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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

February, 1990

Dear Cousins,

"Coming in out of the cold" is a time-honored New England expression, referring to the weather at certain times of the year, and meaning literally to take refuge from the piercing winter wind and join with family at the warmth of the hearth and the goodness of tasty food. The phrase is a manifestation of the zeal for family unity and mutual protection felt by our ancestors as they struggled to build a new society in a strange land.

Although it's a long way to Annual Reunion time, I get the feeling as I look out the window of my study at the snow swirling through the sullen woods that this would be a good time to make plans to "come in out of the cold."

Things seem to be in turmoil everywhere, and there is the temptation to let ourselves slide into the chill of discouragement. But Edmund Rice's personal example shows that his feelings of reverence extended to those around him, particularly to his family. The image of the Deacon himself opening the door to his home and welcoming us --- his family --- to "come in out of the cold" can be transferred easily into an appeal to you:

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL REUNION!!!

My best wishes to all of you for a happy and prosperous New Year. May that happiness and prosperity be found in abundance through your involvement with your family.

Best regards,



OUR 1991 ANNUAL REUNION:

Within the next two months, your officers and directors will be meeting to decide exactly when and where the next Annual Meeting will be held. All we can say right now is that it will be held - probably some time in August, most likely the last weekend.

The 1990 Reunion was a "great party, well attended and enjoyed by all", and it is safe to assume that this summer's party will be no different. Plan now to come. Although traveling long distances may be a problem, this trip will be worth the effort.

Details of where, when and what will be published in the Spring, 1991, Newsletter.

\* \* \*

*A note to officers and directors: President John Bates has asked us each to submit our thoughts, no matter how vague, about "where, when and what" to him now, prior to the Spring Directors' meeting. Please write to him soon, so that we can make this one of the "best reunions ever!"*

Mickey

NEW MEMBERS:

The following people have joined us since the last issue:

-Carola Keever, of Gallipolis, Ohio, has two descents. The first is from Edward<sup>3</sup> through Daniel<sup>24</sup> through Daniel<sup>88</sup>, to David<sup>208</sup>, who married Love Moore<sup>298.1a.1</sup>. Love was descended from Samuel<sup>6</sup>, through his daughter, Hannah<sup>46</sup>, who married Jonathan Hubbard.

Carroll A. Rice, of Orangevale, California, is also descended from Edward<sup>3</sup>, through Jacob<sup>25</sup> through his son, Jacob<sup>94</sup>.

There are several descendants of Thomas<sup>4</sup>:

-Richard E. Harris, of West Columbia, South Carolina, through Ephraim<sup>34</sup> through Thomas<sup>121</sup>.

-Barbara J. O'Neill, of Delanson, New York, also through Ephraim<sup>34</sup>, through Gershom<sup>122</sup>, two ways. (her grandparents were second cousins)

-Tom William Rice, of Winooski, Vermont, descended through Peter<sup>30</sup>, through his son, Peter<sup>114</sup>.

Winnie Spencer, of Las Vegas, Nevada, descended through Gershom<sup>33</sup>, through Matthias<sup>127</sup>.

As yet we do not have genealogies for

-Lillian B. Stueber, of Gambrills, Maryland (see QUERIES)

Junelle T. Brandt, of Brookline, Massachusetts  
and

-Alice Wareham Driller, of Richmond, California.

We welcome all of you warmly, and hope you will enjoy being "part of the family".

QUERIES:

Lillian B. Stueber,  
3117 Arrowhead Farms Rd.  
Gambrills, Maryland 21054

is a new member who has joined in search of her link to Edmund. Her ancestor is one Dorcas Rice, parents and date of birth not known, who married John Walden, son of Edward Walden.

We have several Dorcas Rice's in our publications, but none married to a John Walden. Can anyone help Cousin Lillian?

\* \* \*

Cousin Edward (Ted) Rice,  
114 Inglewood Way,  
Greenville, SC 29615

writes to ask if we have had a response to the William Marsh Rice story, regarding William's heritage. It seems that a scholarship is available at Rice University for "any relative".

Well, Cousin Edward, we are no closer to proof of descent from Edmund, but we did receive information from Cousin Mary Austin

7230 Ridge Oak Drive  
Houston, TX 77088

which includes a portion of William's family tree.

If anyone can "receive this pass and run with it", we may "make a touchdown" yet!

William Marsh RICE was the third of ten children of David RICE and Patty Hall, who were both born in 1790, and married in 1812. David died in 1867, and Patty in 1877.

QUERIES, cont.

A list of David and Patty's children with spouses, and their children, follows:

- .1 Louise, 1812-1877. m.1830, Lathrop Blinn;
  - .1 Joseph L. Blinn
- .2 David, 1814-1899. m.1834, Eunice King
  - .1 William A. Rice .3 Walter L. Rice
  - .2 Benjamin F. Rice .4 "Mrs. Clark"
- .3 William Marsh, 1816-1900. m.#1. 1852, Margaret Bremond
  - #2. 1873, Elizabeth Baldwin Brown
- .4 Josiah, b.1819, d.y.
- .5 Lucy Ann, b.1821, d.y.
- .6 Minerva, 1823-? m.1846, Amos Olds
  - .1 Mattie Olds .2 Minnetta Olds
- .7 Caleb H., 1825-1865, m.Jane Bailey
  - .1 Frederic William Rice
- .8 Charlotte S. 1827-? m.Collins McKee
  - .1 Frank H. McKee .2 Mrs. Charles H. Parker
  - .3 Mrs. Fred V. Fisk
- .9 Frederic Allen, 1830-1901, m.1854, Charlotte B. Randon
  - .1 Jonas Shearn Rice .6 Benjamin Botts Rice
  - .2 William Marsh Rice .7 Mrs. H.H.Loomis
  - .3 Frederic Rice .8 Mrs. Paul Timson
  - .4 Horace Baldwin Rice .9 George Converse Rice
  - .5 David Rice
- .10 Susan, b.1833, d.y.

