THE NUGGET NEWS-HERALD

A PUBLICATION OF THE HANOVER IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

VOL. I, NO. 3

HANOVER, N. H. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1992

COMPLIMENTARY



The Hanover Improvement Society Celebrates

70 YEARS OF GOOD WORKS

1922-1992

The first two issues of The Nugget News~Herald, published in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Nugget Theater, chrodicled the history of The Nugget from its founding in 1916 until the opening of the present Nugget Theater in September of 1951. As history shows, the transfer of the theater from the Davison family to the Town of Hanover directly led to the establishment of the Hanover Improvement Society, Incorporated, in 1922. In this final issue of The Nugget News~ Herald, in the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the first "Village Improvement Society," we review the history of the Society and its contributions to the welfare of the Town of Hanover.

The story is told, in part, by Lewis J. ("Lou") Bressett, third president of the Hanover Improvement Society during its 70-year history. Lou retired as president of the Society in July 1991, following an 18-year term, and in July 1992, he assumed emeritus status after serving the Society for 34 years with unequaled dedication.

Lou's legacy to the Society and the Town is as substantial as his leadership was strong and single-minded, and his management wise and prudent. He left the presidency in July 1991 with the Society in sound fiscal condition, and through the following narrative history, which he authored, he leaves a record of the history of the Society in modern times as he has observed it, lived it, and guided it. We are grateful for his effort to document this history so that it may provide instruction, inspiration, and direction for those who follow in his footsteps.

Thomas E. Byrne

"I just try to do as much for the Town of Hanover as I can, for the Town of Hanover has done so much for me..."

> Lou Bressett, as quoted in the Valley News — 5/7/91

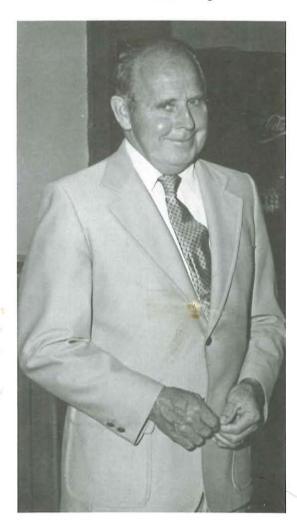
The following is the modern history of the Hanover Improvement Society, written and compiled by Lou Bressett.

Since its founding, four men have served as president of the Hanover Improvement Society: Adna D. "Dave" Storrs, 1922 to 1949; Edward M. "Pete" Cavaney, 1949 to 1973; Lewis J. "Lou" Bressett, 1973 to 1991; and John G. "Jack" Skewes from July 1, 1991 to the present. This narrative examines the major accomplishments of the Society during the administrations of each of those four presidents.

BRESSETT RETIRES AFTER 18 YEARS AS SOCIETY PRESIDENT

WAS MEMBER OF H.I.S. SINCE 1958, DIRECTOR SINCE 1960

Hanover's Honorary Mayor Held Many Positions of Civic Leadership



After 34 years of service to the Hanover community as member, director, and president of the Hanover Improvement Society, Lewis J. Bressett retired from active membership on July 22, 1992, and became president emeritus of the Society. The history of the Society and the record of community service contained in this special edition of The Nugget News~Herald is tribute to his extraordinary career.

ADNA D. STORRS PRESIDENT, 1922 TO 1949

Adna "Dave"
Storrs, a member of one of
the first families to settle in
Hanover and
founder of the
Dartmouth
Bookstore,
was selected
as the first
president of
the Hanover
Improvement



Society in July 1922. Halsey Edgerton, then treasurer of Dartmouth College, became the first treasurer. These two served the Improvement Society with distinction during the early years of its existence.

Dave Storrs, Arthur P. Fairfield, and Roland A. Lewin, the three precinct commissioners in 1922, were instrumental in reviving the "Improvement Society" concept. When Frank Davison proposed to the Town that it take over the Nugget Theater (for a "nominal sum"), the three discovered that law prohibited the municipality from operating a venture that might lose money at taxpayers' expense. With the three commissioners listed among its directors, the Hanover Improvement Society was chartered on July 7, 1922, to manage the theater and with the object of "improving the village precinct of Hanover by any work or undertaking looking to the introduction, inauguration, or betterment of any facility, agency, or service designed or maintained for the common use or benefit of all of the people of the community."

The Society's vigorous pursuit of this "object" over the 70 ministration, commonly known

years since its founding contributed much of substance to the quality of life in Hanover. One of the most significant endeavors undertaken by the Improvement Society was the creation of the

Storrs Pond Recreation Area.

During Storrs's presidency, the main agenda in the early years was to oversee the profitable operation of the Nugget Theater so that there would be funds to expend for civic improvements. The acquisition of fire engines and other fire apparatus, and the installation and maintenance of sidewalks dominated early Improvement Society efforts. The Nugget was a popular, if sometimes controversial, enterprise. As profits accumulated, the Society searched for other major facilities to "inaugurate."

In 1933, through the efforts of Dartmouth College Treasurer Halsey C. Edgerton, President Ernest Martin Hopkins, and President Dave Storrs, land was acquired along Camp Brook from the Cummings family and from the Walter Record and Marshall farms. The intent was to build a dam on Camp Brook to create an artificial lake for the enjoyment of the people of Hanover.

At this time in U.S. history, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president. President Roosevelt was instrumental in the formation of the Works Progress Administration, commonly known as W.P.A. The W.P.A. created jobs to restore the economy of the country. Funds were provided to communities for creating projects for the betterment of the communities.

During 1933, with the funding from the W.P.A., manpower for the civilian conservation corps of New Hampshire, and volunteer labor from members of the Hanover Improvement Society, the dam was built, creating the scenic pond named after the Storrs family. Sidney Hazelton, swimming coach at Dartmouth College, became the first manager of Storrs Pond, and inaugurated a swimming program for children, which he planned and supervised for 30 years. (It continues to this day and is named in his honor.)

A significant contribution toward "improving health conditions" was made during the Storrs administration in 1936. The Mary Hitchcock Hospital was expanding and the Improvement Society Board of Directors voted to contribute \$15,000 to the hospital's \$300,000 building fund drive.

