

Llewellyn Fields



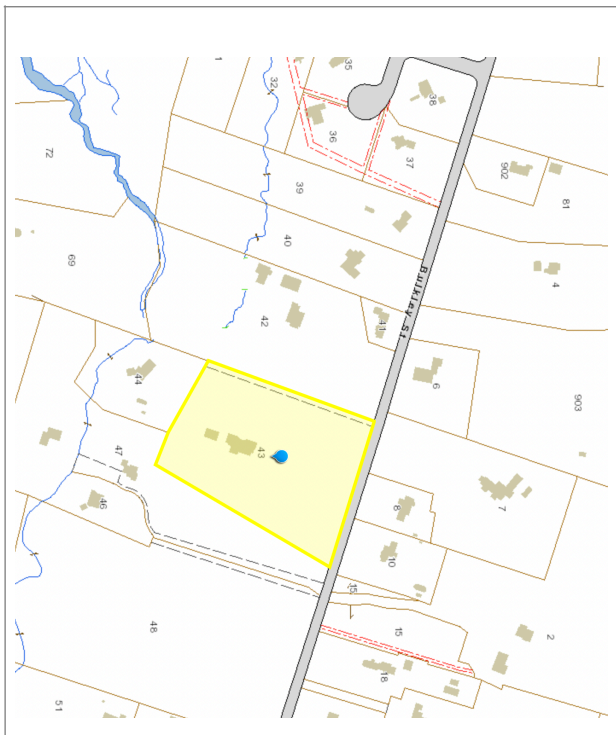
*Williamstown,
Massachusetts,
C. 1893*

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Locus Map



Recorded by: Joe Durwin

Organization: The Home Historian

Date (month / year): Jan 2022

Assessor's Number

2136

MapSheet: 13

Town/City: Williamstown

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 143 Bulkley Street

Historic Name: Llewellyn Fields

Uses: Present: Residential Dwelling

Original: “ ”

Date of Construction: 1893

Source: Williamstown: The First 200 Years- RRR Brooks, 1953; 1894 Atlas of Williamstown

Style/Form: Victorian

Rooms: 14

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick/Stone

Wall/Trim: Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

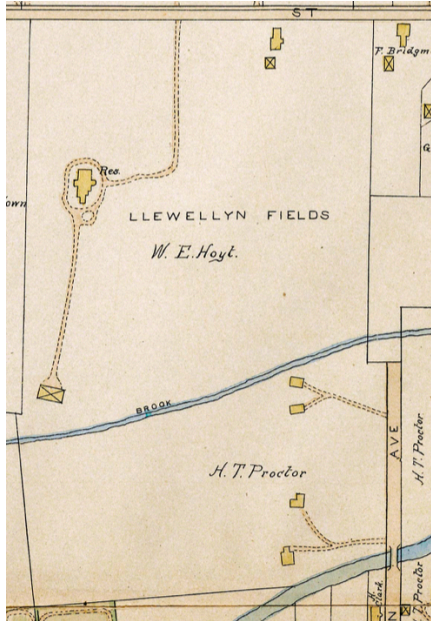
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage- 1995

Acreage: 6.61

Original Owner: Willard Evans Hoyt

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Christened "Llewellyn Fields," the residence at 143 Bulkley Street was built in 1893 for Willard Evans Hoyt and his family. It was subsequently an estate of Samuel Jones and of Robert C. Sprague, who both at one time owned the North Adams factory buildings now known worldwide as MassMOCA.



1894 Atlas

Llewellyn Fields

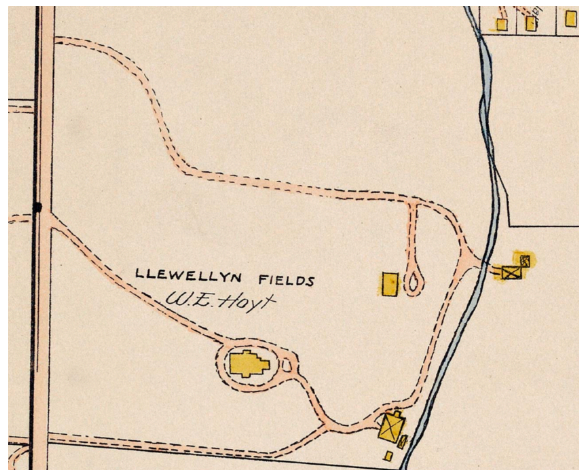
Willard Hoyt developed his estate out of three land purchases made from 1893-94 from Patrick Lally, William Lally, and Keyes Danforth.

Hoyt was already wealthy when we came to Williamstown at a young age. He had been born in 1870 in Stamford, CT, to Joseph Blachley Hoyt, a prominent leather merchant, and his wife Susann (Evans). He graduated from Williams College in 1892 and became engaged to Julia Jerome of Williamstown a few months later. They wed and took up residence at Llewellyn Fields. Julia gave birth to their first child, Susan, in 1894. Willard Hoyt Jr followed in 1899, and youngest daughter Julia in 1905.

A barn shown on the grounds on 1894 Williamstown atlas predated the house, leftover from the earlier Lally farm. Hoyt had offered the old barn up free to anyone who would take it away, but it ultimately ended up burning down in an early July 1895 fire. Some excitement in town followed the discovery by workers of what they at first thought to

be human bones in the ruins, and some thought a "tramp" may have been sleeping in the barn at the time. Hoyt declared they were chicken bones.

The barn was cleared away and by the time of the 1904 Berkshire atlas, more buildings can be seen on the estate, including structures that are now situated at 175 and 141 Bulkley. One of these is a house built for his coachmen in 1897. Hoyt also had a keen interest in horses, and was quartering at least 8 of them on the property in the 1890s.



1904 Atlas

Hoyt attended Albany Law School after Williams and worked briefly in the office of Judge Sanborn Tenney. He subsequently worked as Treasurer of Williams College from 1904 until 1935, and as secretary of its Institute of Politics. He was well known in town, where it was considered traditional for him to hand out free firecrackers to kids on Independence Day. Julia Hoyt was heavily involved with St John's Episcopal Church, where she headed various committees, and with the local Good Will Club.

In 1917, daughter Susan married Charles Griffith, a recent Dartmouth graduate on route to serve in WWI. Later he became a music publisher, and the couple ultimately settled in Vermont. Willard Jr attended Williams (class of '23), where he was captain of the varsity baseball team. He married Florence Palmer and moved to Greenwich, Connecticut, where he started a successful building company, and died in 1960. Julia attended Miss Halls and was "prominent in local social circles," according to the North Adams Transcript. She married David Dycke in 1928.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

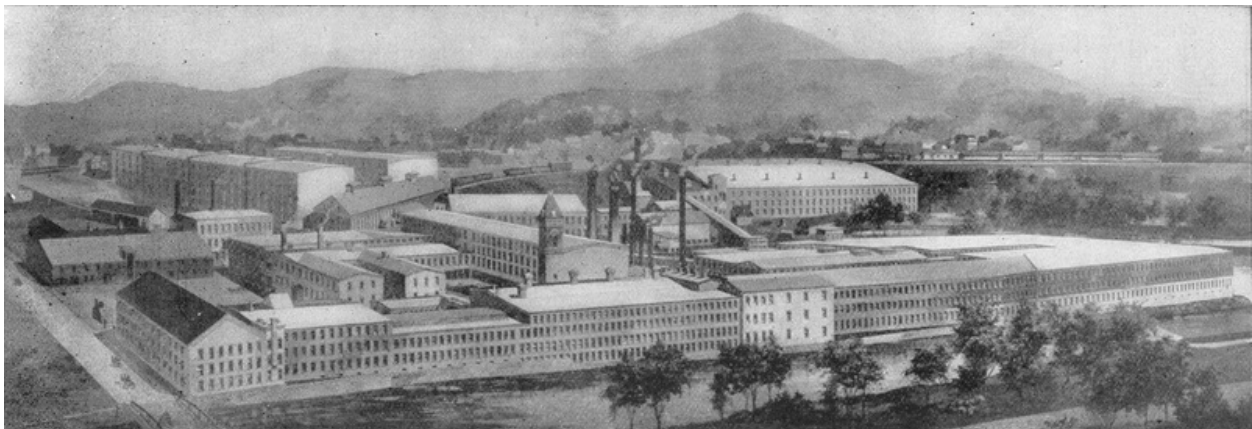
Perhaps the most significant social event at the home during Hoyt's time was in 1921, when Mr and Mrs Hoyt hosted a "musicale" reception for some distinguished guests at Williams that summer. Attendees included British statesman and ambassador Viscount James Bryce; Baron Sergei A. Korff, exiled Russian nobility and the last deputy governor of Finland before the 1917 revolution; Count Paul Teleki, who'd just finished his first stint as Prime Minister of Hungary.

Hoyt had been assisting college president Harry Garfield as he feted the array of dignitaries in town that Summer, there for the first month long stint of Garfield's experimental Institute of politics. The dignitaries were houses on campus and at various faculty homes. Earlier that week, Mr and Mrs Hoyt had also attended a party with this trio thrown by Bulgarian ambassador Stephen Panaretov, which also included major Italian and French political leaders Tomasso Tittoni and Achille Viallate. These latter may also have been present at the Hoyt house, as news items about the luncheon indicate allude to "other guests," and they had mostly attended the month's itinerary as a group.

Nicknamed the "New England Versailles," the Boston Globe called this confluence "one of the greatest gatherings of international figures since the peace conference broke up in 1919." At Llewellyn Fields, the European leaders were treated to a parlor recital consisting of his daughter Susan on playing piano, with singing by her husband Charles. The occasion was widely reported locally, and in New York and Boston papers.

In 1927, Hoyt sold the estate to Samuel and Dorothy Jones and moved to home of his old boss, Sanborn Tenney, on Park Street. The following year, though, he built a new mansion on land across the street from his old estate. He and Julia remained there until 1945, when they relocated to New York City. Julia Hoyt died there in 1946, Willard in 1948; both are buried in Williamstown.

The home's next owner, Dr. Samuel Jones, was born in North Adams to Charles and Anna (Mansfield) Jones. After graduating Drury in 1905 he attended technicals schools, and became employed by William Gallup who ran the Arnold Print Works (now MassMOCA). He went to Switzerland to study at the University of Basel, where he earned his Ph.D. before returning to work at Arnold Print Works, at plants the North Adams company owned in Germany and Russia.



Arnold Print Works, built up between 1871-1890. Later Sprague Electric Company, now MassMOCA

He also married Gallup's daughter Dorothy, and later, became President and controlling stockholder of the company upon Gallup's retirement in 1926. The company by this time had already receded significantly from its peak in the early 1900s, when it was worth eight million dollars, and employed over 3,000 people. When it was finally liquidated in 1942, it sold for \$1.9 million.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Samuel and Dorothy's move to Llewellyn Fields followed shortly after his promotion to president. At this time, the pair already had four children, the youngest two years old. Eldest daughter Florence was followed by Edward, then Anna, and Dorothy.

Florence was married in the the Fall of 1928, to Bryan Tillinghast Adriance, a Williams graduate from a prominent local family. The wedding was held in the drawing room of the Bulkley Street house, a "simple but impressive" ceremony with family and close friends, with a luncheon reception after. She later remarried to H.E. Bye, and moved to Gardner.

Anna attended Skidmore in the late 1930s, and married Robert H. Clark soon after, with whom she had two sons. She entered the Seaview Nursing Home in Rowley at age 41, and died there 9 years later, in 1967.

Edward left in 1942 for the war, where he served in the North Africa until 1945, most of it at Mallard field. After the war he moved to Daytona Beach where he worked as an accountant, and married Betty Finley. He died there in 1964.

The last surviving Jones sibling to grow up at Llewellyn Fields was Dorothy (1925-2005). A graduate of Colby Junior College -"Dottie," as she was known- was an accomplished equestrian in her youth. She married Albert Trudel in 1949 and settled in Glens Fall, NY, where she was president of the Glens Falls Hospital Guild and a volunteer for Red Cross, as well as a mother of five.