Perhaps one of our readers may be related to or descended from one of these siblings, nieces and nephews of William Marsh Rice. If so, that would establish a relationship between William Marsh and us! Do any of these people fit into your family list?

OBITUARIES:

In November, 1990, a copy of the Newsletter addressed to Arta Irene Laramy was returned, marked "deceased".

Arta Irene Rice was born in 1897 in River Junction, Mich., the daughter of Truman C. and Mertie May (Crownover) Rice. In 1916 she married Gerald H. Laramy, by whom she had two children; a daughter, Bernice, and a son, Arthur Gerald. Arthur is a long-time member of the Rice Association, and to him we send our sincere condolences. Please extend our sympathy to other surviving members of your family, Cousin Arthur.

Also in November, 1990, tragedy hit the family of your scribe and your past president, when our daughter, Karen (Snow) Larsen, passed away on November 12, two weeks short of her 38th birthday, after a year-long struggle with cancer.

Karen is survived by a loving and beloved husband, Bob Larsen, and a daughter, Amanda Karen, born March 30, 1989; and also two sisters, Nanci Snow Bockelie and Marit Snow Sawyer, as well as Alex and myself. If it is true that "the good die young", Karen is an ideal example. The love poured out to us from people who knew her and experienced her loving friendship has been overwhelming and a much-appreciated support. We also thank our Rice cousins who have written to us with sympathy and support.

## BOOK LIST

THE RICE FAMILY: by Andrew Henshaw Ward (1858) 379 pages.  
\$20.00 + \$2.50 handling.  
INDEX (computer printout, 34 pp.)  
\$4.00 postpaid.

SUPPLEMENT to THE RICE FAMILY: (1967) 110 pages.  
\$10.00 postpaid  
INDEX (computer printout, 18 pp.)  
\$2.50 postpaid.  
BOTH INDEXES TOGETHER: \$5.00 postpaid.

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER of RICE DESCENDANTS: (1970) 1594 pages.  
\$25.00 plus \$2.50 handling.  
SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1. (1983) 224 pages.  
\$25.00 plus \$2.50 handling.  
SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2. (1987) 663 pages.  
\$30.00 plus \$2.50 handling.  
EDMUND RICE & HIS FAMILY: (1938) Elsie Hawes Smith  
WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS: (1949) Rev. Clayton Rice both: 357 pages.  
\$17.00 plus \$2.50 handling.  
MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES: (1954) Elsie Hawes Smith 109 pages.  
\$3.50 plus \$1.00 handling.

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ORDER BLANK (Prices include mailing)

| <u>Book</u>  | <u>Price</u> | <u>No. Copies</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| "The" REGISTER:  | \$27.50      | _____             | _____         |
| Ward's THE RICE FAMILY:                                    | \$22.50      | _____             | _____         |
| Indexes:   | \$5.00       | _____             | _____         |
| SUPPLEMENT #1 (Ward's)                                     | \$10.00      | _____             | _____         |
| SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1:                                     | \$27.50      | _____             | _____         |
| SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2:                                     | \$32.50      | _____             | _____         |
| EDMUND RICE & HIS FAMILY, and<br>WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS: | \$19.50      | _____             | _____         |
| MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES:                                    | \$4.50       | _____             | _____         |
| Total:   |              | _____             | _____         |

BOOKS, cont.

To the several new members who asked about the Rice Association's publications:

The list is on the reverse of this page. Our suggestion is to start at the top (Ward's book) and work your way down the list as rapidly or slowly as your pocketbook allows and your interest demands. The order blank at the bottom of the page can be clipped and sent to Bill Drury.

To the ego-pleasing number of people who ordered copies of the speech given at the 1990 Annual Reunion of the Rice Association, entitled, "Who Are We and What Are We Doing Here?" and the speech given by Ethel Rice at the 1949 Annual Reunion at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury:

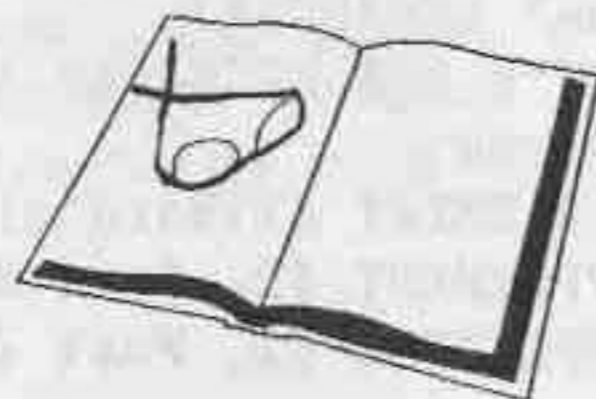
Some of the requests came while we were thoroughly pre-occupied with Karen's illness and death. I know of at least one request that arrived, was set aside, and has now disappeared. If you have not yet received the copies you asked for, please write again.

(Copies of either one or both of these speeches can be obtained by writing to me, Corinne M. Snow, P.O.Box 440, West Dover, VT 05356, enclosing \$1.00 for each copy.)