At the same time, the board reacted to student's and townspeople's criticisms of the "old Nugget" with their own critical appraisal of the theater and began to consider the construction of a new theater. Various locations were considered, such as the Crosby properties (the site of the present post office parking lot), the lot then occupied by the precinct apartments behind the municipal building, and the lot occupied by South Hall at the corner of Lebanon and College streets. However, the Society was concerned that building at a different location would leave the old theater available for a new tenant, which would provide unwelcome competition. Accordingly, in 1937, the Board of Directors decided to continue negotiations to lease the Davison property and the neighboring C&G property on West Wheelock Street for the purpose of remodeling the theater. J. Frederick Larson was asked to "prepare sketches" for a new lobby to be considered by the board. The renovation was started by mid-1938 and completed by January 31, 1939.

With the theater project well under way, Halsey Edgerton, treasurer of Society for 16 years under Dave Storrs, retired as treasurer and director and was replaced by Max Norton, Society clerk from 1930 to 1938. Archie Gile replaced Norton as clerk in 1938.

This new slate of officers was to face one of the most serious calamities in the Society's history. At 4:40 a.m. on January 28, 1944, disaster struck the old Nugget Theater when it was totally destroyed by an explosion and fire of unknown origin. Following the tragedy, the Society negotiated with Dartmouth

(continued on page 10)

Sidewalks And The Cinema

Did you know that the improved condition of Hanover's sidewalks is the direct result of your movie-going?

The Hanover Improvement Society, since taking control of The Nugget, has devoted all profits to civic betterment. So the more often you go movieward, the more attractive Hanover will become.

THE NUGGET

EDWARD M. CAVANEY PRESIDENT, 1949 TO 1973

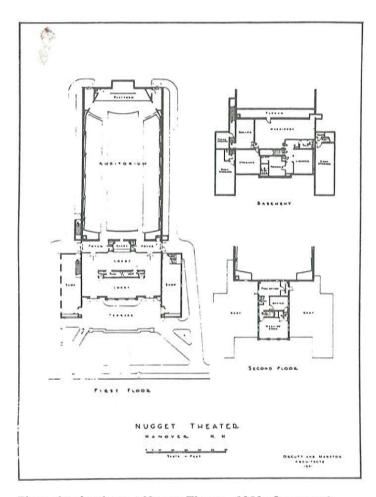
During the early years of the presidency of Edward M. "Pete" Cavaney, the Hanover Improvement Society devoted its attention to downtown Hanover, endeavoring to find a location for building a new Nugget Theater.

The Brock property and a rooming house located on South Main Street were purchased, creating a site for the new 900-seat theater, which opened September 23, 1951.

Development of the Storrs Pond Recreation Area was a high priority for Pete Cavaney. In 1958, using revenues from the Nugget Theater and income from memberships, camping, and picnic fees, and a contribution of \$40,000 from Dartmouth College, the pool and bath house were built, and camp sites and picnic areas were enlarged.

The "Nugget Arcade"

The area of South Main Street, below Lebanon Street, had been run-down for years and greeted visitors arriving on Route 10, from the south, with an image inconsistent with the beauty of Dartmouth College and the rest of Hanover. In 1956, with an eye to improving this unsightly



Floor plan for the new Nugget Theater, 1951; Orcutt and Marston, Architects.



Pete Cavaney, Professor John Stearns, and Max Norton review plans for the new theater on South Main Street.

gateway to downtown Hanover, the Society purchased the property to the south of the new Nugget Theater owned by Katherine Ansara and known as the Tavern Block. The building was in terrible condition - an eyesore on Main Street. The Improvement Society decided to tear the building down and construct a much-needed parking lot, which was later turned over to the precinct under a lease purchase agreement. [The town in later years sold this land to the Dartmouth National Bank (now Fleet, NH Bank).]

In 1967, continuing its mission to improve South Main Street, the Society purchased the Fairfield property, which housed the Western Union, Amidon's Jewelry Store, Miss Adams Millinery, and Edith's Cut-Rate Store on the main floor, and apartments and the "Rudd Eating Club" on the second floor.

During 1968–1969, the Fairfield Building and garages were demolished, creating a passage-way from Allen Street to West Street and much-needed parking for downtown Hanover. In each of these ventures, the Hanover Improvement Society consistently committed itself ahead of its capacity to pay, and built up a substantial debt.

In 1970, the Improvement Society decided to build the

Nugget Arcade Building, creating attractive and much-needed retail and office space on South Main Street. The building was designed by Frank Barrett and built by Trumbull Nelson at a cost of almost \$500,000.

During 1972, Max Norton, long time treasurer of the Society, retired after 42 years of service to the Society in many capacities. He was temporarily replaced by J. Ross Gamble, and then by Paul Young, the present treasurer, in 1973. Edward M. Cavaney, president of the Society since 1949, also stepped down in 1973 and was replaced by Lewis J. Bressett.

The most notable undertakings of the Cavaney years were the expansion and improvement of the Storrs Pond Recreation Area, the acquisition of valuable properties in downtown Hanover, the construction of the new Nugget Theater, and planning for the Nugget Arcade retail and office building. During the Cavaney-Norton years, the assets of the Society significantly increased as the result of investments in property, which proved to be perfectly timed, prudent, and farsighted.

At a subsequent testimonial dinner held to honor Pete Cavaney and Max Norton, Jack Stebbins praised the retirees, stating that "the contributions

(continued on page 7)

LEWIS J. BRESSETT PRESIDENT, 1973 TO 1991

Lewis J. "Lou" Bressett was elected president of the Improvement Society in July 1973. Joining him in his administration were S. John Stebbins, clerk of the Hanover Improvement Society from 1972 until 1991, and Paul F. Young, who has served as treasurer from 1973 until the present.

Under Lou's leadership, the Society continued to take special pride and interest in the Storrs Pond Recreation Area, its expansion, and its modernization. On October 7, 1974, the Society entered into a contract with the Town to extend the sewer line from Reservoir Road to Storrs Pond. This was a great improvement to the area because it overcame the problem of the constant maintenance of the old septic system in the recreation area.

In respect to Storrs Pond, special mention should be made of the many years of service performed by Kenneth Dimick as general manager of the Improvement Society. Ken man-

aged the theater, the Nugget Arcade, and Storrs Pond during the era of its great development, and was the right-hand man for Pete Cavaney and Lou Bressett and was effective manager for the Society for 20 years.

During 1974, attendance at the Nugget Theater continued to decline, giving the directors much concern. If the theater was to continue to operate profitability, it would be necessary to obtain better films. It was at this time that the Board of Directors decided to proceed with securing independent management for the theater.