At the time of his death in 1954, Samuel's estate was valued at \$631,000. Most went to Dorothy- with other major bequests as follows: \$50,000 to her daughter Florence (at that time divorced), another \$50,000 to his longtime chauffeur, Robert Hammond, and another \$50,000 to an Adams masseuse named Edith Coussole, in acknowledgement of "6 years faithful service during the period of his physical impairment.

In October 1955 Dorothy Jones sold the main house on 12 acres to Mr & Mrs R.C. Sprague. She retained a tract with a small house on it from the original Hoyt estate for her own occupancy.



Robert C. Sprague

Robert Chapman Sprague- R.C. or Bob to most- was the founder of Sprague Electric Company and in his later years a passionate advocate of Elm trees. Twenty years before he bought the Llewellyn Field house, he had already acquired the later 1929 Hoyt home nearby (118 Bulkley). Then in 1949, he bought 12 acres of meadowland that had been part of Hoyt's original estate from Samuel Jones.

In a way, the gradual absorption of Jones' Williamstown estate mirrored the way Sprague's company had absorbed the buildings Jones had controlled in North Adams. Sprague Electric Company began purchasing commercial property from Arnold Print Works as early as 1929, and acquired the bulk of the rest of their real estate in the 1940s.

Surprisingly, the Spragues first put the Llewellyn Field house to use as a new headquarters for the Massachusetts wing of the Civil Air Patrol, of which his son Lt. Colonel Robert C. Sprague Jr, was briefly wing commander in 1956.

The relocation of the CAP state headquarters to Llewellyn Field was a brief and a curious affair, the full politics of which may never be known. On December 2, national CAP and Air Force officials denied a rumor [stemming from a typed news announcement from an unknown source, delivered to the Boston office of the Associated Press] that RC Sprague Jr was being promoted to succeed Col. John Slate of Saugus, saying the announcement was "without foundation." CAP said Slate was still wing commander, and further

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

denied that the headquarters was being moved from Hanscom AB in Bedford to North Adams, where Sprague's Northern Berkshire squadron was based. On December 13, Slate was removed, and Sprague's appointment to replace him announced to newspapers the following day. Robert Jr. had a proposal to relocate the Massachusetts capital to Bulkley Street submitted and approved by the Williamstown Select Board by December 23.

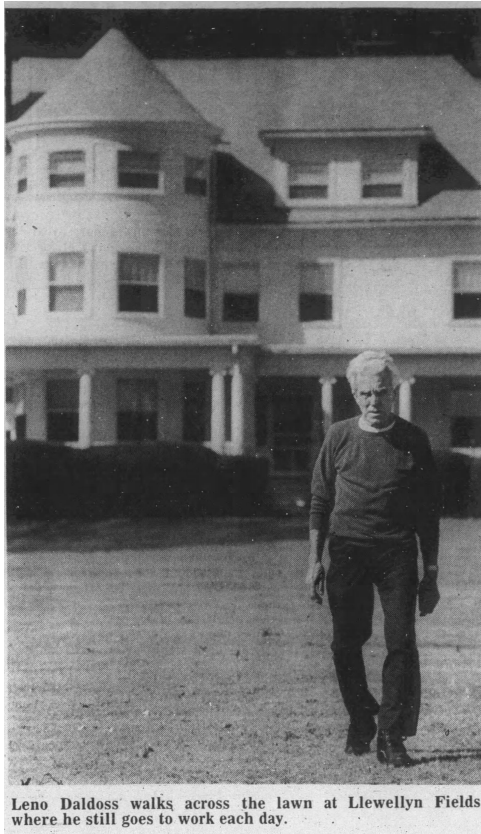
In early 1956, Robert Jr. appointed at least 18 new members to the wing's command staff, including his wife Dorothy. The staff quickly got busy consolidating CAP operations for the whole state into the house at 143 Bulkley Street. Members in the eastern part of the state were outraged, however, by the relocation and the removal of Slate as commander. Two hundred members (about 1/3 of the total membership) effectively dropped out of the Massachusetts chapter by April, and were pledging to fly to Washington to testify to the CAP Appeals board in protest of the changes. In late May, the board voted to reinstate Slate, who appealed on the grounds that he was never given any official reason for his removal.

200 Bay Staters to Protest Ouster of Air Patrol Head



DISMISSAL of Col John B. Slate (left) from Civil Air Patrol post, and appointment of Lt Col Robert C. Sprague Jr. (right) has 200 members of the organization up in arms.

Boston Globe 4/24/1956



Leno Daldoss walks across the lawn at Llewellyn Fields where he still goes to work each day.

A week after his reinstatement, a spokesman for Slate communicated to news outlets that the Colonel Slate would expect a mass resignation of Sprague's appointed wing staff "as a matter of military courtesy." The headquarters was relocated back to Hanscom that summer.

After the CAP debacle, the home for many years became a guest house for the Sprague estates on Bulkley (Robert Sr and Florence at 118 Bulkley, Robert Jr and his family at 108). The property was maintained pristinely, with the grounds overseen by caretaker Leno Daldoss for more than a quarter century. Daldoss, who worked there from 1964 to 1991, became a good friend to R.C. Sprague Sr (see appendix materials).

The house also served as the listed headquarters for their philanthropic arms- the Florence and Robert Sprague Foundation, and the Elm Tree Foundation.

The Elm Tree Foundation was Robert Sr's 1980s crusade to repopulate Williamstown's elm trees, a part the town's traditional landscape that had been decimated by Dutch Elm disease. Beginning in 1980, Sprague donated funds and enlisted help to remove 126 diseased trees, treat 200 healthy ones, and plant 140 new trees. In 1986, Sprague declared the mission accomplished and disbanded the foundation.

In 1977, Williamstown undertook a complete renumbering of its streets. For many years, phone directories for Williamstown show houses on Bulkley Street clustered together with no particular coherence or enumeration. No new official numbers

had been added to the south side of the street in many years, so every house past 25 lacked an actual street number. After this renumbering, the Llewellyn Field house finally became 143 Bulkley Street.

1987 was a year of losses for the family. In April, Robert Jr burned to death when his single engine plane struck treetops on approach to the North Adams Airport. The longtime pilot, who had launched the

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Sprague Aviation division of the company, was 63. Two months later, his mother Florence had a stroke at their Bulkley Street home, and died at North Adams Regional Hospital on June 1.

R.C. Sprague died at home on September 27, 1991, at age 91. Accounts vary about exactly which house he died in, with the Berkshire Eagle (9/28/91) saying 118 Bulkley but the North Adams Transcript explicitly states it occurred at the Llewellyn Fields house at 143, where several sources suggest Robert was residing at the time of his death. A reception was also held there, following a large funeral service at St. John's.

In late 1992, the home was sold by the Llewellyn Nominee Trust to the Holland family, its present owners, for \$1.05 million. Williamstown Assessors Records list its current value at \$2,054,000.

Sources:

Atlas of Williamstown. Miller, D.L., 1894 Williams College Archives: Map Collection
Atlas of Berkshire County. Barnes and Farnham, 1904. Berkshire Athenaeum Collection.

Berkshire Eagle: 7/11/1895; 6/5/1954; 6/23/1954; 12/24/1955; 7/6/1981;
12/1/1982; 3/17/1991; 9/28/1991; 6/3/1993

Pittsfield Sun 8/31/1893;

North Adams Transcript: 6/15/1895; 7/6/1895 7/9/1895; 7/22/1897; 10/14/1927; 8/10/1928; 10/4/1945;
1/26/1946; 1/20/1948; 6/1/1954; 6/2/1955; 4/13/1987; 6/2/1987; 10/1/1991

Registry of Deed, North Berkshire District: Book 212p151; B212p275; B259p259; B513p271; B855p75;
B1005p95

Brooks, Robert R.R. Williamstown, The First Two Hundred Years. McClelland Press, 1953

Williamstown Assessors Records

Manning's Williamstown Directory/ Berkshire County Phone Directory 1930s-1990

US Census Records, 1890-1940

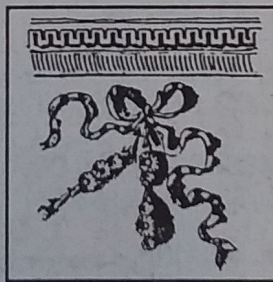


Alton & Westall Agency is pleased to present

Llewellyn Fields

143 Bulkley Street
Williamstown, Massachusetts

This gracious property offers many fine features found only in structures built during this era (1898) such as intricate detailing of hardware, woodwork, plaster and decorative leaded glazing. Architecturally, the house contains a dramatic center hall with fireplace (six more fireplaces throughout the house) and a unique "tower" that houses the first floor dining room, a second



floor bedroom suite, and a very special domed room on the third floor. Over six acres of grounds includes a formal garden and magnificent views of the center of town. Llewellyn Fields was acquired by the late Mr. Robert C. Sprague in the 1950s and, under his care, has been meticulously maintained. This is a rare opportunity to acquire a premiere Bulkley Street property. \$950,000.

For more information, please contact

Alton & Westall Agency

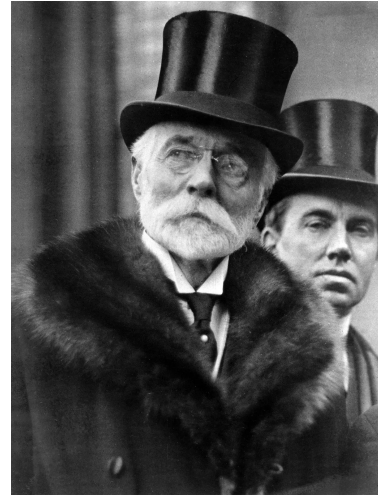
77 Water Street
Williamstown, Massachusetts

(413) 458-8366

Detail from library mantel.

Viscount James Bryce (1838-1922) was a journalist and historian who became an influential Liberal politician in the UK. He served as Chief Secretary of Ireland, a member of parliament, and British Ambassador to the United States.

In 1914, he was raised to peerage as Viscount Bryce of Dechmont in the County of Lanark. He spent most of his final years as a judge in the international court at The Hague. In 1921, he published his last book, *Modern Democracy*. Bryce died in Devon in Jan. 1922, less than 6 months after attending the Institute of Politics in Williamstown.

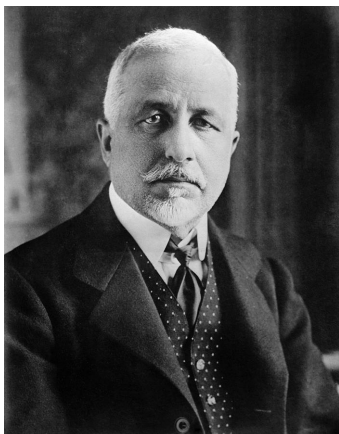


Count Pál János Ede Teleki de Szék (1879 – 1941) was an academic historian and a Hungarian leader from an aristocratic family in Transylvania. He served his first term as Prime Minister of Hungary from 1920-1921, just before attending the Institute of Politics in Williamstown.

His more turbulent second term was in 1939-1941, during which Count Teleki attempted to keep the country neutral during the early years of World War II. His legacy is a mixed one of half-appeasement, half-resistance to Hitler (including allowing an estimated 100,000 Poles to escape across Hungary). He committed suicide by gun on the night of Germany's incursion into Hungary on April 3, 1941.