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ORDER BLANK

All of the books listed on the previous page are available to Association members from the Association. To order books, please fill out the other side of this blank, clip and send, with your check for the total, to:

William H. Drury, Book Custodian  
EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION  
24 Buckman Drive,  
Chelmsford, MA 01824 (over)

STORIES:

Cousin Joan Labrie, of Manchester, New Hampshire, sent us a couple of short stories soon after the 1990 Reunion. Joan is descended from Thomas, through Charles, through Elijah, who moved from Marlborough, Mass. to Henniker, N.H. in 1792. The family has lived in New Hampshire ever since, and the stories are images of life and history in northern New England. The one we reproduce here was written in 1973 by one Jeff Weston, as told to him by Joan's grandfather, Leon Hiram Rice (b.1890).

## I Should Have Looked Twice

Jeff Weston

It was warm for the end of January; the snow was melting as I walked down the old brick path to the open porch they had added to the house a few years back. The sun had just passed its peak. Mrs. Rice was busily crocheting an intricate white tablecloth, her hands guiding her small shiny needle. Mr. Rice was resting, soaking up the welcomed sun.

I asked Mr. Rice if he had always lived in this part of the country.

"I was born here in Manchester, eighty-two years ago. We came here and built this house fifty-five years ago, and we've lived here ever since."

When asked about his parents, he recalled that his father was born in Henniker and his mother came down from Canada.

"I can remember when horse cars went up Lake Avenue; I was born on Lake Avenue. They had horse cars, and then one summer I went to Henniker and when I came back they had electric cars, they ran out to the lake. Then I remember when they put the cars out here in East Manchester."

Mr. Rice leaned back in his chair, his warm eyes once fixed on me drifted to his garden, which was now under a foot of snow.

"I can remember, just remember when they had the centennial, and they had a huge arch erected at the City Hall over Elm Street. That was about the time when they put in the electric cars. The electric cars had a power car, a beautiful decorated car. It was all made with iron lace-work, and they would take special guests on special occasions and take them around to different parts of the city. You know,

there was electric lines interlaced all through the area here.

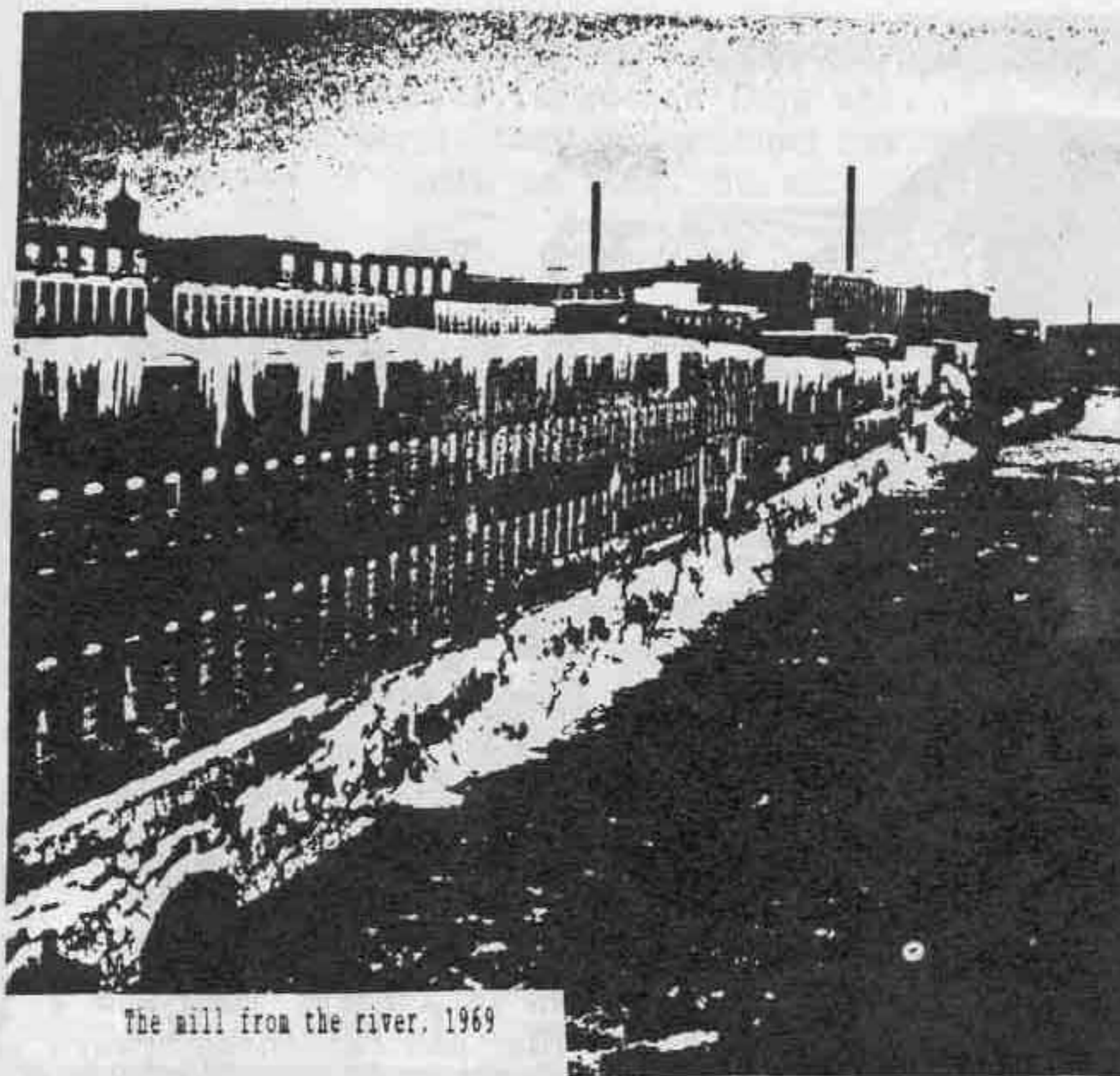
"We lived in the house in back of us here, and we could look out the pantry window, over to the end of the line. We'd see the electric cars start and we'd get out and go up to the corner. By the time we got to the corner the car was just getting up to the street."

