

IN BRIEF

PAST AND PRESENT



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The Stowe School – named after Harriet Beecher Stowe – remained on Bartlet Street from 1888 to 1971, on the plot of land that now houses a small playing field just south of Doherty Middle School. Today one can still see stairs that appear unnecessary since there is no building there. The Senior Center Task Force is considering using the former Stowe School site for a new senior center.

Hood memories

By Andrea Dickey
Townsmen intern

Russell Seamans, 90, of 468 Lowell St. remembers when the Hood Farm still stood on River Road. Today, and for the past 73 years, the St. Francis Seraphic Seminary stands on the site.

Both institutions were pictured in the Past and Present section of the May 15 *Townsmen*.

Russell Seamans remembers his father, Joseph Seamans, working on the farm as foreman from 1909-1922. His duties included plowing the fields, driving the milk route delivery truck, and replacing any employees who failed to show up for work. As told to Barbara Innes, Seamans recalls the land to be "marvelously landscaped, surrounded by a wall with picturesque stone, and wrought iron gates. Many cupolas majestically adorned the all encompassing barn."

Charles I. Hood was able to purchase hundreds of acres of land along River Road, stretching from north Tewksbury through west Andover because he made his money by his sarsaparilla laboratory in Lowell, which produced not only sarsaparilla, but apothecaries as well. The farm grew to include Jersey stock and Berkshire swine, and according to Innes, eight champion-bred heifer calves were sold for \$3,140 at auction.

In 1922, Hood Farm closed due to Hood's failing health, and in 1930, the Friars of St. Francis purchased the farmhouse.

Information provided in a letter to the editor by Robert and Barbara Innes was used in this article.