father of Helen Hansen Rosendahl, one of many Norwegian settlers in the Georgetown area.

was this little corner about to be snatched up and swallowed by a predominantly industrialize and commercial territory? No way!

Once again active forces were marshaled, protests and petitions filed with legislators and selectmen of Weston and other towns threatened with loss of their property.

Leonard Goldsen of Spruce Hill Road, a former president of the now disbanded Georgetown Association, voiced his concerns which reflected the views of most residents of that community. Citing the enormous legal, political and financial obstacles to such an undertaking, he concluded, "The current attempt to make Georgetown a separate municipality ... is now an idea whose time has passed." The secession idea went no further.

Publication and distribution of *The Weston Forum* in 1970 greatly improved communication to bind Weston together. Finally, in July 1981, the eight stranded streets were admitted into the Weston postal district and all of Weston, which had always been one political body, was now re-united in name as well.