Edward Lider, a Dartmouth alumnus and owner of Fall River Theaters, Inc., a well-known chain of theaters, was hired to take over management of the theater, replacing Craig Sears, who had replaced Ken Dimick as general manager in 1974.

In the summer of 1975, the Board of Directors decided to follow the trend of the times and divide The Nugget into two theaters. It was voted to expend up

to \$100,000 for the remodeling of the theater and to modernize the projection equipment. At the same time, the lobby was remodeled and a new retail space created and occupied by Greydon Freeman, Inc.

During 1975, the directors first expressed interest and concern with community skating by voting to contribute \$12,000 to help maintain Davis Rink to ensure that Hanover skating and hockey programs had a facility to use.

Also in April 1975, \$3,000 was guaranteed to the Montshire Museum Regional Center to enable them to purchase the golf-side building on the Lyme Road for the relocation of the Dartmouth College Museum of Science.

At the Storrs Pond Recreation Area, areas for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were created in 1977, and four tennis courts were built.

On August 1, 1978, the bylaws of the Improvement Society were amended by changing the phrase: "The Association will be limited to twenty male members of the Town..." to read "...twenty voters of the Town plus one Selectman."

At a meeting on January 2, 1983, it was voted to contribute \$20,000 to the development of playing fields at the old dump site, as a memorial to James Campion III. This project never took place.

During April 1984, the directors voted to discontinue the association with Fall River Theaters, and William Pence, director of films at Dartmouth College, and his wife, Stella, were hired as consultants and managers of the Nugget.

On August 29, 1984, the Board of Directors voted to spend \$40,000 for a new campers' bath house at Storrs Pond. Roy Banwell was the architect, Trumbull Nelson, the builder.

At this same meeting, the board voted \$75,000 to improve the main area at Storrs Pond and the well-known landscape architect Terrance Boyle was hired to do the design. The charge was to improve the drab appearance of the main area and parking lot. Landscaped islands were designed, and a large amount of tree planting was done. Traffic lanes were established, and the peninsula on the east side of the pond was extended and re-seeded, making an attractive and beautiful area.

On May 29, 1986, at a breakfast meeting with the Board of Directors, Lloyd Lewis and Richard Bewley, representing Kendal of Philadelphia, informed the board that they were thinking about building a continuing care and retirement community, similar to Kendal and Crossland in Philadelphia, in this area and preferably in Hanover. They asked for the support of the Hanover Improvement Society. Through the efforts of Lou Bressett, who was a friend of Doris Cummings Ferguson, negotiations were held with Lloyd Lewis and Richard Bewley, representing Kendal, for the purchase of the land owned by Mrs. Ferguson. The parcel was located on the west side of the Lyme Road, just north of Rivercrest and bordering the Connecticut River.

During the difficult negotiations, Mr. Bressett represented Mrs. Ferguson, assisted by legal counsel from Jack Stebbins. The negotiations were successful, and Kendal purchased the land, which the continuing care community now occupies. In recognition of these efforts on President Bressett's part, Mrs. Ferguson deeded 19.4 acres of land on the east side of the Lyme Road, abutting Storrs Pond, to the Hanover Improvement Society. The land, appraised at over \$200,000, protects the Storrs



From left to right: Lou Bressett, Bill Johnson, and Governor Walter Peterson in Lou's Restaurant, circa 1960.



In front: President Lou Bressett and Treasurer Paul F. Young. Standing: Dick Fowler, Jack Skewes, and Jack Stebbins.

Pond Recreation Area from any future development in that area.

Under Lou Bressett's leadership, the Society continued to improve the Storrs Pond area. The area held a special place on his list of priorities, and he visited it daily to "check the dam," or simply to enjoy the peace and beauty of the place.

On September 16, 1987, the Board of Directors voted to renovate the filter system at Storrs Pond at a cost of \$25,000, to repair the roof on the bath house at a cost of \$8,000, and to resurface the tennis courts at a cost of \$4,000.



Mention must be made at this time that through the continuing generosity of Mrs. Ferguson, almost an acre of land was given to the Improvement Society on the west side of Storrs Pond's Area 5, to enable the Society to expand the picnic area and to develop a cross-country ski trail.

April 1987 brought a potential disaster to Storrs Pond. A

malfunction of the gate valve at the dam caused a loss of all the water in the pond. Dick Bressett, Storrs Pond manager, with the cooperation of Trumbull Nelson employees, worked days and nights to repair the gate valve, and Storrs Pond was able to open on schedule for the season.

During 1987, the Improvement Society decided that it should not be in the real estate business. Managing and maintaining the Nugget Arcade building had become a burden on the Society's limited management resources. On July 10, 1987, the sale of the Nugget Arcade to Charles and Jeffery Urstad was consummated for the sum of \$2,100,000. (Valuable professional advice and counsel received from Leo Mc-Kenna, Dartmouth '56, was instrumental in the sale and the subsequent reinvestment of the proceeds.)

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on August 25, 1987, it was voted to give \$10,000 to the Montshire Museum. This was in addition to the \$3,000 given to them when they moved to Lyme Road, and \$500 for roof repairs at their golf-side location.

During 1985, the decision by Dartmouth College to remove Davis Rink to allow for the creation of a new sports center became a reality. A group of concerned citizens spearheaded by Steve Whitman, Tod Schweizer, Michael Choukas, Dr. Jack Turco, organized an Ice Facilities Planning Committee to evaluate possible sites for a new ice-skating rink. Douglas Kennedy, a local landscape architect, was hired to ascertain the best site and to develop a plan. Land located near Sachem Village and owned by the Town of Hanover was selected.

Rather than relying on a volunteer group to negotiate with the Town and Dartmouth and provide continuing management of the rink when it was built, the consensus was that a well established community organization should be selected to assume those responsibilities.



Steve Whitman's report, as chairman of the regional Ice Facilities Planning Committee, and the Kennedy Plan were presented to the Board of Directors of the Hanover Improvement Society at a meeting of the board on January 30, 1985. A committee to represent the Hanover Improvement Society in discussions with those interested in building a new ice facility was selected, consisting of Jack Skewes as chairman, with members Seaver Peters, Roger Ball, and David Bradley. This committee was to review all the plans and proposals and was to bring their recommendations to the Board of Directors.