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Baron Sergei Alexandrovich Korff [S.A. Korff] (1876-1924) was a professor of history and political science, as well as a minor nobleman of the Russian Empire, and last regional Governor of Sweden before the 1917 revolution. He has served for a time as president of the University of Helsinki



Baron Korff stayed on seasonally in Williamstown until 1924, with his teen son Serge, a pioneer astrophysicist whose findings led to radiocarbon dating for archaeology

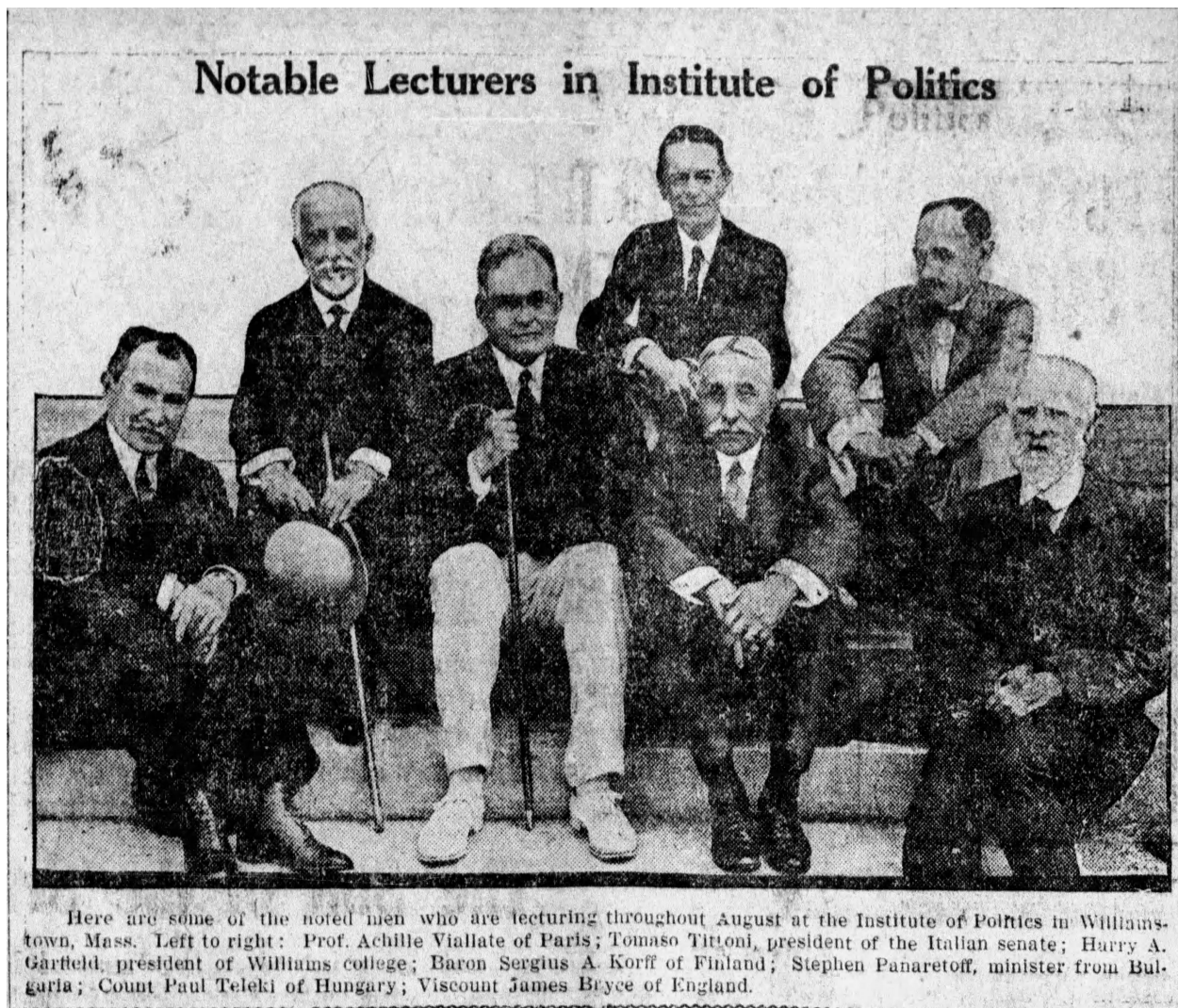


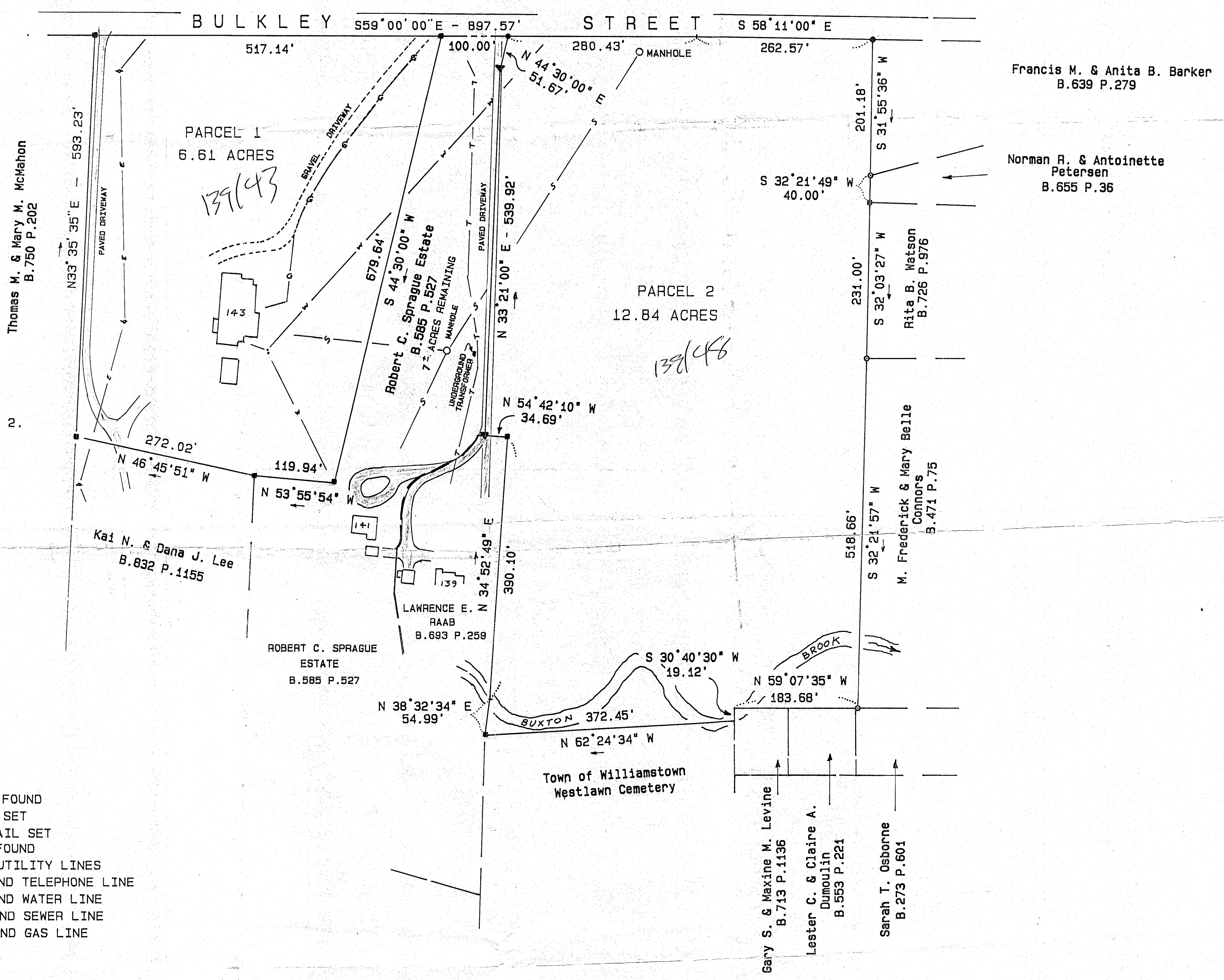
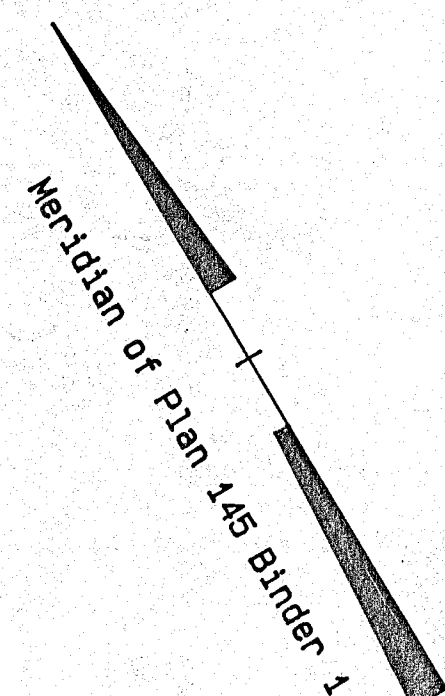
Tomasso Tittoni (1855- 1931)

was the son of a tenant farmer who worked his way up to the top of Italian government by age 50. He was President of the Italian Senate from September 1919-1929, after serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs for a number of years. For 16 days in March 1905, he had been interim Prime Minister. Tittoni backed Mussolini's early government and spent his final year as president of the Royal Academy of Italy, the top cultural institution of the fascist government.

Stephen Paneretov- (1853-1931) was a longtime professor, diplomat and government minister in Bulgaria. He is considered to have played a critical role in maintaining Bulgaria's diplomatic relations with the U.S. during the Wilson administration. In 1921, he served as the country's first representative to the League of Nations.

Francois Achille Viallate (1831-1922) was a professor at the Free School of Political Science in Paris and a successful industrialist. He authored a number of books on political science and economics.





NOTES
1. ZONING IS GENERAL RESIDENCE 2.

- LEGEND
- IRON PIPE FOUND
 - IRON PIPE SET
 - ▲ MASONRY NAIL SET
 - MONUMENT FOUND
 - E — OVERHEAD UTILITY LINES
 - T — UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE LINE
 - W — UNDERGROUND WATER LINE
 - S — UNDERGROUND SEWER LINE
 - G — UNDERGROUND GAS LINE

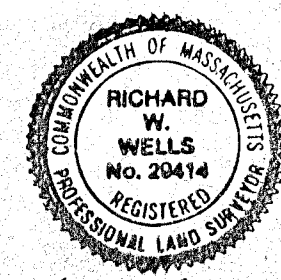
Approval under the subdivision
control law not required

[Signature]

Date July 14, 1992
Williamstown Planning Board

I certify that this plan was
prepared in accordance with
the rules and regulations of
the registers of deeds.

Richard W. Wells



Plan Of Land
Surveyed For
THE ROBERT C. SPRAGUE ESTATE
Williamstown, Mass.