Mrs. Rice smiled. She seemed to be reliving the story as her husband told it. They looked at each other, perhaps recalling some of the adventures they had had together. She began talking about a time when the conductor forgot to set the brakes for the street car. After a little laughing, Mr. Rice continued. "He was at the top of the hill, and he got out and went over behind the bush. When he turned around, the car was beginning to move. He started out after it; the faster he went, the faster it went. He never caught it. It went clear down Bridge Street and made a turn there about half-way down the hill. It went across Elm Street right into Chase's Store. It didn't stop. They said he never went after his pay."

Manchester was first called Derryfield, and was later renamed in 1810, when local businessmen planned to build a textile center that would rival Manchester, England. It took twenty-one years to organize and grow, until it became the largest cotton manufacturing city in the world.

"Yes, it was the largest," Mr. Rice said, "and you take what they call Number 11, which is the plant over on the west side of the river. That was the biggest single cotton mill in the world. They used to have cotton come in off cars on the west side of the river. They had a cable across the river, an overhead cable. They'd pick up a bale of cotton and you'd see it go over across and into the mill on the east side of the river. They would go one after another continuously. Then this cotton was brought into the lower part of the mills; it was immediately blown up four stories, and they would start the spinning process down through. By the time it got down to the middle or lower floor it was thread, and they would put it under the wheel.

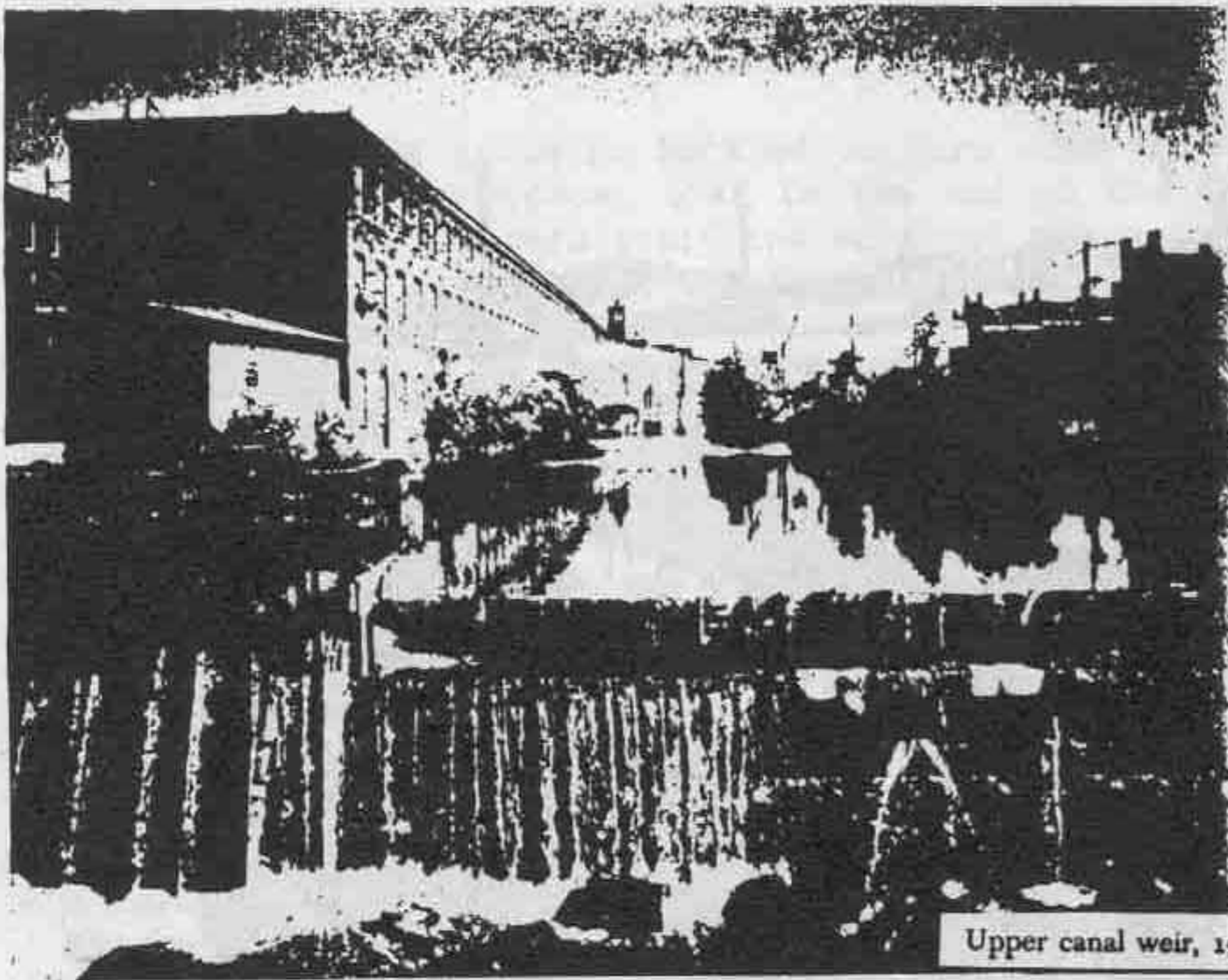
"They were so big that they bought their lumber standing, did their own lumbering and made their own cases for shipping the stuff. They had over 800 machinists at one time, and when you take back to those days that was terrific.