On July 10, 1985, the Ice Facilities Planning Committee

presented the following recommendations:

- 1. That the Hanover Improvement Society indicate its willingness to operate the proposed ice area for a minimum of three years if the rink is built without incurring significant debt.
- 2. That the Improvement Society enter into discussions with the Ice Facilities Planning Committee and the James Campion Memorial Committee to ascertain what role the Society will play in the fund-raising efforts. The subcommittee recommended that the Improvement Society not assume a major role in the fund-raising effort.
- 3. That the Improvement Society provide front-end funds up to \$7,500 (a part of the Campion Memorial Pledge) to pay for ice engineering services needed to develop reliable cost estimates.

Discussions were held with President David T. McLaughlin of Dartmouth College to gain agreement for the new rink to acquire the ice-making equipment being removed from the Davis Rink. On July 31, 1985, salvage from the rink was removed and stored at a cost of \$23,412. On August 1, 1985, demolition of Davis Rink began.

At a meeting of October 9, 1985, the Hanover Improvement Society Community Rink, Inc., was organized. The officers of the corporation were Lewis J. Bressett, president; Paul F. Young, treasurer; John S. Stebbins, secretary; and, Roy Banwell and Jack Skewes, directors.



(continued on page 6)

(Bressett, from page 5)

Gordon Ingram was hired as engineer and David McIntyre was hired as architect for the new rink on the recommendation of the Ice Facilities Planning Committee.

On November 20, 1985, at a meeting of the Board of Directors, Connie Eckels became the first woman to be elected to the Society, and Willy Black became the first woman to represent the Board of Selectmen. These elections were approved April 30, 1986, at the annual meeting.

On July 23, 1986, the first meeting of the Hanover Improvement Society Community Rink, Inc., was held. Michael Choukas, chairman of the fundraiser committee, reported that \$350,000 of the \$500,000 fundraising goal had been raised.

A position statement adopted by the Improvement Society indicated that, at the time of accepting ownership, sufficient funds have been raised or pledged to assure that the facility will be free of debt and a clear title be delivered. An agreement was reached with the Town to lease 2.7 acres in the Sachem Field area for a period of 20 years.

On April 15, 1987, to allow for construction to proceed, a letter of intent drafted by Dave Bradley and signed by President Bressett was sent to the Mooney Construction Company, which was selected to do the work, being the low bidder at \$640,000.

Site-development cost at Sachem, including the entrance drive, sidewalk, water line, sewer line, and pumping station, was estimated to be \$200,000 to be shared by the Town, College, and the Community Rink, Inc.;

\$50,000 was the Improvement Society's share.

The AMCA Corporation donated a Varco Prudent Building. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on May 12, 1987.

A note was signed by the Improvement Society with the Dartmouth National Bank guaranteeing \$195,000 to enable the construction to begin. On December 10, 1988, the new ice facility opened and was dedicated as the "James W. Campion III Memorial Rink," in honor of Jim Campion III, former chairman of the Board of Selectmen and a member of the Hanover Improvement Society. Oscar Cross became the first manager and a Campion Rink Board of Managers was formed, which included Jack Skewes, chair; Steve Whitman; Tod Schweizer; Richard Bressett; and Alex DeFelice.

Continuing its interest in Town beautification, on February 18, 1988, the Board of Directors voted a contribution of \$10,000 to the Garden Club for construction of a new greenhouse, and participated with local officials in locating and constructing such a facility.

At the annual meeting of July 27, 1988, after a presentation by Ron Campion, it was voted to endorse the concept of a parking garage.

At the February 15, 1989 meeting of the Board of Directors, Roy Banwell proposed that the Society employ a planner to review the appearance of downtown Hanover. The Board of Directors agreed and The Cavendish Partnership of Cavendish, Vermont, was hired to draw up plans for the beautification program for the central business district.

On July 31, 1989, the Society informed the Town that it was guaranteeing \$40,000 for the project so that the Town could proceed to order materials

and supplies to implement the Cavendish Plan on Main Street and Allen Street.

On August 1, 1989, the Society paid the first installment of five \$20,000 payments on a pledge of \$100,000 toward construction of the new Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center on its Lebanon "campus."

On April 4, 1990, the Board of Directors voted to purchase a new Olympia ice machine, to replace the Zamboni leased from the College. The price of the new machine was \$42,595; a down payment of \$10,000 was made.

The Board of Directors voted on April 23, 1990, to contribute at least \$1,000 to the Costello Memorial Field in Etna. (The final donation was \$3,500.)

On August 8, 1990, the Board of Directors voted to forgive the \$247,000 outstanding debt of the Campion Rink to the Society.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors on November 14, 1990, a resolution was adopted granting a conservation easement to the Town of Hanover on the 19.4 acres given to the Society by Doris Cummings Ferguson. This enabled the town to receive a grant from the state for the purchase of other conservation land along the river. It was also voted to give \$10,000 to the Hanover Conservation Council to assist in matching state funds for the acquisition of the Fullington Land.

At a meeting of April 22, 1991, the Board of Directors voted to amend the by-laws to change the qualification of members to be those who either reside or have their principal place of business in Hanover or Norwich.

On June 20, 1991, the bylaws were amended again. Jack Stebbins presented a proposed

(continued on page 10)



Dorothy Campion-Corcoran and granddaughter Ashley Campion are among the first skaters to enjoy the new James W. Campion III Memorial Skating Rink in February 1988.

JOHN G. SKEWES PRESIDENT, 1991 TO PRESENT

One of the first actions of the Board of Directors under "Jack" Skewes was to establish the positions of general manager and operations manager for the Society. Thomas E. Byrne was offered and accepted the position of general manager, and Richard Bressett, manager of Storrs Pond for many years, was offered and accepted the position of operations manager.

The highlights of the first year of the Skewes administration were the complete renovation of the pool at Storrs Pond for \$150,000, and the remodeling and redecorating of the bath house and concession area; the approval of the second phase of Main Street improvements (\$60,000); and the installation of a new environmental control system in the Nugget twin cinemas (\$30,000) to allow for independent control of the heating and air-conditioning systems for the two theaters.

The Society also renewed and affirmed its support of the outdoor skating facility at Occom Pond by voting \$7,000 per year for five years for the maintenance and cleaning of Occom Pond, and voted \$35,000 for support of Hanover Gardens over the next five years. The Society was also instrumental in organizing the Hanover Trails Association, under the guidance of Director Roy Banwell. Bylaws were developed, and the Society provided \$3,000 in matching funds to map and publicize all walking and hiking trails in the vicinity of the village and within the boundaries of the Town of Hanover.