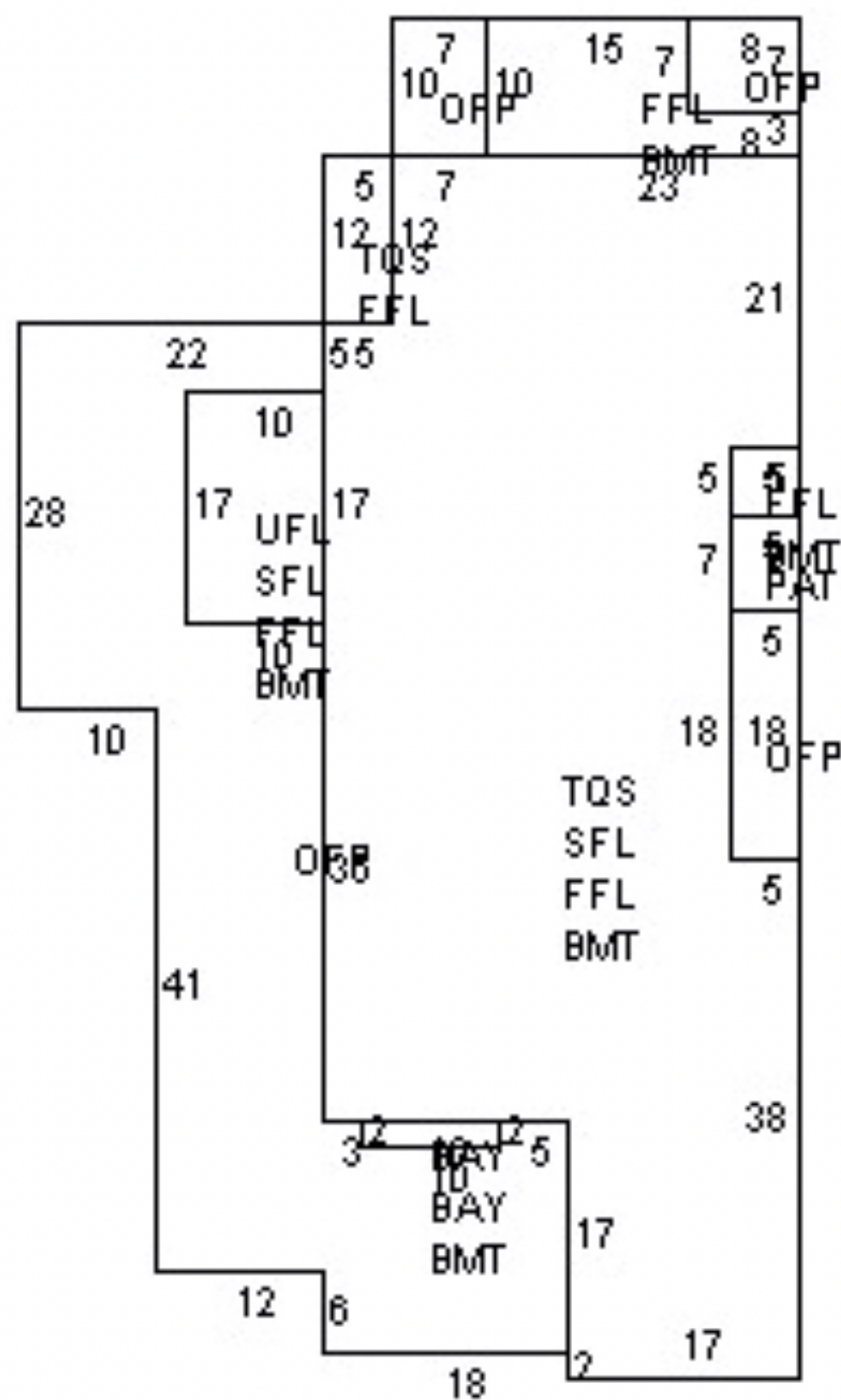
Scale 1"=100' June 4, 1992

0 100 200 300 400 500 FT

Henry C. Neff Associates, Inc.
Professional Land Surveyors
41 Park Street
Adams, Massachusetts
01220

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ADAMS, MASS.
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FEE \$15.00
BK _____ PG _____

map 139-43+48





Los Angeles Times

Melting pot cools down.

Melting pot shelved

Delight with diversity takes over

By Itabari Njeri
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES

Back in what some think were the good old days, Henry Ford ran his company's English-Melting Pot School. Graduation was a public spectacle in which the auto maker's foreign-born employees, dressed in Old World costumes and carrying signs noting their birthplace, marched into a large, kettle-shaped prop labeled "Melting Pot." Moments later, they would emerge dressed in neat business suits and waving small American flags.

That was America, circa 1916.

America, circa 1991:

Jerry Yoshitomi, director of the Japanese-American Community Center, Stanford-educated and married to an Irish-Catholic American, recalled a recent New Year's Day in Los Angeles with their children.

"We woke up in the morning and went to Mass at St. Bridget's, which has a black gospel choir. . . . Before or after, we had coffee and doughnuts somewhere. Then we came [to the center] for the Japanese Oshogatsu New Year's program and saw Buddhist archers shoot arrows to ward off evil spirits for the year. Then we ate traditional Japanese rice cakes as part of the New Year's service and listened to a young Japanese-American storyteller. . . . On the way home, we stopped in Chinatown for a lunch at King Taco."

If you think what Yoshitomi described is another example of the melting pot, think again. Many Americans are.

Blending in was once considered the ideal. But as the racial and ethnic nature of the nation has changed, so has that ideal.

Throughout the nation, multiculturalism — the concept of looking at the world through the eyes of more than one culture — is the new end-of-the-millennium buzzword.

The notion of the melting pot has seen "an astonishing repudiation," said historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. in the Wall Street Journal last year. "The contemporary ideal is not assimilation but ethnicity. The melting pot yields to the Tower of Babel."

Some say we should call this multiculturalism, or cultural pluralism — the politically correct term on many college campuses. Or is it a salad? A mosaic? A patchwork quilt? Or is it possible to hold onto the beloved melting pot and just admit there are new ingredients in the stew?

The questions over how we define ourselves are triggered by population shifts that will lead us to what demographers say will be the new majority in 21st-century America: people of color.

A Time magazine article last year proclaimed: "By 2056, when someone born today will be 66 years old, the 'average' U.S. resident will trace his or her descent to Africa, Asia, the Hispanic world, the Pacific Islands, Arabia — almost anywhere but white Europe."

What must yield, said literary critic and historian Henry Louis Gates, is the "antebellum aesthetic position, where

MELTING, continued on H7

Monet in a bottle

Garden flowers inspire new perfume

New York Times News Service

NEW YORK

The flowers and gardens in Claude Monet's paintings, whose colors and sense of romance have touched art lovers for generations, have now inspired a perfume. The fragrance, Les Fleurs de Claude Monet, has been sold in the United States for about two months.

It is a blend of jasmine, iris, lily of the valley, white rose and daffodil, with a touch of lavender and an ambergris base.

The marketing of the French perfume has caught the attention of the fragrance industry. The manufacturer and distributor, the Colber Group of Washington, sells it only in museum gift shops.

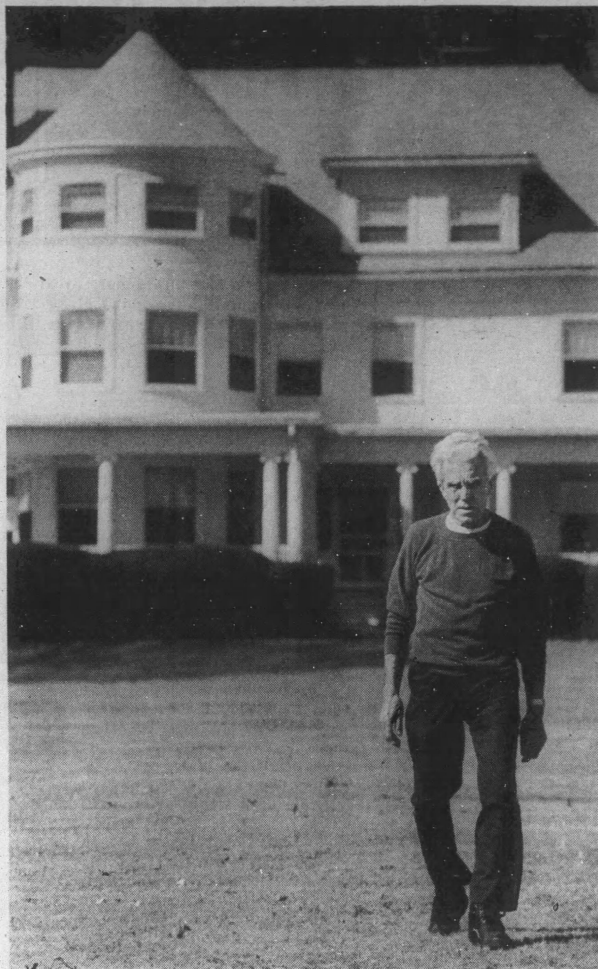
"I think it's very clever because you

don't have to have a lot of investment" in advertising and store promotion, said Annette Green, executive director of the Fragrance Foundation, an industry group.

Bernard Alain Portelli, senior vice president of the Colber Group and developer of the perfume, acknowledged that cost was one reason to limit distribution to museums. But he also said part of the approach seemed obvious.

"When we have a name like that, Claude Monet, the idea of going to a museum is fairly easy," he said.

For three years the perfume had been sold only at the Monet Museum in Giverny, France, where the Impressionist lived. It is now sold in 32 American museums, including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden where a 3.4-ounce bottle costs \$65.



Leno Daldoss walks across the lawn at Llewellyn Fields where he still goes to work each day.

64 years of work suits 80-year-old

By Holly A. Taylor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

WILLIAMSTOWN

On March 3, Leno Daldoss turned 80 and did what he has continued to do six days a week for the past 64 years. He woke up and went to work at one of this town's few remaining estates.

"Me retire? Not until I'm six feet under," said Daldoss.

Daldoss was employed at Mount Hope Farm for 37 years, working his way up to head vegetable gardener. After Mrs. Parmalee Prentice died and willed Mount Hope to Lenox Hill Hospital, Daldoss was hired by Robert C. Sprague Sr. in 1964 as a caretaker for the two homes on Bulkeley Street. Daldoss has been there ever since.

Berkshire County's estates were once an industry unto themselves, employing thousands of workers to groom acres of lawns, cultivate the formal gardens and maintain the homes for people who were ordinarily in residence only in the summer.

For a person willing to work six days a week, nine hours a day for a modest pay and a modest rent, it

was a good life, Daldoss said, and one to which he attributes his good health and humor.

Followed father

The son of Austrian immigrants, Daldoss first learned to tend a garden at his family's State Street home in North Adams, where he was also responsible for his siblings after his mother died.

When he turned 16, he joined his father, the late Julius Daldoss, at the 1,400-acre Mount Hope Farm during the four-year construction of the Georgian style mansion in the late 1920s.

"My first job was as a water boy to the construction crews and then I did some road work. When the house was done, I went to work in the vegetable garden and took over when the head gardener died," said Daldoss.

The Prentices demanded that their gardens be kept in "A-1 condition" said Daldoss. Each March, he would begin cultivating seeds in the hot house and then, when the soil was warm enough, would plant out-

DALDOSS, continued on H6

Working class created the artless cottage garden

uctions

u've gone from
Denton's to Dr.
mento.

r your child would look up
with those sweet, innocent
and ask, "Who's God
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driving in the car is a test
exes. Who can get to the
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a response between fury
afness.

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ht now and you'll have to
me, I'm up in the attic
ng madly for a set of in-
ns.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Leno Daldoss, left, and his employer, Robert C. Sprague Jr., have become friends in recent years.

80-year-old still working

■ DALDOSS, from H1

side in six plots that ranged in size from 40 by 90 feet to 60 by 90. These contained peppers, parsley, eggplant, tomatoes, a variety of lettuce and other vegetables.

In the fall, apples and potatoes were harvested; in winter, the jellies and honey had to be put up; in late winter, the maples were tapped for sap.

Even during the Depression, the Prentices kept their help.

"The pay wasn't big, but at least you had something," recalled Daldoss. "I started at \$12 a week, then my pay gradually increased to \$15, \$18, \$21. Twenty-seven dollars a week was tops."

The Mount Hope workers were also given homes along Green River Road in exchange for a minimal rent. When the hospital acquired the farm in 1963, the workers were permitted to buy their homes and Daldoss and his wife, Genevieve, purchased the Green River Road house where they had lived since 1942.

Mount Hope has undergone several changes in ownership. It was sold by Lenox Hill to Williams College and then by the college to health spa magnate August Mansker. After Mansker declared bankruptcy, the college bought back Mount Hope through the help of eight alumni and, today, Williams uses the main house as a conference center and various alumni divided up the acreage for private homes.

On May 5, 1964, Daldoss remembers the exact date, "R.C." Sprague hired him as a caretaker for his property, Llewellyn Fields. Again, it was the work Daldoss likes best — tending vegetable and flower gardens.

Before the death of Sprague's wife, Florence, in 1987, Daldoss ordered and planted 50 to 60 flats of flowers each spring as well as tended the peonies, delphiniums and phlox.

There have also been the long driveways to plow, sprawling lawns to mow and trees to prune. Sprague, who started the town's Elm Tree Foundation to save dying trees from Dutch elm disease, credited Daldoss with saving one of his prized elms.

"We noticed one day that one of my nicest elms had contracted Dutch elm disease and I called Leno," Sprague said. "Within two hours, he had four men on the tree. The disease would have

killed the tree and it was the tallest elm."

