Random clippings from the Manchester Evening Herald during the 1970s and 1980s — the Herald's "Then and Now" feature.

Susan,

Pat's mother saved these clippings from the Manchester Evening Herald re: the old North End. Some or all of them may already be in the Historical Society collection.

Bob Hetzel
Bob Hetzel
North Elm St., Manchester

The Circle Theatre on Oak Street
This is a North End Scene, probably in the early 1900s.
They are ready for the big trip from 1 Main St., at N. Main, to Laurel Park at the Manchester-East Hartford line, where Fountain Village is now located. The time was 1900 or 1901, according to Roy Hagedorn, who owns the picture. The man on the running board is his father, Paul B. Hagedorn. The dances at Laurel Park were a big attraction in their day.
**A Campaign of Yesteryear**

Shades of the political campaign and the third party of 60 years ago. Local backers of the Progressive, or Bull Moose Party in 1912, which nominated Theodore Roosevelt for the presidency and Hiram Johnson of California for the vice presidency, strung this banner from the Johnson Block across Main St. It is reported that the Cheney family, annoyed but not deterred by the arrogance of the upstarts, hung another supporting the Republican team of William Howard Taft and Nicholas Murray Butler (James P. Sherman died in October after being named the vice presidential candidate), spanning Main at Oak St. For the sake of the historical record, Roosevelt cut into the Taft vote so much (the latter carrying only Utah and Vermont), that minority president, Woodrow Wilson, with Thomas R. Marshall as his running mate, was elected. In the upper photo, right, are also Marlow's first store and the former Park Theater at Brainard Pl. These photos were loaned to The Herald by Martin Alvord, formerly of Manchester and now a resident of Cummaquid on Cape Cod.
The Cheney Bros Red Cross Float as it appeared in the Centennial Parade of 1923.

Seated on the wagon are, left, Fred Lincoln, now deceased, and N. J. Rufini, the driver, of 137 Bireh St.
The artist may have allowed his imagination to enter into the wood block cut for the advertisement, but the cider mill operated by Capt. Arthur B. Keeney (1849-1921) was very real. For many years, he made the product on the 74-acre farm, including the 14-acre “home place.” It was located on the north side of Line St., about 500 feet from S. Main St. The cider was later made at his home at the intersection of the streets.

The advertisement, genealogical data, and other details were furnished by Mrs. Herbert J. (Doris Keeney) Bradley of 291 Lake St., Vernon. She is the granddaughter of Capt. Arthur B. Keeney and the daughter of Capt. Harry W. Keeney.

She said that apples were brought from surrounding farms. The cider was bottled, wire-corked, and then placed in racks in the cellar, with the cork ends tipped down. Later, the sediment-soaked corks were removed, the bottles recorked, and some wrapped in wicker. Mrs. Bradley said that one of her grandfather’s customers for cider champagne was the old American Hotel in Hartford’s American Row-State St. area.

Arthur B. Keeney served in the state militia from 1871 to 1882. He was Manchester tax collector from 1896 to 1901.

His ancestors on the paternal side were Tell, great-great-grandfather; Richard, great-grandfather, who lived to the age of 105; Russell, grandfather; and Porter, father, (1805-1885).
This photo, taken about 60 years ago, shows what was then the Manchester Dairy on Summit St. In later years it became the Sealtest Dairy. The present occupants are Wilson Electrical Co., Inc. and Rovic, Inc. The man standing on the platform and wearing a dark coat is Michael Orfitelli, now deceased, who was manager of the dairy. He later formed the Royal Ice Cream Co. To Orfitelli's left is Ted Hewitt, who later became the manager of the Sealtest plant.
N. Main St., in this view looking east, once ran closer to the railroad tracks than it does today. Double trolley tracks at this point provided running room for cars going to Hartford and to Rockville and Stafford Springs. (Courtesy Mrs. Marilyn Mann, 255 Summit St.)
This merry-go-round, the center of attraction in Laurel Park back in the “good old days,” should arouse memories of the time when there was such a place between Manchester and East Hartford along the Hoockanum River. People came in packed trolley cars for picnicking, social gatherings, dancing on the pavilion, boating, and maybe a little spanking. There was Hatch’s band, too. The picture post-card which was mailed to Mrs. Clarence H. Wickham in 1907 was loaned to The Herald by Thomas L. Bestor of Manchester who says some of his happiest recollections are the rides he used to have on the merry-go-round in the park. The park was part of the Wickham estate.
This Company G, 1st Infantry, Connecticut National Guard, back in 1907 or 1909. It was led by Sgt. Phillip Cheney who is marked in the second row (see arrow). The photo was contributed by Mrs. Agnes Skoog of Greenwood Dr.