During the fall and winter of 1991–1992, the Society celebrated the silver anniversary of the opening of the Nugget Theater in 1916, with a reception and premiere performance of the film, "Billy Bathgate." Two special, seventy-fifth anniversary Sunday matinee series were presented by William Pence, director of film programs for The Nugget, and three special issues of *The Nugget News~Herald*, covering the history of the theater in detail, were published. Financially, the programs were self-sufficient.



Fourth Improvement Society President John G. Skewes, seated on the Dartmouth Class of 1951 bench — part of the Improvement Society's Main Street renovation project. (Standing: Class of 1951 members Al Mori, Hank Nachman, and Bob Hustek.)

(Cavaney, from page 3)

you have made during so many years have made the Hanover Improvement Society truly the 'Fairy Godmother' to the Town of Hanover." In further recognition for their long and dedicated leadership to the Society, President Lou Bressett wrote testimonials to be mounted next to pictures of Max Norton and Pete Cavaney in the lobby of the Nugget Theater. Here are brief excerpts from these citations:

Edward M. "Pete" Cavaney President of the Hanover Improvement Society 1949–1973

"Pete Cavaney accepted the honor of being elected the second President of the Hanover Improvement Society in 1949 and for a period of 24 years guided the organization through a period of its greatest growth.

"Possessing a wonderful personality and the ability to deal with people in a fair and honest manner,



Top: Edward M. Cavaney. Bottom: Max A. Norton.

Pete was able through his leadership to acquire the land and oversee the construction of the Nugget Theater in 1951 and the Nugget Arcade in 1970.

"Always willing to make improvements for the betterment of the community, Pete was instrumental in getting the new swimming pool and tennis courts built at Storrs Pond." Max A. Norton Clerk and Treasurer 1930–1972

"Max, whose modest titles of Clerk and Treasurer of the Hanover Improvement Society for a period of 42 years belie the fact that he was in great part responsible for developing the financial capacity of the Hanover Improvement Society, which enabled the organization to make so many valuable contributions to the Town of Hanover."

These tributes show Lou Bressett's great respect for characteristics such as dedication to family, community, and business; honesty, fairness, generosity of spirit, compassion, and kindness. His own leadership style was best summarized by Cavaney in the 1967 Hanover Town Report, on the occasion of Lou's retirement as selectman: "Lou's skill at moderating opinions and his determination to be fair and honest with all citizens have marked him as a true leader of the community."

A SUMMARY OF DONATIONS FROM THE HANOVER IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

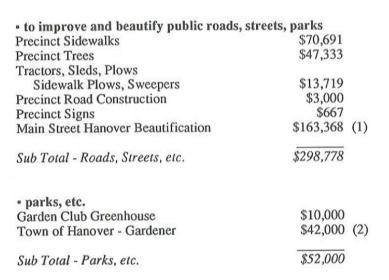
For The Betterment Of The Community

Compiled by Lewis J. Bressett

The headings are taken verbatim from the "Object" of the Society:



· for the acquisition and care of fire app	paratus and the lik
International Combination Truck	\$6,664
Maxim Fire Engine	\$6,527
Ladder Truck	\$6,500
New Fire Alarm System	\$4,143
Maxim Triple Combination Truck	\$3,100
Ford Chemical Truck	\$860
Sub Total - Fire Apparatus	\$27,794





· to improve educational and health conditions	6
School Furniture and Bicycle Room	\$6,500
Howe Library Building Fund	\$10,000
Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital	\$11,000
Montshire Museum of Science	\$5,000
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (5 years)	\$100,000
Norris Cotton Cancer Center	\$1,000
American Cancer Society	\$1,000
Sub Total - Education/Health	\$134,500





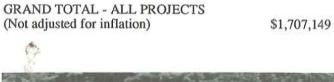
· improving the Town of Hanover...for the common use or benefit of all the people

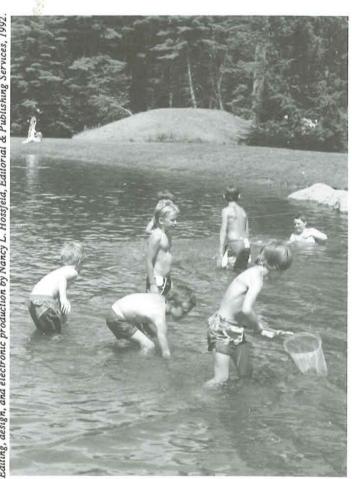
or an the people		
Occom Pond - Share of Operation	\$64,132	(3)
John J. Boardman Memorial (Oak Hill)	\$10,000	3 6
Advance Transit	\$10,000	
New Post Office Site	\$5,000	
Oak Hill Ski Area	\$5,000	
Hanover Boy and Girl Scouts	\$900	
Hanover Planning Fund	\$550	
Costello Memorial Field	\$3,500	
Hanover Unemployment Fund	\$500	
Miscellaneous	\$3,755	
Matching Funds - Conservation Easement	\$10,000	
Hanover Trails Association - Matching	\$3,000	
Sub Total - General Improvements	\$116,337	
Storrs Pond Recreation Area	\$725,740	(4)
James W. Campion III Memorial Rink	\$352,000	
Total - All Contributions (General)	\$1,064,740	

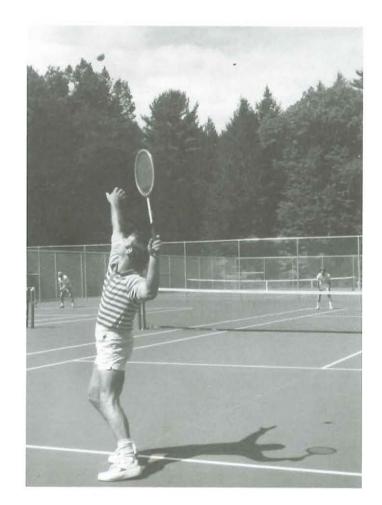


Notes:

- Includes estimated \$55,000 net for "Main Street East" 1992.
 Includes \$7,000 per year for 5 years, voted in 1991.
 Includes \$6,500 per year for 5 years, voted in 1991.
 Includes \$163,000 for pool and bath house improvements in 1992.