In recent years, Daldoss had an operation for cataracts and has doctor's orders not to lift anything over 20 pounds. His duties have changed, too, and he has become a companion to Sprague, 90, who has had two major operations in recent years and uses a wheelchair.

"Mr. Sprague's been more than an employer, he's a friend, too," said Daldoss, as the two men exchanged quips and posed for a photographer.

Daldoss oversees the workers for the outdoor work and arrives at Llewellyn Fields each day, brings breakfast to Sprague and helps him out of bed in the morning. He stops by on Sundays, brings the mail, does some shopping and makes sure the driveway gets plowed and the lawn gets mowed.

And, back at his own home, Daldoss still cuts two acres of lawn and trims 550 feet of hedges.

"There's nothing better for you than work and vitamins," said Daldoss.

Many elderly people pay too much for housing

BOSTON (AP) — Almost a third of the nation's 19.5 million elderly households don't have enough money for food, clothing and medical insurance because their housing costs are more than they can afford, a report says.

The study by the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Boston found the problem so acute for elderly in 3 million households "that even if their housing costs were to be reduced to zero, they still would be unable to meet their non-shelter needs at a minimum level of adequacy."

These worst-off elderly are mostly women, widowed or unmarried, who live on minimum Social Security or welfare.

"Almost all their meager income goes to pay the rent," said Prof. Michael Stone of UMass-Boston, who oversaw the study.

At the other end of the scale are elderly homeowners who have stable or even increasing incomes because their mortgages are paid.

The study found that 31 percent of U.S. elderly households are paying more than they can afford for housing.

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Dr. Samuel M. Jones, Former Head of APW, Succumbs at Age 66

Dr. Samuel Mansfield Jones, 66, of Bulkley street, Williamstown, who was president and majority stockholder of the old Arnold Print works here from 1926 until its liquidation in 1942, died Saturday night at the North Adams hospital. He had been an invalid for several years.

North Adams Native

Born in North Adams, he was the son of the late Charles H. and Anna (Mansfield) Jones. He was still a young boy when his father died, and his mother subsequently was married to the late Dr. E. E. Russell, who had been a practicing physician here for years.

After his graduation in 1905 from Drury high school, Dr. Jones continued his education in technical schools and then became employed in the chemistry department of the Arnold Print works, then owned by the late William A. Gallup, who was destined to become his father-in-law.

Later he studied in Europe and received his Ph. D. degree from the University of Basel in Switzerland. Before returning to this country to resume his work at the Print works, he was employed in various industrial plants in Germany and Russia.

Gains Control of A.P.W.

He acquired ownership of the Arnold Print works from Mr. Gallup on the latter's retirement in 1926, thus fulfilling an early ambition, and controlled the operations of that company serving as its president, until its liquidation 12 years ago. During the depression years of the 30's he also purchased the old Renfrew Manufacturing company plant in Adams, and established there the Jones division of the Arnold Print works, a name still commonly applied to that plant.

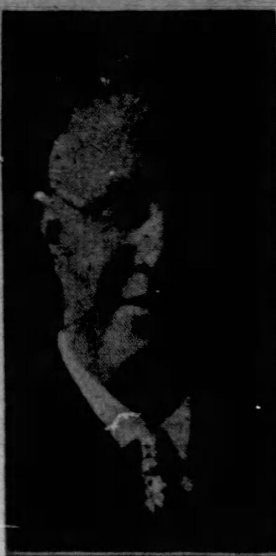
Dr. Jones retired shortly after the liquidation of the local industry, but remained active during World War 2 as a member of the North Adams draft board. Described today by old friends and associates as a man of "quiet charities," he gave \$10,000 to the Red Cross in 1941 and also was remembered for a \$5,000 gift to the North Adams hospital.

He had spent many past winters at Daytona Beach, Fla., where he maintained a home.

Memorial Thursday

Besides his wife, the former Dorothy Gallup, he leaves three daughters, Mrs. Robert H. Clark of North Adams, Mrs. Albert Trudel of Williamstown, and Mrs. John B. Robinson of Worcester; one son, Edward R. Jones of Daytona Beach, Fla.; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Following cremation, a memorial funeral service will take place Thursday morning at 10.45 o'clock in St. John's Episcopal church, of which he was a mem-



DR. SAMUEL M. JONES

ber. Rev. Robert R. Carmichael will officiate and the ashes will be interred in Hillside cemetery. There will be no calling hours at the Hopkins funeral home, and the family, requesting that no flowers be sent, has suggested that donations be made instead to individual charities.

Obituary

Jerry Cantoni

Jerry Cantoni, 41, of 130 Bracewell avenue, collapsed and died yesterday morning while walking along River street near his home.

The Fire department inhalator squad was called to the scene and tried in vain to revive the stricken man. Dr. Antoine Dumouchel also went to the scene and pronounced Mr. Cantoni dead. Dr. Arthur W. Burckel of Adams, associate medical examiner, said death was caused by a heart attack.

Mr. Cantoni was born in this city, the son of Augustino Cantoni and the late Mrs. Cantoni. He was employed at the Windsor Print works.

Besides his father, he leaves his wife, the former Laura Robare; two sons, Anthony Michael and Gerald David; and a daughter, Margaret Janice Cantoni. He also leaves four brothers, Rosario, Victor, John and Michael Cantoni of North Adams, a sister, Mrs. Anthony Severino of Waterbury, Conn., and several nieces and nephews.

The body was removed to the Montagna Home for Funerals, where friends may call until 5 o'clock this afternoon and from 7 to 10 this evening.

Funeral services will take place at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in St. John's Episcopal church with Rev. Robert R. Carmichael, rector, officiating. Burial will be in Southview cemetery.

Michael Czaja

Michael Czaja, 70, of 17 Staples street, Adams, died at his home this afternoon after an extended illness.

Mr. Czaja was born in Poland, but had been a resident of Adams for the past 52 years. He was employed as a weaver at the

Local Women Given Chance For Jury Duty

North Adams women got their chance today to volunteer for service on Superior court juries in Pittsfield.

The registrars of voters issue their annual appeal to women who are eligible to serve and would be willing to serve if selected, to put their names on the jury list which the registrars soon will compile. Names on the jury list are put in a box and those to serve are drawn by lot each time the city council gets a call to furnish jurors for a court sitting.

Women under 25 and over 70 years of age, those who are mothers or custodians of children under 16, and those who are teachers, members of the clergy, lawyers, physicians, nurses or hospital employees are not eligible. But others who would be willing to serve have the opportunity to get their names on the list by filling in the blank published with the invitation elsewhere in the Transcript, and returning it to city hall.

William C. Root, 76, Of Pittsfield, Dies

William C. Root, 76, of Pittsfield, died suddenly yesterday morning at his home. He was president of the Eagle Printing and Binding Co. of that city and was well known here.

He was a past district governor of Rotary and held memberships in the Royal Arcanum, Masons, Berkshire County Automobile club, Sportsmen's club, Advertising club, Y. M. C. A. and Order of Eastern Star. He was a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, president of Pittsfield Milk Exchange, vice president of Union Federal Savings bank and a member of the board of Hillcrest hospital.

A prayer service will be held tomorrow at 1.30 o'clock at his home. Services will follow at 2 o'clock in St. Stephen's Episcopal church. Burial will be in Pittsfield cemetery.

Eugene I. Cowell Dies; William Class of '06

Eugene Irving Cowell, 69, of Ashburnham, a native of Shelburne Falls and valedictorian of the class of 1906 at Williams college, died Sunday in Haywood hospital, Gardner, after an extended illness.

Son of the late Hervey Cowell, headmaster of Cushing academy, Ashburnham, for 42 years and before that principal of Arms academy at Shelburne Falls, Mr. Cowell prepared for Williams a



WRECKAGE of light plane flown by Robert C. Sprague Jr. lies upside down after it crashed yesterday on Hawthorne Avenue, North Adams. Arthur J. Kelly III, North Adams' commis-

sioner of public safety, faces the wreck, chin in hand. Harriman and West Airport runway is at right, just out of view.

Susan C. Phillips

R.C. Sprague Jr. dies in crash

Plane, piloted by victim, goes down in North Adams

By Susan C. Phillips

NORTH ADAMS — Robert C. Sprague Jr., son of the founder of Sprague Electric Co., was killed yesterday when the plane he was piloting crashed during an attempted landing at Harriman and West Airport.

According to witnesses, the airplane hit the top of three or four trees, then flipped over and crashed to the ground, bursting into flames. Sprague was alone in the two-seat aircraft, and no one else was hurt. The crash took place at about 1:20 p.m., in clear, sunny weather.

Though North Adams officials would not release the identity of the dead pilot, friends of Sprague's at the airport said that the plane was his and that he was at the controls. Late yesterday afternoon, a spokesman for Sprague Electric Co. confirmed Sprague's death.

Medical Examiner Dr. Benjamin Glick said last night that the body was too badly burned to be positively identified.

"From a medical and legal point of view, I can't establish identity until I've had an opportunity to do

an autopsy and see dental records," said Glick. The autopsy will be performed this morning.

Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration's Westfield office arrived in North Adams within two hours and began examining the still-smoking wreckage. The plane, lying on its back, had been reduced to a blackened skeleton by the fire. At about 4 p.m., the bulk of the wreck was loaded onto a truck and taken to an airport hangar so the investigators could examine the ground.

James Gebryel of the FAA said it would take several weeks to gather enough information to ascertain the probable cause of the crash. Because the plane was so badly damaged "information from eyewitnesses will be key," said Gebryel. The final determination will be made by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Sprague, 64, had taken advantage of the fine weather to take his plane up for the first time this year. Ac-

cording to James Petri, a mechanic for Turboprop International and a friend of Sprague, Sprague had flown for about an hour, then started doing "touch-and-goes," a maneuver in which the pilot makes his landing approach, touches down on the runway, then immediately takes off again.

"He was on his third or fourth when it happened," said Petri.

Lynn Hughes of North Adams had just landed at the airport when Sprague crashed.

"It looked like he was low," she said, "then he hit the trees and the plane flipped."

Another witness, Charles Neathawk, was helping to dig the foundations of a house he plans to build just a few hundred feet from where the plane crashed. "I caught a glimpse of it in the trees but there was a big earth embankment, so I didn't see it hit," said Neathawk. "By the time I got around, it was in flames."

Neathawk said there was no



Robert C. Sprague Jr.

(1974)

chance of rescue.

Frank Petri, James Petri's father, who lives on Hawthorne Ave-

Plane crash
Continued on Page B12

Leningrad Marine to be re

By John H. Cushman Jr.

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WASHINGTON — The entire detachment of six Marine guards stationed at the U.S. Consulate in Leningrad will be replaced in May as a security precaution, the Reagan administration said yesterday.

On Tuesday, the Marine Corps arrested a former guard, Sgt. John J. Weirick, on suspicion that he spied for the Soviet Union while he was stationed in Leningrad in 1981 and 1982. The arrest raised fears that the security of the consulate, like that of the embassy in Moscow, had been compromised by Soviet intelligence agencies with the cooperation of Marine guards.

Investigative aid?

All 28 guards at the embassy in Moscow are to be replaced as soon as visas are issued to their replacements. The Pentagon said there was no evidence that the men being recalled from Leningrad and Moscow were implicated in the series of security breaches at the diplomatic missions, but that bringing them back to the United States would aid investigators.

Meanwhile, government officials said one of the Marines implicated in breaches of security rules in Moscow had been moved from a previous assignment at another embassy because he had beaten a local woman.

Staff Sgt. Robert S. Stufflebeam, a Marine guard who was charged this week with improper contacts with Soviet women while stationed at the Moscow embassy, was removed from his post in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1984 because he had beaten a woman he knew there, according to officials familiar with the situation.

Soviets di 'infamous

© 1987 New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Soviet diplomats led American journalists through the new Russian embassy compound yesterday in a sometimes comical news event intended to show off electronic eavesdropping equipment they said they had just found concealed in window frames and air-conditioning ducts.