The mill from the river, 1969

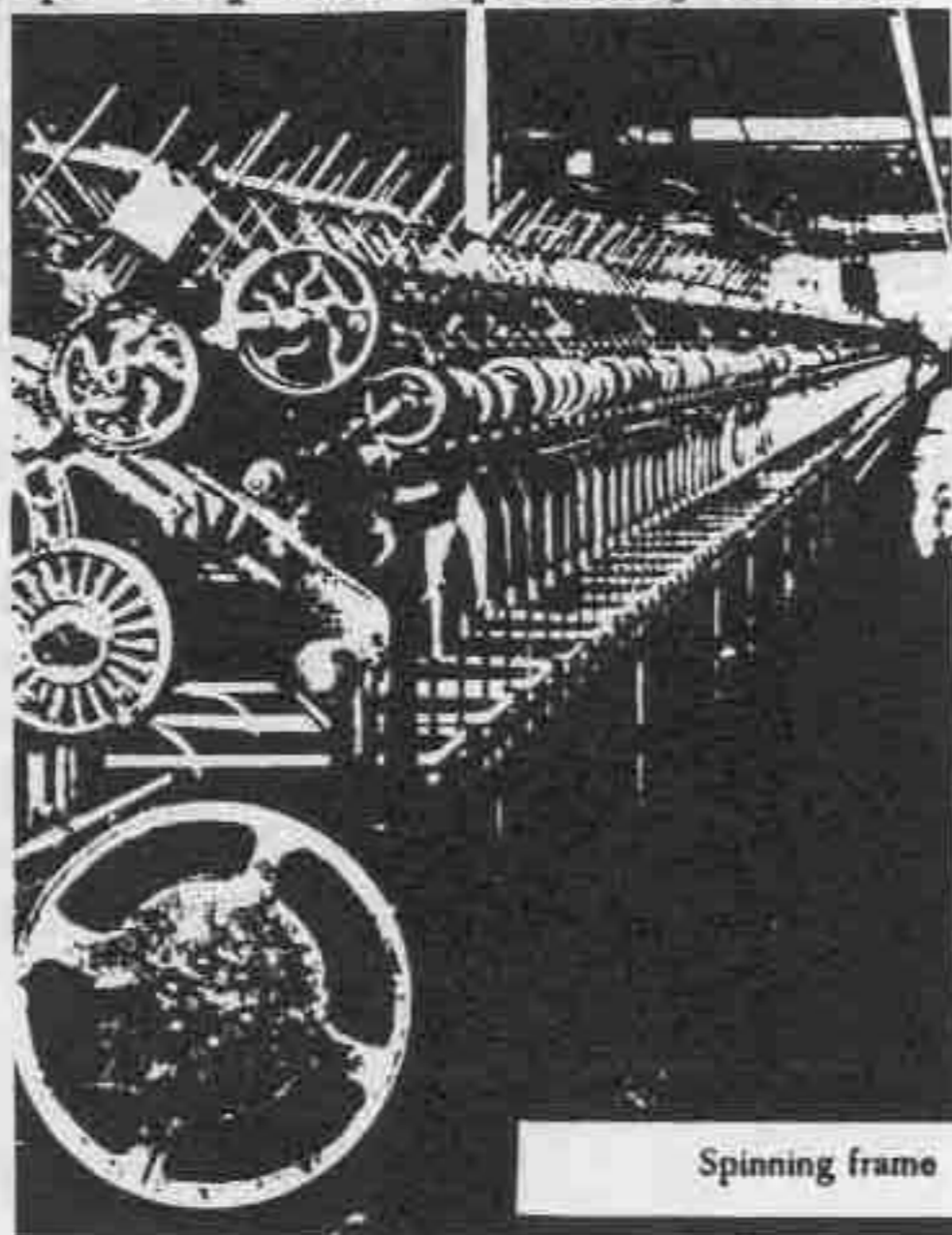
"Now they made all their own power steam and water, you know. They had some water wheels in some of those mills in the basement. Of course you've got a series of two canals; the upper canal, the lower canal, and the river. The water would go down the upper canal, and then through the wheels into the lower canal. Then through the wheels of another mill and down into the river.

"At the end of each mill they had what they called a belt tower. Now they'd have these big pulleys, I think about forty-eight inches wide. They'd have belts that would go from the basement to the first floor, and another one to the fourth floor. You can just imagine the leather of a belt three hides thick going from the basement to the fourth floor.