O.C. Identifies Co. G

Knight Ferris

(Original cutline)
Then
...and
Now

This is E. Center St. from the Center, as it looked in 1908 when the post card dated Sept. 8, 1908 in South Manchester was sent to Miss Grace L. Runde, 34 Walnut St., and as it appears today in the "Now" photo by The Herald's Reginald Pinto.
Then
and
...Now

The old Glastonbury Knitting Co. mill is now a furniture outlet; automobiles are a more common sight than were trolley cars, for which no traffic signal was needed; and the dirt surface at the intersection of E. Center and Woodbridge Sts. has been replaced by macadam and concrete. Otherwise, there is a greater similarity between the scene at Manchester Green today and that of a distant yesterday than at many other town sites. At the left in both photos is the Woodbridge homestead, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Woodbridge and his mother, Mrs. Arthur Woodbridge. (Herald photo by Buceivicius)
These are not policemen at a roadblock designed to snag a fugitive. They are agents of the United States Department of Agriculture at a spot on Oakland St. where they were stopping cars to check for transport of vegetation. It was in 1930 and the area was affected by some sort of blight. The photo belongs to Roy Hagedorn.
Then
and
...Now

Teachers' Hall, once located immediately south of the present Bennet Junior High School Main Building on the west side of Main St., served from the turn of the century until its closing in December 1932, and demolition soon after, as a rooming house for women teachers, New Britain Normal School (now Central Connecticut State College) trainees, and men employed in town. It was earlier known as East Boarding House or Teachers' Boarding House, to which a three-story addition was made in 1907-08. Three matrons, or managers, during its lifetime were Mrs. Elizabeth Goodwin, Mrs. Olive Hayward, and Mrs. Katharina Abbott. When Cheney Bros., an early benefactor, withdrew support of the residence in 1924-25, board was increased $1.25 from the previous weekly average of $8.25. The site is now used by Bennet for physical education classes and band marching practice.

(HERALD photo by Pinto)
You're in the Army now
This is a Keeney Street School class sometime between 1909 and 1912. The teacher was Miss Maytie Niles, who taught there in the old Fifth District School during those years before she married and became Mrs. Clifford W. Barnett. She started teaching there at $40 a month, and when she left to get married she was making $44 a month, according to records. She lived with the Mole family on a farm in the Keeney St. area, within walking distance of the school. Anyone recognize faces in the picture? (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Neal
Oakland St., looking north, back in the horse and buggy days. (Courtesy Manchester Historical Society)
Then
and
...Now

What a vast difference between the North End railroad crossing environs (c. 1906) and those today. The tracks are still there, although no longer clickety-clacked by freight and passenger trains of the Blackstone Valley line. It would be something of an oddity for a delivery wagon driver—much less a standing one who either had a great deal of faith in his animal or none at all—to challenge intersection traffic now. The former White family home, in the center of the upper photo, is the location of the Teresa Apartments; and a portion of the railroad yards at the right was redeveloped into the North End Shopping Plaza. (Herald photo by Becker)
Then
and
...Now

Except for its brighter coat of paint, the Second Congregational Church on N. Main St. has changed little outwardly over the decades. Not so the thoroughfare itself in the upper photo. Gone are the wineglass elms that shaded the once narrow street, and the Stafford Springs to Hartford trolley tracks at the left. The church, the second one of the parish, was built in 1888. (Herald photo by Bucevicius)
Then
...and
Now

Number 312 Main St. has not changed too much in appearance since it was a general grocery store owned and operated by John Hand, standing at the right of the doorway in his grocerian's apron. Frank Hooey, left, was working for Mr. Hand at the time. Solid plate glass windows have replaced the four-paneled front windows, and an enclosed stairway to living quarters above are the only visible changes to the building which is presently the Village Barber Shop. The "then" picture was loaned to The Herald by Thomas Hooey, brother of the young man in the picture. (Herald photo by Pinto)
West Center St. it may have been once, but the scene today is a view toward the Center from Center, Linden (right), and Trotter Sts. The building at the left, now the Lane Music Center, was an ice cream and confectionery store operated by Rocco Farr and his family for many years. The Bantly Oil Co. had its beginning on the other corner of Trotter St. with Ernest Bantly's garage and service station. Barely discernible beyond the awning is the Trotter Block, whose ground floor housed Harry Christensen's tinsmithing business, among others. Between Bantly's and the Trotter Block was William Patterson's meat market. (Photo from the collection of R. Earl Wright, 202 New Bolton Rd.)