The unusual staging was the latest in an escalating series of es-

Managua shows off 9 contras

Plane crash kills R.C. Sprague Jr.

Continued from Page A1
nue, heard the impact from inside his house.

"I thought someone had run into my car," said Petri. "Then I ran outside and saw the plane burning. All you could see was the tail."

Petri, a former pilot himself, had also been home on April 22, 1981, the day that Joseph D. Robins of Dalton died in a crash on almost exactly the same spot. Petri said he didn't believe the airport landing approach was a particularly difficult one, but he did say that the trees create a "displaced threshold" — a visual obstruction.

After the 1981 crash, residents of the neighborhood east of the airport circulated a petition calling for action to ban low approach flights. In 1984, there was some discussion of removing the trees that Sprague

struck during his approach but the idea was abandoned. The trees are clipped regularly.

"He was a very good pilot," said Petri of Sprague. "And he was very familiar with the strip. It doesn't make any sense."

The plane Sprague was flying was a Christen Eagle that Sprague had built from a kit several years ago. Petri described the plane as responsive and powerful, "like a sports car with wings."

Sprague, who retired in 1982 from the worldwide electronics firm started by his father, had been involved with airplanes and aviation most of his life. He enlisted and served as a flight instructor for the Air Corps during World War II, from 1942 to 1946.

In 1958 he earned a master's de-

gree in business administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a thesis on "The Development of Corporate Flight Departments." Sprague was active in the Civil Air Patrol for many years. He also served on the North Adams Airport Commission.

Sprague was deeply involved in developing Sprague Aviation, which was the aviation arm of Sprague Electric Co. Sprague Aviation was disbanded last year in a cost-cutting move.

Sprague lived in Williamstown with his wife, Geraldine L. Sprague, and two sons, Steven W. and Michael M. Sprague. He also leaves a daughter, Diana Stigger, and a son, Robert C. Sprague III, from a previous marriage.

When he retired, Sprague was

senior vice president of corporate relations for Sprague Electric Co. His father is still active in the affairs of the electronics firm, and his younger brother, John L. Sprague, is the chief executive officer.

An article about the Sprague family and its relationship with the city of North Adams in New England Monthly in June 1985 portrayed Sprague as basically uninterested in the family business, with a predilection for expensive hobbies such as antique cars and model trains.

The company still employs about 700 people in North Adams, which was home to Sprague Electric from its founding in 1929 until 1984, when the world headquarters was moved to Lexington. Twenty years ago, the company was the key to the city's economy, with over 4,000 employees here.



Photos by Susan Plageman

GATHERING EVIDENCE. Federal Aviation Administration investigator Kevin McLaughlin, shown in picture at left, photographs wreckage of aircraft after crash that killed Robert C. Sprague Jr. In picture above, McLaughlin observes landing approach to North Adams Airport. According to witnesses, Sprague's plane clipped trees shown here, flipped over and crashed.

'Lifestyle' classes offered

Berkshire Medical Center will offer seven "lifestyle" classes, including a free stop-smoking preview during April.

Pre-registration is required for all the classes and may be made by calling the Berkshire Health Works office at BMC.

Richard Melluzzo, administrative director of the Family Center of the Berkshires, will teach "Stress and the Art of Coping" on five consecutive Tuesdays, beginning April 14 at 7 p.m. in the 3 Warner classroom. Continuing education credits for nurses will be offered. The fee is \$85.

Ann Garapic, a registered dietitian, will teach two weight-loss

classes and conduct a computerized food analysis and a cholesterol countdown diet class.

"Weight No Longer" will meet for eight consecutive Thursdays, beginning April 16 at 6 p.m. in the Bishop Clapp classroom. The series fee is \$75.

"Weight Down," a weekly consultation and weighing program for which an appointment is necessary, will cost \$30 for the first consultation and \$8 per week per session.

"Computerized Diet Analysis" will measure the intake of fats, proteins and over 20 other nutrients. Garapic will provide a consultation and a recommended nutrition plan after the analysis. The fee is \$40.

"Cholesterol-Countdown Diet" will meet on four consecutive Wednesdays, beginning April 22 at 6 p.m. in the Bishop Clapp classroom. The fee is \$40.

Donna Walsh, an education specialist at BMC, will give a free "Stop-Smoking Preview" in the BMC auditorium on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. She will teach "Becoming a Non-Smoker" on five consecutive Tuesdays, beginning April 28 at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Clapp classroom. The fee is \$65.

Schools announce spring vacation

DALTON — All schools in the Central Berkshire Regional School District will close at their regular time Thursday for the Good Friday observance and April school vacation. Schools will reopen Monday, April 27 at their usual time. All offices in the district will be closed Monday, April 20 in honor of Patriot's Day.

The district consists of Becket, Hinsdale, Washington, Cummington, Peru, Windsor and Dalton.

Secretaries' forum planned at NASC

NORTH ADAMS — Plans for the Secretaries Day Conference at North Adams State College have been confirmed, and the deadline for registration is Sunday, April 19.

The conference will be held on National Secretaries Day, Wednesday, April 22, and offers secretaries and related office personnel a day of activities ranging from workshops to a fashion show.

The conference will be held in the Campus Center. The \$45 fee covers all programs, materials, refreshments and a formal luncheon.

State to seek federal aid for flood damage

By Susan C. Phillips

BUCKLAND — Lt. Governor Evelyn F. Murphy told representatives of northwestern Massachusetts communities hit hard by last weekend's flooding that the state hopes to file for a presidential declaration of emergency early next week.

Such a declaration is necessary for Massachusetts towns to receive federal emergency funds for flood relief.

Murphy spoke at a meeting between representatives of the state Department of Public Works, Civil Defense, Department of Environ-

mental Quality Engineering and other agencies on the one hand, and the road supervisors, selectmen and residents of towns left roadless, bridgeless, or otherwise handicapped by the floodwaters.

North Adams, Florida, Williamstown and Savoy were all represented at the meeting, held at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School yesterday morning, though Savoy road superintendent Gerry Bergeron stormed out of the auditorium.

"I'm trying to be the squeaky wheel," said Bergeron later, "because it seems we always get forgotten." Savoy, with population of about 600, suffered a staggering \$800,000 in road damage, according to early estimates of the state DPW.

"We've got 46 sites that need work," said Bergeron. "On Black Brook Road, we've got a 20-foot high rock ledge that's been undermined. It's just waiting to come down on the road. We don't even have the equipment to knock it

down," said Bergeron. "We can't do anything unless we get the money upfront." Bergeron said the town's public works account is already in the red because of this winter's heavy snows.

Federal Emergency Management Agency funds are generally distributed as reimbursement after towns make the initial outlay themselves. "We can't even borrow money," complained Bergeron.

Postgrad programs offered at McCann

NORTH ADAMS — Applications are being accepted to postgraduate programs at McCann Technical School in dental assisting, medical assisting and operating room technician.

The programs last a school year and graduates are eligible to apply for licensure or a certificate in their field of study.

Tuition costs for residents of the school district, North Adams, Clarksburg, Williamstown, Adams, Savoy, Florida and Monroe are assumed by the town of residence. Out of district students must pay their own tuition. Financial aid is available.

More information may be obtained by calling the postgraduate programs office at the school, extension 43.

Adams fair committee to sponsor music trio

ADAMS — The Adams Agricultural Fair Committee has announced that the Wright Brothers will perform two shows at the fair on Aug. 2.

The country music trio from Indianapolis, Ind., has appeared on TNN and the Nashville Network and is played on radio station WGNA. The trio's hit album, "Easy Street," includes the songs, "So Close," "Love's Slippin' Up on Me" and "Radio Lover."

The Wright Brothers' appearance will be sponsored by 19 businesses that donated money for the concert.

Scouts to collect cans

DALTON — Boy Scout Troop 4 will be collecting cans and bottles at the landfill today from 8 to 4.

The event was washed out by the heavy rains last weekend. Proceeds will be used to replace old and worn-out equipment.

Mayor Barrett appoints Nuvalle housing director

NORTH ADAMS — Michael F. Nuvalle was named housing coordinator for the city by Mayor John Barrett III yesterday.

Nuvalle, 44, of Marietta, Ga., will receive \$20,000 to oversee a program giving low-interest loans for housing similar to one he now administers in Adams. He will assume the post on May 4.

The mayor said Thursday he intends to terminate the city's contract with the Neighborhood Conservation Program by Oct. 15. Nuvalle will take over the work of that program which is administered by the North Adams Housing Authority, an entity separate from city government. The NCP oversees completion of projects and staff members carry out inspections of subsidized housing.

Housing Authority officials have said they are not pleased with the appointment because it takes away part of their responsibility. They said they intend to discuss the move with Barrett.

The mayor has said the appointment will save administrative costs. The program is funded through the state's Small Cities grant which has been cut by 50 percent this year.

Barrett said the appointment is the first step in an overall reorganization of the way the city handles housing and rehabilitation issues.

Rabies clinic today

OTIS — A rabies clinic will be held at the firehouse from 2 to 4 today to benefit the Otis Rescue Squad.

Licenses will also be available.

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Rt. 8, Cheshire, Mass.
(former Tahiti location)
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Route 8-2A Grove St., Adams, MA. (413) 743-1015

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Obituaries

Florence Sprague, wife of co. founder

Florence Antoinette (van Zelm) Sprague of 118 Bulkley St., Williamstown, wife of Robert Chapman Sprague, founder of Sprague Electric Co., died suddenly Monday at the North Adams Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Sprague was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., the daughter of the late J. Louis and Antoinette (Gray Hyatt) van Zelm.

Besides her husband, Robert C. Sprague, and a son, Dr. John Louis Sprague of Lincoln, she leaves eight grandchildren, six great grandchildren. Her elder son, Robert C. Sprague Jr., was killed in a plane crash April 10.

Her father, John Louis van Zelm, was decorated by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands with the Officers' Cross of the Order of Orange-Naassau in 1938. Mrs. van Zelm was a descendent of Gov. Clinton of New York.

Mrs. Sprague was member of the Williamstown Garden Club, the Cosmopolitan Club and the Hroswitha Society of New York, owning a collection of first editions of Robert Frost and Willa Cather.

As a child, she studied both piano and voice at the New York Conservatory of Music and piano at The New England Conservatory of Music. Much of her life was devoted to study of the piano.

While living in Quincy in the 1920s, she was active in theater. Gov. Michael S. Dukakis cited her in 1983 for her "unflagging dedication to the



Florence Sprague

cultural community of the Commonwealth".

She was a communicant of St. John's Episcopal Church in Williamstown.

Services will be held Thursday at 4 p.m., at St. John's Episcopal Church. Hopkins Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

There will be no calling hours.

Contributions may be sent to a fund in her memory at St. John's Episcopal Church through the funeral home.

R.C. Sprague is dead at 91



Photo by Mark Mitchell

Robert C. Sprague at his desk in 1984, after he had retired.

His firm was dominant force in North Berkshire economy

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

WILLIAMSTOWN — Robert C. Sprague, who developed the Sprague Electric Co. from a kitchen operation into a thriving industry that at its height employed more than 8,000 people, died yesterday at his home at 118 Bulkeley St. He was 91.

His company, which for years was the backbone of the Northern Berkshire economy, at one time operated plants in North Adams and five other U.S. communities, Europe and the Far East. Only General Electric in Pittsfield was a larger employer in the Berkshires before Sprague Electric's decline in the 1980s.

Youthful tinkering

Mr. Sprague's talent with electronics manifested itself in his boyhood in New York City. In a 1984 interview, he recalled building a quarter-kilowatt spark transmitter at the age of 10 to communicate with a friend. The signals were powerful enough to interfere with military trans-

missions from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and naval personnel were dispatched to track down the homemade apparatus.

That youthful tinkering paid off years later when Mr. Sprague, then a 26-year-old lieutenant in the Navy, developed an adjustable "tone control" device to improve the sound quality from his radio.