Upper canal weir, 1969

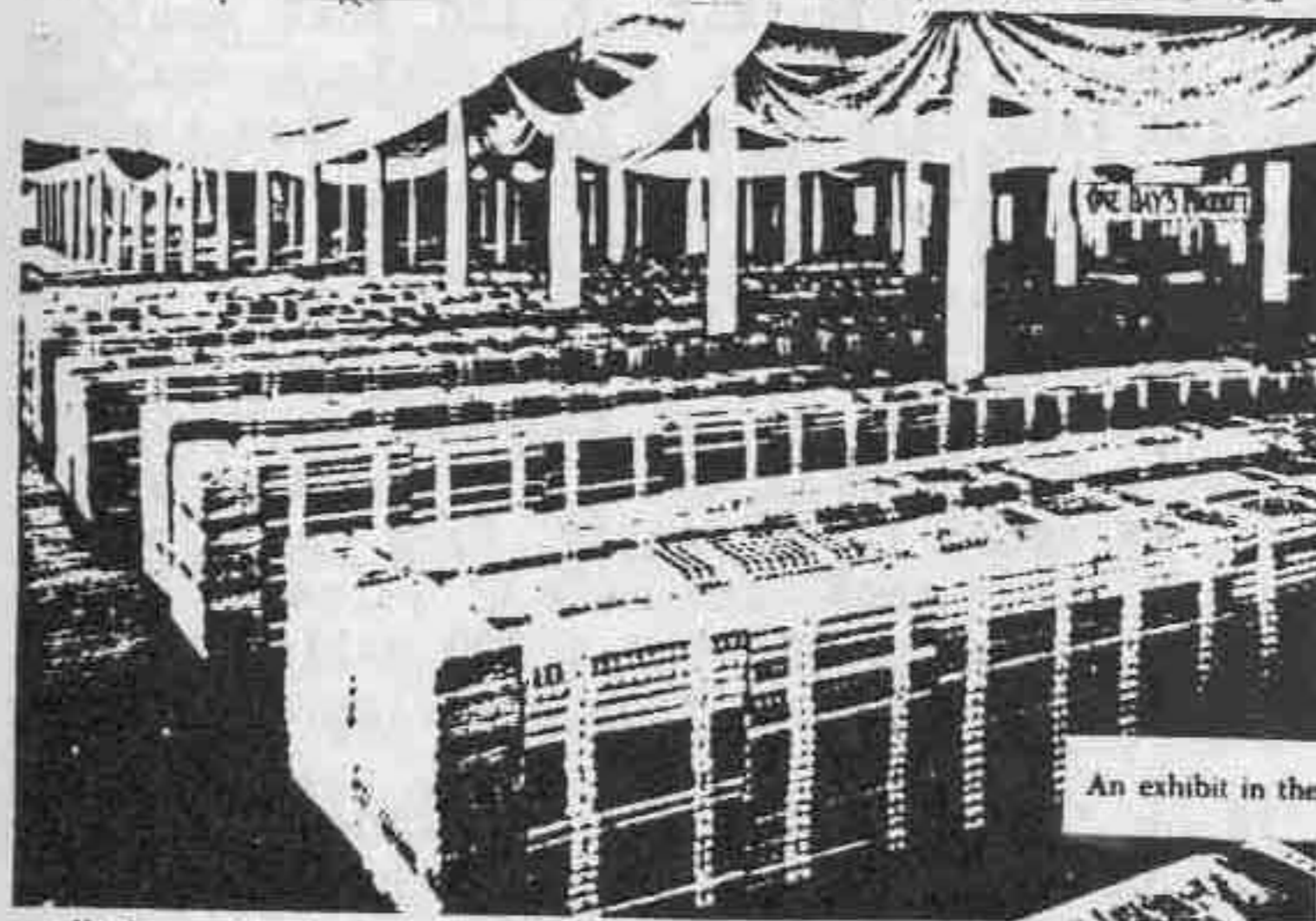
"They even made a lot of their own machinery. They had a big foundry and a big machine shop. They made spinning cranes and they made looms. It was a unit in itself. They even went so far as to make their own time clocks. This young boy that I knew, one summer did nothing but go from one place to another testing hose. It was a gigantic place."



Spinning frame

Mr. Rice never took his eyes off me. His hands were flying, reshaping his memories forgotten long ago.

"During World War I, they got so they employed 17,500. They made 50 miles of cloth an hour, 50 miles of cloth an hour!"



An exhibit in the mill of one day's product

"They had 3 big boiler rooms, the length up from the north of town had 64 boilers; Manning Boilers in line. They were all at first fed by coal. After World War I, they put in automatic stokers. You would just load up the hopper and they would automatically feed the boiler. They had something like 125 operators just tending the boilers."



First parade of strikers,

April 10, 1922

"Labor in New England organized, and that was the beginning of the downfall of the mills. It started in the boiler rooms,

they went out on strike. The automatic stokers were in use when they struck. When they went out the whole place had to shut down. It was down for 9 months, and it meant millions of dollars lost to the city. The city was down and out.

"Then they changed to oil. Instead of 120 that would operate the boiler house, 6 men in white collars could operate the valves and take care of the boilers. When they converted to oil, they bought two surplus tanks from the U.S. Government that were over in Brest, Europe. They brought them back and they set them on the island just south of the falls. They would take, I think, 200 cars apiece. They would bring the car loads, tank cars, up on the siding on the shore. That was Number 6 oil which is about like molasses and they had to be 'het' in order to be liquid. They would put steam into the coils of these tank cars made a' purpose, and thin down the oil. Then they could blow a 200 gallon tank car. No, more than that. They take a tank and blow it over in 8 minutes.

"Then come in '38 or '39 when they had the flood. Those tanks were not filled up with oil too much and they floated up and went down the river. Of course that took out the Bridge Street Bridge. It went down to Granite Street and took out the Granite Street Bridge. They had water up to the second floor of some of the mills there."

He spoke of one of his close associates at Worcester Polytech, where he graduated in 1913. Whenever they would have something going down there at the Amoskeag, Alfred Vost, an old friend and master mechanic at Amoskeag would invite him down.

One time the government asked the Amoskeag to reclaim the natural oil in the wool hair when they washed it. They needed lanolin for the par boils that the GI's got in World War I, when their feet were soaked for weeks at a time. They also were given contracts to produce huge quantities of uniform cloth. Mr. Rice also recalled the shaky beginning of the synthetic industry.

"You know rayon is really nitric cellulose which in plain English is gun cotton, which is very explosive. They would take wood pulp from the purest of spruce, make it into card board and treat it with nitric acid. This would make sort of a gum. From this, they would make a liquid which would be forced up through a thimble with 53 tiny holes. The hairs that came up were twisted into a rayon rope."