(Storrs, from page 2)

College to establish a "Nugget" in Webster Hall and movies were shown there until September 1951.

In 1949, after 27 successful years at the helm, Dave Storrs retired as president and was succeeded by Edward M. Cavaney, a well known local insurance man and civic leader. The Storrs administration is remembered for its careful and prudent stewardship of the Nugget Theater, significant contributions toward public works and fire apparatus, the establishment of Storrs Pond, and planning for the "new Nugget" of the future.

(Bressett, from page 6)

amendment of Article V to increase the Board of Directors from five to seven members and that the officers be elected by the Board of Directors. The directors voted approval to this amendment.

At the June 1991, meeting, the following were nominated for directors to serve staggered terms: David Cioffi, three years; Seaver Peters, three years; Gordon DeWitt, three years; Jack Skewes, two years; Paul Young, two years; Lou Bressett, one year; and Roy Banwell, one year. At the same meeting, Katie Manchester, Tod Schweizer, Larry Ufford, and Paul Gardent were nominated for Improvement Society membership.

Lou Bressett had previously announced his plans to retire after 18 years as president and 33 years on the Board of Directors. He was replaced as president by Jack Skewes, a director since 1974. Jack Stebbins reached the age of retirement and, after 44 years of service, was succeeded by Dave Cioffi.

[It is appropriate to note here that through the wives of S. John Stebbins (Phoebe Storrs Stebbins) and Dave Cioffi (Anne Stebbins Cioffi), the lineage of Dave Storrs, first president of the Improvement Society, maintains a presence in the Society of today.]

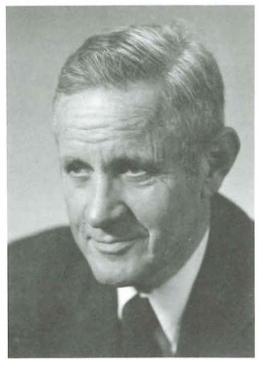
As a testimonial to Lou Bressett and Jack Stebbins, their pictures were mounted in the lobby of the Nugget Theater, beside those of Pete Cavaney and Max Norton. The following is an excerpt from the testimonial, written by Lou Bressett, which recognized the contributions to the Society of Jack Stebbins, member, director, and clerk, for a total of 44 years:

S. John Stebbins Clerk 1972–1991

"Jack Stebbins was elected to membership in the Hanover Improvement Society in 1947.

"Over many years he served the Town in various capacities: as Special Justice of the Hanover Municipal Court from 1946 to

1957; as member of the Hanover School Board from 1948 to 1957; as Trustee of the Howe Library from 1955 to 1977; as Trustee of the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital from 1957 to 1981 (President 1968 to 1976); as a Director of the Dartmouth National Bank from 1958 to 1977 (Chairman of the Board from 1978 to 1987)."



S. John Stebbins, Clerk, Hanover Improvement Society, 1972–1991.

The 18-year administration of Lou Bressett, the era of Lou, Jack Stebbins, and Paul Young, was characterized by prudent fiscal management that placed the Society on a sound financial footing, free of debt, and with sufficient assets to guarantee its

continued role as Hanover's "Fairy Godmother" into the foreseeable future.

On July 22, 1992, Lewis J. Bressett became president emeritus of the Hanover Improvement Society.

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We add our thanks and salute Lou Bressett and the Hanover Improvement Society

> 10 Water Street Lebanon, NH 03766 603•448•2600

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE HANOVER IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY, INC.

The Tree Association

The Hanover Improvement Society had its "roots" in the founding of the "Ornamental Tree Association" (also known in subsequent years as the "Hanover Tree Association" and "The Dartmouth Tree Association").

"For a long time many of our citizens have felt that something ought to be done to protect our trees, replace them where they were dead, and otherwise beautify our Village.

"In accordance with this feeling the following call was issued:

"All persons interested in the improvement of our Village, by planting trees or other means are invited to meet at the Vestry of the Cong. Church, Nov. 15, 1874.

"Frederic Chase was elected Moderator at the meeting.

"After some discussion, J. W. Patterson, Hiram Hitchcock, and S. B. Downing were appointed a Committee to report at a following meeting By-Laws and a Constitution.

"The Committee called a meeting to be holden in Vestry of Cong. Church Dec. 4, 1874. At that meeting... By-Laws and Constitution were adopted."

1874

"Whereas the beauty and value of our homes, and the desirableness of our Village



Hiram Hitchcock, founder of The Hitchcock Clinic and the "Hanover Tree Association" (1874).

as a place of residence is greatly enhanced by the shade trees planted by those who preceded us, many of which are now old, decayed, and ready to fall, and should be replaced by young and vigorous trees, and as we have streets and parts of streets in which ornamental trees have never been set, and others in which they are left, for the most part, without care or protection, and since individual enterprise cannot be relied upon to remove the dead and dying and supply the waste places, and as a proper selection, distribution, and care of the trees looking to the character and beautification of this improvement is a matter of Public interest, therefore, we, as Citizens, agree to organize ourselves into an Ornamental Tree Association."

(First entry in the journal held in the Archives of Dartmouth College) Among the incorporators were Frederic Chase, J. W. Patterson, Hiram Hitchcock, and S. B. Downing. Formed December 4, 1874.

The Village Improvement Society 100-Year Anniversary

A little more than 100 years ago, the directors of the Hanover Tree Association invited the citizens of Hanover to meet to organize a "Village Improvement Society," convinced that the powers of the Society should be enlarged beyond their original focus on "ornamental trees":

Hanover, N.H. May 1, 1892

"The directors of the Hanover Tree Association, believing that the powers and duties of the association should be enlarged, issued the following invitation to the citizens of the village:

Village Improvement Society

"The citizens of the Village, including the Ladies, are invited to meet at Precinct Hall, Saturday at 4 P.M. May 21, 1892 for the purpose of organizing a Village Improvement Society under the general law of the

State. This invitation is issued by the Hanover Tree Association."

F. A. Sherman, Sec'y

"Art-2. The object for which this corporation is established is the general improvement of the streets, sidewalks, walks, parks, and common of the Village of Hanover, the planting, cultivation, and protection of shade and ornamental trees, and the promotion of the growth and prosperity of the village."