At the heart of the tone control apparatus was a fixed-paper condenser. Mr. Sprague's friends were impressed with the component, and he applied for a patent in 1925.

Birth of a giant

The development of condensers led to the birth of Sprague Specialties Co., which began life with \$25,000 in initial capital raised through limited personal savings and the sale of stock to a few friends and relatives.

Mr. Sprague and his wife, Florence, who died in June 1987, operated out of their Quincy home, which served as laboratory, office and shipping department.

SPRAGUE, continued on B5

A dynamic force for city

By Linda Burchard
Berkshire Eagle Staff

NORTH ADAMS — On Monday, the day of Robert C. Sprague's funeral, Mayor John Barrett will be trying to wrest from the administration of Gov. William Weld a new chance for the mills that once thrived with the manufacturing operations of Sprague Electric Co.

That company brought economic health to the city and put paychecks in more than

4,000 pockets in its heyday in 1966. Since it was bought out by General Cable, then absorbed by Penn Central, its successive sell-offs, cutbacks and layoffs have left the city on a sliding with its motor switched off.

Sprague Electric Co., which Robert C. Sprague brought here from Quincy, was "a dominant force in the city for 50 years," said Barrett.

"And while he built such a magnificent

TRIBUTES, continued on B5

Bush cuts nuclear arsenal

Bold move slashes short-range arms

By Andrew Rosenthal
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush last night announced that the United States would eliminate all tactical nuclear weapons on land and at sea in Europe and Asia, called long-range bombers off their 24-hour alerts and offered to negotiate with the Soviet Union for sharp reductions in the most dangerous kinds of globe-spanning missiles.

The administration said its unilateral reductions, which would remove short-range nuclear weapons from U.S. Army bases in Europe and Asia and Navy vessels around the world without any negotiation with Moscow, are being made in the hope that the Soviet Union would respond in kind and could be reversed if that did not happen.

This was the most one-sided cut in nuclear arms by any power and reflected the dramatically changed world environment since the collapse of Soviet domination in eastern Europe and the breakup of the tightly controlled Soviet Union.

'Unparalleled opportunity'

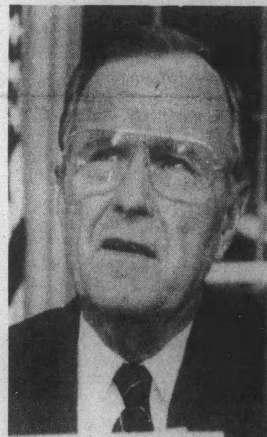
Explaining that the prospect of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe — the historic reason for the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe — was "no longer a realistic threat," Bush said, "We now have an unparalleled opportunity to change the nuclear posture of both the United States and the Soviet Union."

Bush made clear, however, that long-range nuclear weapons carried on submarines and bombers and in land silos would be retained pending negotiations for mutual cuts with the Soviets.

He proposed eliminating multiple warheads through negotiation except for such weapons carried on submarines, where the United States has long had a strategic advantage over the Soviet Union.

In an address to the nation from the Oval Office that was prepared hurriedly yesterday after Bush spoke with U.S. allies and the Soviet leadership and details of the proposal began appearing in news accounts, the president said the United States must "provide the inspiration for

BUSH, continued on A6



President Bush

Move seeks stability amid flux

By R. Jeffrey Smith
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Bush's new arms plan will reshape U.S. nuclear forces created during the Cold War by destroying or pulling back some of the least controllable weapons from the front lines of the former East-West confrontation, according to U.S. military and diplomatic officials.

News Analysis

By immediately eliminating the worldwide deployment of U.S. tactical, or short-range, nuclear weapons launched from the ground or from ships, Bush's plan is intended to encourage a similar Soviet move, which in turn would help ensure that such small and mobile nuclear arms do not fall into the wrong hands amid the political turmoil in the Soviet Union.

To this end, the plan calls for such weapons to be dismantled

STABILITY, continued on A6

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Kerrey profile

Many Democrats are viewing Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey as their party's best hope in 1992. Page B12.

PLO backs talks

The Palestinian parliament-in-exile has recommended that Palestinians attend next month's Middle East peace talks. Page A2.

Sprague is dead at 91

■ SPRAGUE, from A1

Sales by the infant firm sagged until Mr. Sprague's brother, the late Julian K. Sprague, suggested adopting a smaller, lighter and cheaper condenser design.

Sales took off

Condensers, now called capacitors, store and generate electricity that can be released at controlled rates. They are used in nearly all electrical appliances, from air conditioners to television sets, and their production was the core of Sprague Electric's manufacturing operations in North Adams and elsewhere.

Sales of Sprague's "midget condensers" took off, and the company did \$54,000 in business during 1927, compared to almost nothing the year before.

Two years later, the company had become a half-million-dollar firm that employed 825 people in a building on Quincy's main street.

The 1929 move from Quincy to North Adams was prompted by two factors — plumbing and a real estate agent's mistake.

Mr. Sprague told an interviewer in 1984 that state health inspectors found the budding firm in violation of a local ordinance that required one toilet for every 25 employees.

"I don't believe we had space enough for the toilets," Mr. Sprague recalled.

The firm was given six months to comply with the law, but rents in Quincy were too high to relocate there.

A real estate agent was retained to find space elsewhere, and the Renfrew plant in Adams, which was available, came to the agent's attention. However, the agent mistakenly wrote to the Chamber of Commerce in North Adams asking to visit the site.

"They were smart enough not to make any comment about the mistake," Mr. Sprague said 59 years later.

Wooded his firm

After a stop at the Renfrew mill, chamber officials mentioned that a 12,000-square-foot plant was available on Beaver Street in North Adams for \$42,000.

Mr. Sprague remembered that local officials got "quite excited" about the prospect of a new industry moving to North Adams, and after they learned that Mr. Sprague's father was Frank J. Sprague, a renowned inventor who attended local schools for a time, their efforts to woo the firm redoubled.

In October 1929, Mr. Sprague, with a group of local citizens who offered to collectively purchase \$200,000 worth of preferred stock, provided that he would give them a share of his common stock for each share of preferred.

Local bankers made maximum loans available to the company to buy the Beaver Street plant, and another local group offered to bear the moving expenses from Quincy.

"Nobody anywhere had offered anything like this for us," Mr. Sprague told an interviewer in 1984. "There was no real competition — we had to move. You'd have to be a nitwit to refuse it or look further."

Only three weeks before the stock market's crash on "Black Friday," Sprague Specialty Co. paid \$42,000 for the empty textile mill on Beaver Street.

About 30 top managers made the move from Quincy, and the local plant began operating in April 1930. Sales jumped by more than 50 percent that year.

Financial boost

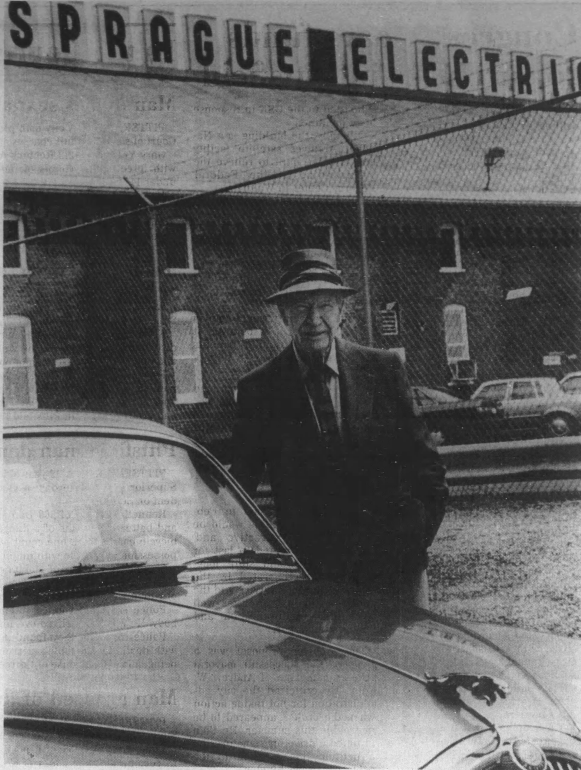
In 1931, the firm did more than \$1 million in business, but suffered an enormous net loss because of its rapid growth. Faced with a precarious financial situation, Mr. Sprague secured loan guarantees that carried the company's debt until it was cleared seven years later.

Also, a management consulting firm was hired to help the firm's managers, who were trained as scientists and engineers, restore its financial health.

World War II provided a financial shot in the arm for the company, which changed its name to Sprague Electric Co. in 1943. Production and employment boomed during the war years, largely because of the wide array of military applications for capacitors.

Worldwide exposure of Sprague products during the war assisted the firm's later overseas expansion, and the advent of television provided another boost for the company, which at its zenith in the 1960s produced everything from capacitors to microcircuits.

In the 1970s, however, the company's fortunes declined. The Japanese had made heavy in-



Robert C. Sprague in his company's parking lot with the Jaguar he loved to drive. In earlier years he often favored an open Jaguar roadster.

roads into the electronics industry, and Sprague Electric was severely weakened by a nine-week strike in 1970. A series of workforce cutbacks, as well as changes in management, dominated the period.

On Nov. 8, 1971, Mr. Sprague stepped down as chairman of the board of directors of his company and was succeeded by Neal W. Welch.

In 1976, the company was acquired by General Cable/OK Technologies; in 1980 GK was bought by Penn Central Corp., a conglomerate that routinely buys and sells corporate properties. In 1984, Sprague's headquarters was moved from North Adams to Lexington, and then, in 1987, to Connecticut.

During that move, Penn Central "spun off" Sprague Electric to a new corporate entity, Sprague Technologies Inc. By 1988, Sprague's presence in North Adams had shrunk to a shadow of its former dominance. While Sprague once had a payroll of more than 4,000 in North Adams, only 386 people remained on the payroll at Sprague Technologies' headquarters in the Hardman Industrial Park on Curran Highway.

The buildings in the center of North Adams were abandoned by the company in the mid-1980s when Sprague's new owners found them too expensive to maintain. They now comprise the site proposed for the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

Was Drury High graduate

Robert Chapman Sprague was born in New York City on Aug. 3, 1900, son of Frank Julian Sprague and Harriet Chapman Jones Sprague. His father, who died in 1934, was a pioneer in the electrical industry whose inventions aided the development of the electric street car, elevator controls, railway signal systems and electric signs.

Robert Sprague spent much of his boyhood in North Adams and graduated from Drury High School in 1917 and from the Hotchkiss School in Watertown, Conn., in 1918.

Following in his father's footsteps, he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and graduated in 1920. He earned a second degree from the Naval Post-Graduate School in 1922, and received a master of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1924.

On May 24, 1921, Mr. Sprague married the former Florence Antoinette van Zelm of New Rochelle, N.Y.

From 1924 to 1928, he served as one of the Navy supervisors of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Co.'s construction of the aircraft carrier Lexington. In 1928, he resigned from the Navy to devote his time to the business he had established in Quincy.

In World War II, Mr. Sprague served from 1942 to 1945 as a member of the War Production Board's advisory board on elec-

tric condensers and as a member of the Massachusetts Committee on Post-War Conversion.

Array of honors

By any measure, Mr. Sprague's national career was varied and impressive. In 1978, he became the first person to receive the Medal of Honor of the Electronics Industries Association twice. In 1965, he was named New England Man of the Year by the New England Council, a business organization that praised his distinguished service to the economy of New England.

The recipient of seven honorary degrees from colleges and universities, including Williams College and North Adams State College, Mr. Sprague was cited by one college president as "a man who has repeatedly demonstrated brilliance and wisdom in the areas of commerce, design, education and national defense."

In 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower recommended Mr. Sprague for the post of under-secretary of the Air Force. Mr. Sprague wanted the job, and, indeed, cut all his ties with his company in order to comply with federal legislation aimed at eliminating conflicts of interest.

