## Miscellaneous Records Volume 2

The condition of Volume 2 before its rebinding is described in the following first paragraph.

The material in it covers 1942 to 1954. The volume itself is a large ledger with lined pages. Each is stamped with its number which is used in the following listing beginning on number 25. Documents were apparently placed in the volume as they were received. On some pages the town clerk's stamp included the volume and page number, while on many others no number is evident. Some documents were written directly into the ledger, some were stapled to the lined page, others were attached with scotch tape; some could not be opened for reading without removing the staples or trying to lift the tape enough to see a bit of the content. The documents were kept with their original number on the page where they were fastened or to which they apparently belonged. Since many documents are copies and are on thin paper, edges are frequently creased and crumpled along their edges. This has happened also because several documents were attached to same page, making for a very full volume.

Names: Many of the documents concern only one or a few individuals. For example, Donald F. Ballam and Ralph G. Aulis who together ran the Norwich Cash Market. An entry appears under each of the names. Under Donald Bartlett's name there appears his resignation as a selectman, a separate document found on page 197. In his case his name appears in several records of town meetings but these occasions are not indexed. Further, there are many residents of the village who spoke at such meetings but have no separate documents related to them. For example, Arthur Dewing is one who participated in the discussions when zoning was first being addressed. His name does not appear at all in this listing, nor do others in similar circumstances.

Because of the way the materials were put together, chronologically as received, related documents are not side by side. The hope is that the listing beginning on page 25 is arranged so that a user can track down these related documents. There are many interesting items to be found here: first discussions in town meetings of zoning, the effects of the enlargement of the Wilder Dam with the consequent rise of the water table in several places in Norwich, the story of businesses begun in Norwich—some still extant, but many now history. This is the story of a Norwich which few now would remember, where a junk yard for vehicles was allowed, and where a reading of the record of those town meetings of 50 years ago shows a wonderful exchange of the pros and cons of issues by people of all circumstance who did not hesitate to say what they thought. Even the suggestion that Norwich have a town manager came long before 2001 when the present village voted to employ one.

On pages 1-21 there is a handwritten index which searchers may find useful since its arrangement is different from the one beginning on page 25. Pages 22, 23, and 24 were left blank. However, on page 23 there is now placed a computer printout prepared on June 24, 1993. It is a "Preliminary Index" five pages long with 195 entries. Again, the approach is different from that beginning on page 25.

## **Preserving Miscellaneous Records Volume 2**

The intent is to retain the page numbering and present page arrangement of the ledger, to remove both staples and scotch tape, and to place the renewed documents, all identified by their original page numbers, in separate mylar envelopes; then rebinding these in two, possibly three, volumes. The work necessary to keep these materials in order will be meticulous.

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