The constitution was signed by the incorporators:

J. W. Patterson

F. A. Sherman

L. B. Downing

H. H. H. Langill

William F. Smith

James F. Colby

J. W. Latterson J. B. Dorving: H. 71.74 Jangell Milliam 7. huith James St Jouls



Circa 1892 view of the Dartmouth Green, looking south from the current Baker Library area toward the Hanover Inn.

The Village Improvement Society Disbanded

Ten years after it was established, the directors of the Village Improvement Society voted to disband the organization. State laws had been passed that greatly expanded the powers of precinct governments and the Village Improvement Society viewed itself as "no longer necessary":

Hanover N.H. Apr 26, 1902

"The annual meeting of the Hanover Village Improvement Society was held in Precinct Hall according to notice. The meeting was called to order by the Secretary, the President C. H. Hitchcock being absent. C. F. Richardson was chosen temporary chairman and was succeeded by the Vice President L. B. Downing. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

"The Treasurer reported the balance on hand was \$2.14. Voted to turn this balance over to the Treasurer and Prof. Richardson to expend for some public purpose."

The following preamble and resolution offered by the secretary was then adopted:

"Whereas the act of the Legislature entitled an act 'To Define, Enlarge, and Confirm the Powers of the Village Precinct of Hanover', recently adopted by the Precinct of Hanover, makes the work formerly undertaken by the Village Improvement Society no longer necessary — therefore, Resolved that this Society close its labors and disband.

"Adjourned." F. A. Sherman, Sec'y

The Hanover Improvement Society Established

Twenty years later, in July 1922, the Hanover Improvement Society was founded because the local government was prohibited, by law, from operating a commercial enterprise that might lose money at the expense of the taxpayers. Frank Davison and his son donated the Nugget Theater to the Town under the condition that all net proceeds be used to benefit the Town. We can speculate that the memory

of the "unnecessary" Village Improvement Society was still fresh in some minds when the incorporators of the Hanover Improvement Society met to form an organization with the following "object" stated in its by-laws:

ARTICLE III — OBJECT

"The object of this Association shall be the sole purpose of improving the Town of Hanover by any work or undertaking looking to the introduction, inauguration, or betterment of any facility, agency, or

other service or thing, designed or maintained for the common use or benefit of all the people of the community; to improve and beautify public roads, streets, parks, and other public utilities or services; to improve educational and health conditions; to raise funds for the foregoing or for the acquisition and care of fire apparatus and the like."

The object has remained unchanged for 70 years.

The directors of the Hanver Force association, believing that the powers and duties of the association should be anlarged issued the following suivitation to the citizent of the village. Village I sufrovement forcisting The citizens of the Village, including the Ladies, are invited to medat Precinct Hall, Salurday at 4 P.M. May 21, 1892, for the perform of organiting a Village I surprovement bociety limiter the general law of the State. This sinvitation is resued by the Hanver Tree association.

A copy of the original invitation issued by F. A. Sherman, secretary of the Hanover Tree Association, to all citizens of the Village, "including the ladies," to attend the organizational meeting of the Village Improvement Society on May 21, 1892.

HANOVER IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

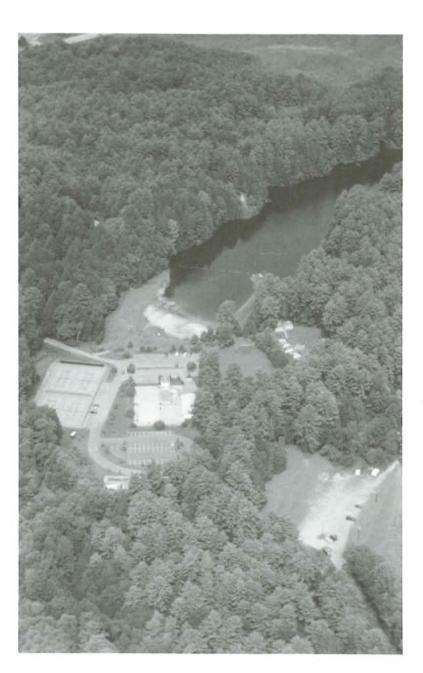
Hanover, New Hampshire

ORGANIZED JUNE 30, 1922 — INCORPORATED JULY 7, 1922

Original Members Roy Brackett Alfred W. Guyer Donald S. Bridgman Ernest M. Hopkins Harvey E. Burton Edgar H. Hunter Frank F. Davison Roland A. Lewin Frank W. Davison Claude Morey Halsey C. Edgerton Horace G. Pender Arthur P. Fairfield Robert J. Putnam James P. Farnum Adna D. Storrs John M. Gile Thomas E.Ward William R. Gray Harry R. Wellman

Other Former Members Thomas, E. Bacon 1937 Arthur, C. Barwood Adelbert Ames 1932 Nathaniel G. Burleigh 1932 Archie B. Gile 1937 John, F. Gile 1937 Sidney C. Hazelton 1937 Max A. Norton 1937 F. F. Parker Louis G. Porter David C. Rennie 1937 H. A. Wells Joseph A. Mulherrin 1935 John B. Stearns 1938 Ives Atherton 1949 Edward M. Cavaney 1948 Thomas Dent 1944 Richard Rand 1945 James W. Campion Jr. 1951 Harry Tanzi 1944 John P. Bowler 1954 Edward S. Brown Jr. 1954 Joseph L. MacDonald 1954 Richard W. Olmsted 1954 Karl A. Hill 1955 John F. Meck 1955 Dale Nelson 1955 James T. McFate 1964 Clinton B. Fuller 1978 James W. Campion III 1973 Howard P. Chivers 1973

Current Members
Roger C. Ball
Roy W. Banwell
Marilyn ("Willy") Black
David H. Bradley
Lewis J. Bressett (E)
E. Ronan Campion
David M. Cioffi
Gordon V. DeWitt
Connie Campion Eckels
J. Ross Gamble (E)
Paul Gardent
Charles Garipay
Orton H. Hicks (E)



Edward Connery Lathem Katherine Manchester John Milne (E) Seaver Peters

Tod Schweizer John G. Skewes Laurence Ufford Stephen Whitman George D. Wrightson Paul F. Young Salvatore S. Zappala Officers of the Society
Presidents
Adna D. Storrs 1922–1949
Edward M. Cavaney 1949–1973

Lewis J. Bressett 1973–1991 John G. Skewes 1991–present

Treasurers

Halsey C. Edgerton 1922-1938 Max A. Norton 1938-1972 J. Ross Gamble 1972-1973 Paul F. Young 1973-present