However, despite Mr. Sprague's severance of his business relationships, his board of directors' prohibition of Sprague Electric-Air Force contracts, and his placement of his stock dividends into what amounted to a blind trust, federal officials nonetheless required him to sell all of his Sprague stock.

Mr. Sprague was reported to have told Eisenhower that if he sold his stock and the company passed to outsiders, there would be "consequent possible ill effects on the community, which depends heavily on Sprague Electric for its economic well-being."

Appointed consultant

His struggle to serve his country while still avoiding even the appearance of a conflict of interest were said in an Eagle editorial in February 1953 to "bespeak patriotism of a marked degree."

A year later, Eisenhower appointed Mr. Sprague as consultant on continental defense to the National Security Council. He also served as a consultant to the technological capabilities panel of the Science Advisory Committee to the Office of Defense Mobilization from 1954 to 1955.

At one time or another, Mr. Sprague was chairman of the board and agent for the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston, president of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, and trustee for 23 years of the prestigious MITRE Corp., a non-profit organization that provides technical services to government and private industry.

Locally, he served as a trustee of the North Adams Regional Hospital, the Williamstown Theatre Festival and the Pine Crag School. He also served as warden of St. John's Episcopal Church and was founder of the Elm Tree Foundation, a volun-

teer group dedicated to saving the elms in Williamstown.

An avid skier until leg problems took him off the slopes at age 63, Mr. Sprague was the author of two books on skiing. He also was an accomplished ballroom dancer.

Mr. Sprague leaves a son, John L. Sprague of Williamstown and Lincoln, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. His eldest son, Robert C. Sprague Jr., died in the crash of an experimental airplane that he was piloting in North Adams on April 10, 1987.

The funeral will be Monday at 3 at St. John's Episcopal Church.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Mr. Sprague's memory may be made to the endowment of St. John's Church, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, or to the charity of the donor's choice through the Hopkins Funeral Home, Spring Street, Williamstown, which is in charge of arrangements.

R.C. Sprague: A dynamic force

■ TRIBUTES, from A1

company that became so large and played such a key role in the electronics market," said Barrett. "It was too good and too successful, but because that attracted the buyers that presided over its demise."

There was such dominance of the area that was good at the time, but when the company was taken over, the buyers did not have the personal ties here," he continued. "It is my personal opinion that Robert Sprague had an allegiance to North Adams."

Sprague, said Barrett, had a dynamic presence that dominated the company and extended to numerous and extensive charitable donations that benefited the city. The company, said Barrett, gave "thousands of dollars each year in scholarships, gave to the Chamber of Commerce, was a prime sponsor for the Fall Foliage Parade."

The company also exerted great influence in the community, said Barrett, because of the number of Sprague executives on the School Committee and City Council.

The story goes that he was upset when the first workers' strike occurred in 1970, because he looked upon the workers as family," the mayor said of that bitter labor conflict.

Walter D. Wood, who retired after 39 years at Sprague and was involved in the union there, said, "He was a fine gentleman who did a great job in developing that company and providing the employment for people."

"It's too bad what has happened in the past few years," Wood said. Recalling the company's support of the United Way, North Adams Regional Hospital and employee activities, Wood said, "Outside interests don't have attachments to local interests."

Harry Kalker of Williamstown, who was president of Sprague Products, said, "During the war we had a lot of developments, such as putting out the air resistor." That innovation "had an impact on the design of radar."

"It was complete teamwork," said Kalker. "It was a very exciting period of time." Dr. William H. Everett, former chairman of the Williamstown Theatre Festival, said that Sprague, who served on its executive board, "was a major supporter for a great number of years. He was a major force in the success of the theater."

Donald A. Thurston, president of Berkshire Broadcasting Co., said that Sprague Electric was "the heart of the city. It provided the basic economic engine."

And, he said, "It was responsible for many of the basic institutions we enjoy — North Adams Regional Hospital, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the YMCA."

'And while he built such a magnificent company,' said Barrett, 'it was too good and too successful because that attracted the buyers that presided over its demise.'

"He was an entrepreneur with strength and vision. He was a great citizen," said Thurston. "He was an extraordinary achiever."

From its once thriving operation in the city, its remaining business, Sprague Technologies, employs about 300 on the Curran Highway. Another part of Sprague, which was sold off to employees and is called Commonwealth Sprague, is expected to leave the city for Bennington, Vt.

At Sprague's Marshall Street mills, the proposed site of MoCA, there are expensive environmental cleanups to be completed, as some of the vital fluids for the manufacturing operations turned out to be environmental liabilities.

And as the battle to convert the buildings into a world-class museum of contemporary art continues, the mills sit vast and silent.

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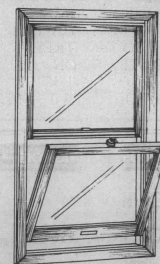
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Sprague starts drive to remove diseased elms

By Holly Taylor

WILLIAMSTOWN — When Robert C. Sprague Sr. ran a full-page ad in *The Transcript* last week, seeking allies in his fight against Dutch elm disease, a friend advised him "it won't work, people don't give a damn."

If no one responded, Sprague thought, he would, at age 81, step off his longtime soapbox and stop lecturing on the need for more local funding to remove diseased trees and plant new ones.

But it looks as if the battle is just beginning. Sprague ran the ad on Monday and by Friday he had received 64 responses in his post office box from town residents who shared his concern.

The replies ranged from one that simply said "YES!" to that of a Williams College professor who wrote two pages.

His plan, Sprague explained on Friday, is to create a voting bloc large enough to swing a vote for more funds at the next town meeting.

In his advertisement, he warned, "We are in serious danger, because of current and past neglect, of continuing on a course which will mean the end of Williamstown as 'The Village Beautiful.'"

In a businesslike manner, he outlined the situation under the boldfaced subtitles of "The Problem," "The Facts," "The Problem is Manageable," and "Proposal."

Sprague, who is honorary chairman of the board, founder and a director of Sprague Electric Co. in North Adams, has lived here for 45 years.

His theory is that the elm trees have made a major contribution to the town's charm, which has, in turn, lured many professionals to live in Williamstown.

Forest warden Robert McCarthy told Sprague that he removed 275 diseased trees in the past year and has removed 200 or more a year in the past several years.

Sprague was unsuccessful in his attempt at the annual town

meeting last month to restore the forest department budget to the same \$62,000 allocated for fiscal 1981. The Finance Committee recommended \$41,000, Sprague proposed \$62,000, and voters approved \$49,000.

In his advertisement, Sprague complained that he was given the "short shrift" when he attempted to speak at town meeting. He also complained that the town meeting was controlled by three pressure groups — those supporting a Police Department item, those supporting a protective covenant for the vacant Broad Brook School, and teachers.

Sprague was referring to voter approval of a \$115,000 appropriation to buy back services for the Mount Greylock Regional School District. The amount was in addition to the town's \$1,309,486 assessment to the district and it would not have to be matched by Lanesboro.

At town meeting, town officials explained that most town budgets had to be cut in order to comply with Proposition 2½.

"When you have that problem, you have to decide which things can't be cut, or maybe even have to be increased. The one thing Williamstown has control over is the appearance of the town. We have to ask 'Why do people move here?'" he said.

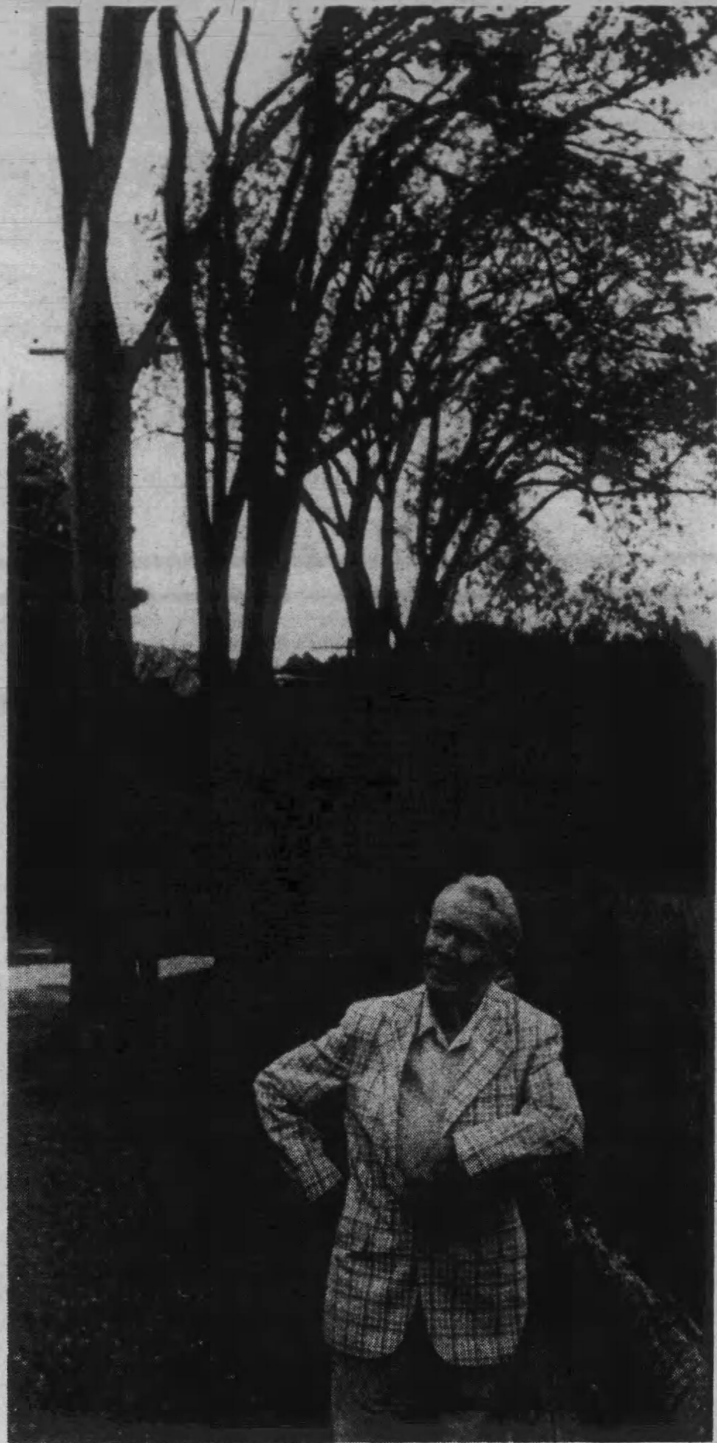
Preserve town's beauty

"This is essential to the continuing beauty of the town and it's only 1.3 percent of the total town budget," Sprague said.

Asked if a private movement could assume some of the burden for the town, Sprague replied, "I'd be happy to support it, but I don't have the energy to organize it. Besides, we can't have private money taking down town trees. A movement to plant bigger trees is fine."

He said the additional funds for the forest department would permit it to remove trees as soon as they're diseased, to prevent the disease from spreading.

He points to a row of 10 town-owned elm trees that line Bulkley Street in front of his home,



Holly Taylor

DISEASED ELM TREES now line Bulkley Street in Williamstown, where Robert C. Sprague has launched a campaign to secure more town funds to fight the problem.

and notes that at least six of them are dying.

He said that the elimination of DDT as a spray for Dutch elm disease prompted the outbreak. The outlawing of DDT, he said, was partly a result of Rachel Carson's book, "Silent Spring," which connected the death of birds and other animals to the DDT spray.

"I own 30 acres with lots of elms, and when we used DDT, I lost about one tree a year. Last year, I lost 22," Sprague said.

Sprague said scientific data he has reviewed shows that Ms.

Carson was "dead wrong" about DDT. He wrote U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte and Sen. Edward Kennedy asking them to sponsor legislation to use DDT again on elm trees, but, he said, "neither of them would touch it."

And, asked, why at age 81, he wants to bother with small-town politics and elm trees, he quickly replies, "Because I'm 81 there's more validity to what I say than if I was 25. Besides, I have family and friends and people who work for me all living here. I'm interested in this town as a community."