I asked if they ever used the rayon to make cloth. "The first of the rayons were not highly successful," he said. "For instance they made underwear, particularly women's underwear. Perspiration chemically affected the materials and it became brittle." When asked if the plant was still working, he chuckled. "You can imagine with all the nitric cellulose around, there was a pretty dangerous situation in some ways. It was all done in big kettles; piers, I believe they called them. They all mixed with valves that were operated by one or two top chemists. One day, the chemist stepped out of the room and shut the door and some mixture was wrong and bingo, the whole thing went up. Well, the roof just stayed horizontal for a second and the walls just did this."

Mr. Rice looked at me, raised his hands and imitated the walls falling on the machinery inside. "But the fellow had just stepped out and nobody was hurt." He said they rebuilt with special hinges between the walls and the ceiling in case of another explosion. He was laughing and didn't seem to take this new invention very seriously.

"There's a lot of history in that Amoskeag. There's one thing in particular that they were noted for during the Civil War. They manufactured thousands of rifles, I think they were the Springfield rifle type. They had a great big boring mill that picks up 30 feet in diameter. Of course you've heard of the battle between the Merrimac and the Monitor. The turrets for that Monitor was turned on that lathe in Manchester, hauled by oxen to Boston, and shipped to where it was assembled! Henry Ford looked at that lathe one time as a candidate for one of those big museums.

"They've got some mills down there that they just tore down that were dated 1820's. Most of those mills were built with their own crew of brick layers. Tremendous numbers of factories all strung together, all under one big head. They pretty near controlled the politics of the State of New Hampshire."

With this monopoly of labor I thought that the working conditions would be rather grim. "For the times they were superb," he said. "They were real attractive; they had no trouble getting help. They had co-op stores for buying, and a medical department that took care of the dentistry for all the children of their employees. They ran a regular clinic



all the time. They even had a big club of employees that they called the Textile Club. They were allowed all of the remnants that were made to run a store that would go pretty near up to \$100,00 (sic) a year income. They built the Textile Field, the baseball field down there, and they did that with their own labor. They bought out the Intervale Golf Course and changed it to private ownership. They built the Manchester Country Club and I joined for seven and one-half dollars a year.



The Amoskeag Textile Club Baseball Team, ca. 1920

"Today under today's standards they'd never get by. For instance, they worked 64 hours a week. Went to work at 20 of 6, and worked till 6 at night. There was an hour off at noon. They even worked Saturdays until 4:00.

"The pay in those days was very low, anywhere from 12 to 14 dollars a week. Those were the prevailing rates everywhere at the time, it wasn't particular in Manchester. You see we had Lawrence and Lowell, which were similarly situated industrially. But then, cost of living was correspondingly lower. Now those tenements you've got down there, they at one time rented those to their help for a dollar a room a month!



Children outside the Amoskeag corporation housing, 1909.

A five room tenement would cost you 5 dollars a month. Not only that, but the electricity when they got into electricity, they supplied it from their plant for a very much less rate than the Manchester Traction Light was serving it."

"You see," Mrs. Rice said, "this man could tell you a whole book on Manchester." We all laughed, then there was a long silence. The sun had changed from yellow to magenta, and was resting on the trees. Shadows were slowly creeping up the walk. The frantic hands of Mrs. Rice had become graceful and regular, her eyes barely open. She was dreaming, and truly at peace with herself. Mr. Rice sank into his chair, and began reliving his youth.

"When I got out of school in 1913, I went to work in the shop assembling knitting machines for the Leighton Machine Company. I did everything from starting in sweeping the floor, shoveling coal, paintin' machines, and everything else. When the engineer took a vacation, I had to run the engine and the boiler. I shoveled the coal, took care of the ashes, and blew the tubes.



Workers leaving the mills, photographed by Lewis Hine in 1909. Most workers changed from their work clothes before leaving work.

"By the time we got married, I was getting 15 dollars a week. I would give her 5 dollars a week and that took care of our complete grocery bill and everything. Today it don't do the Sunday dinner, so it's all a matter of comparison.

"It's an evolution of the cost to live. It was too low in those days and it's too high today in many trades. It all depends upon where you start. Labor has to have more money, because it costs more to live. It costs more to live because it costs so much for labor. Now where are you going to start? It's just a vicious circle.

"It's been really something to see the tremendous growth of the city since those times. The city was brought up on textiles. It was quite a calamity to have the loss of a company like the Amoskeag. The shoe industry took it over, absorbed the lack of employment, and now we're into electronics."

Mrs. Rice put her needle down, looked at me for a few seconds and spoke. "I've had people ask me if I wanted to go back. Would I like to go back and live it over again? I

said 'nothing doing.' I think I've lived the best part of my years anyway."

"If I had to do it over agin," Mr. Rice said, "I'd do two things the same. Go to Worcester Polytech and marry the same wife."

I can understand Mr. and Mrs. Rice's feelings as they recall their early years in Manchester. The excitement of the first electric car; getting a job paying 15 dollars a week right after graduating from school; and shortly thereafter getting married and being able to build their own home, which they have lived in for 55 years.

I hadn't looked twice as the cast iron ball smashed the Amoskeag Mills along the canal to make room for more cars to park. I couldn't feel the sadness that Mr. Rice felt as those buildings were being torn down, because they didn't nurture me. They were just bricks, mortar, and glass.