Clerks

Arthur P. Fairfield 1922–1930 Max A. Norton 1930–1938 Archie B. Gile 1938–1943 John B. Stearns 1943–1972 S. John Stebbins 1972–1991 David M. Cioffi 1991–present

Managers

Arthur C. Barwood 1922–1954 Kenneth C. Dimick 1954–1974 Ed Lider 1974–1984 Craig L. Sears 1974–1979 Richard S. Bressett (Storrs Pond) 1979–1991 Dan Dromgoole (Nugget) 1975–1988 William C. Pence (Nugget) 1984–present "Terri" Mac-Ball (Nugget) 1988–present

General Manager Thomas E. Byrne III 1991-present

> Operations Manager Richard S. Bressett 1991–1992

> > Directors

Frank F. Davison 1922-1932 Gordon Glidden 1943-1963 Arthur P. Fairfield 1922-1930 Edward M. Cavaney 1949-1973 Halsey C. Edgerton 1922-1939 Lewis J. Bressett 1960-1992 Adna D. Storrs 1922-1949 Dale H. Nelson 1966-1974 Roland A. Lewin 1922-1935 S. John Stebbins 1972-1991 Max A. Norton 1930-1972 J. Ross Gamble 1972-1973 Edgar H. Hunter 1932-1938 Paul F. Young 1973-present Nathaniel G. Burleigh 1935-1941 Richard Fowler 1973-1990 Archie B. Gile 1938-1943 John G. Skewes 1974-present John B. Stearns 1939-1972 Roy W. Banwell Jr. 1983-present Joseph A. Mulherrin 1941-1943 David M. Cioffi 1991-present David Rennie 1943-1963 Gordon DeWitt 1991-present Seaver Peters 1991-present Laurence Ufford 1992-present



Above: Young Lou Bressett as proprietor of Lou's Restaurant on Main Street, Hanover.

Below: Lou Bressett surrounded by friends and colleagues at the dedication of the Area 5 pavilion at Storrs Pond in June 1964. Left to right: Ken Dimick, Bob Mc-Laughry, Gordon Ingram, Norman Stone, Ives Atherton, Martin Heffernan, Al Granger, (unknown), Pete Cavaney, Warner Bentley, Dale Nelson, Max Norton, Lou Bressett, Dave Rennie, Maurice Aldridge, Bill Nungesser, Jim Mc-Fate, Roy Porter, Karl Hill, Dr. Oren Moore, Bill Wilson, Harry Tanzi, Orton Hicks, Dr. John Milne, John Masland, John Stearns, Clint Fuller, Jack Skewes, Jack Stebbins.

ALL ABOUT..."LOU"

"A Director of the Hanover Improvement Society since 1958 and President from 1973 to 1991, 'Lou' is truly Hanover's First Citizen.

"As President of the Society, he was the moving force in the construction, operation, and profitable sale of the Nugget Arcade Building; the maintenance and improvement of Storrs Pond; the creation of the Campion Rink, and the beautification program on Main Street.

"Lou has led and served the Hanover community in more different capacities than anyone else in its history. After graduating from Hanover High School and attending the University of New Hampshire, he served with distinction as a Marine in the Pacific during World War II. One of his first civic responsibilities was as chairman of the Board of Precinct Commissioners until it merged with the Town in 1964. He was the first Chairman of the new Board of Selectmen and served in that capacity until 1967.

"A few others of his distinctions have been: President of the Hanover Water Company, 1975–1989; the first person to receive the Hanover Chamber of Commerce 'Citizen of the Year' Award (1967); a long-time bank director of the Dartmouth National Bank, and. later, the Ledyard National Bank; an honorary member of the Dartmouth College Class of 1927, and recipient, in 1986, of an honorary degree from Dartmouth College for his service to the community; and his appointment in 1991 as the Honorary Mayor of the Town of Hanover."

— Jack Stebbins



Above: Lou Bressett at the dedication of the James W. Campion III Memorial Skating Rink.

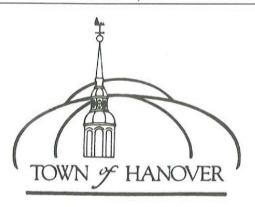
Below: Lou Bressett and some
of his favorite customers — the
"Coffee Club."
Left to right: Adrian Bouchard,
Dartmouth College photographer;
Pete Lyford; Warner Bentley,
director of the Hopkins Center;
Harry Tanzi, honorary mayor; Lou
Bressett; Clyde Dankert, professor;
Jack Hurd, professor; Dean Stearns
Morse; Charlie Widmayer, editor of
the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine.





THE HANOVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 1, 1992



The Members of the Hanover Chamber of Commerce Salute Honorary Mayor

LEWIS J. BRESSETT

for a lifetime of service to the community as an outstanding citizen and as president of the Hanover Improvement Society from 1973 to 1991.

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Lake House Inn

Lake Sunapee Savings Laser Lab League of N.H. Craftsmen Ledyard National Bank Len and Georgia Wishnefsky Loch Lyme Lodge Long River Studios Lou's Restaurant Lyme Country Store & Lyme Light Madacar Inc. Maloney Associates Maple Leaf Motel and Camp Ground Marble Bank Marjorie's House Martha Diebold Real Estate Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital McGuiness Deli Market McLaughry Associates Melissa's Mia Michael's Radio & TV Mini Corp Moe's-Togomo Corporation Molly's Balloon Montshire Museum of Science Moose Mountain Lodge Morgan & Young, P.C. N. E. Telephone Co. N. T. Ferro Nancy Veresan, Esq. New Dartmouth Bank New London Trust Company Night Hawk Security .99 \$ense Store Norwich Flower Shop Norwich Inn Nostalgia Toy Company Nugget Arcade Building Nugget Theater Occom Inn

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White Goose Inn

WNHV-KXE Radio

WNTK-Talk Radio

WJJR

WMXR

WNNE-TV

Wok and Roll

WTSL Radio

THANK YOU...Lou Bressett and the Hanover Improvement Society for making HANOVER a more vibrant place to live, work, shop...and play.

HANOVER IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY, INC. - FOUNDED 1922

LEWIS J. BRESSETT, PRESIDENT 1973-1991



Hanover Inn

At Dartmouth College

P.O. Box 151 Hanover, New Hampshire 03755-0151



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