\* \* \*

Note: The cover picture and the illustrations for this article were taken from *Amoskeag, Life and Work in an American Factory-City*, by Tamara K. Hareven and Randolph Langenbach. Random House, New York and Toronto, 1978. The photographs were taken and/or researched by Mr. Langenbach.

Thank you, Cousin Joan, for a fascinating trip into a bit of history that was new to me, at least.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

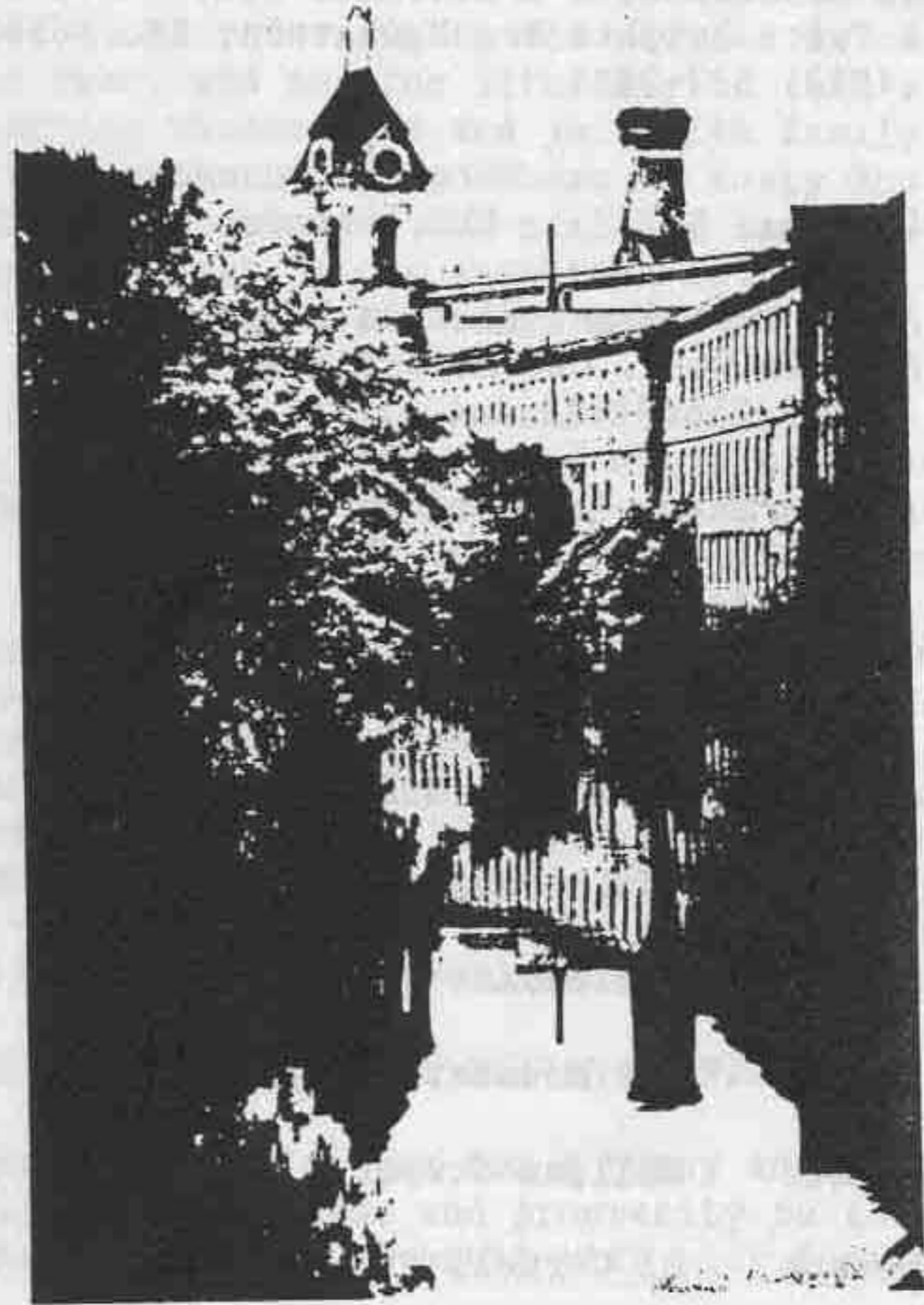
- 1954-1955: Charles W. Rice
- 1956-1957: Edgar W. Rice (1916-196?)
- 1958-1959: Stanley I. Rice (1898-1985)
- 1960: Donald Whittemore (1894-1988)
- 1961-1963: Frederick R. Rice (1895-1973)
- 1964-1965: William H. Hoefler (1893-197?)
- 1966-1967: Ray Lowther Ellis (1901-1982)
- 1967-1968: Erwin R. McLaughlin (1893-1968)
- 1969: Jeneve R. Melvin
- 1969-1973: Col. Allen Foster Rice (1904-1984)
- 1973-1974: Margaret E. Allen
- 1974-1975: Charles W. Rice
- 1975-1976: Seaver M. Rice (1892-1988)
- 1976-1978: Henry E. Rice, Jr. (1907-1984)
- 1979-1980: C. Whiting Rice, Jr.
- 1980-1982: William H. Drury
- 1982-1983: Patricia MacFarland
- 1983-1985: Janice Parmenter
- 1985-1987: Margaret S. Rice
- 1987-1990: Alex W. Snow

# Edmund Rice (1638)

## Association

ESTABLISHED 1851

INCORPORATED 1934



LOWER CANAL, AMOSKEAG, 1968 (SEE P. 11)

## Newsletter

Vol. 57 #6: WINTER, 1991

Corinne M. Snow, editor

NEWSLETTER

EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 440

West Dover, VT 05356