

A NEW ENGLAND ORIGINAL

Pepperell's Yankee stalwart, Trescott Abele, dies at 94

By PETER WARD
Sun Staff

PEPPERELL — He was once called the tall lanky Yankee in the white cowboy hat. He chopped his own kindling well into his 90s. For decades the pipe-smoking town moderator ran town meetings with an iron hand and a gavel.

Trescott Abele, a Pepperell legend, died Monday at age 94.

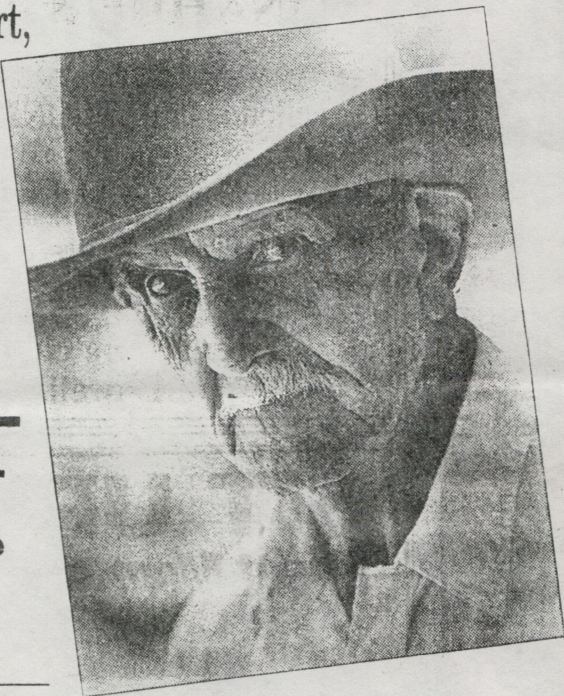
**“He liked to blaze trails.
He used to walk the
bounds with us until he
was almost 80.”**

*Susan J. Smith, assistant assessor,
describing Trescott Abele of Pepperell*

“It’s like the end of an era,” said town Treasurer Phyllis Symonds. “He was a character in a way, a farmer, an educator. He had a dry sense of humor.”

Abele (pronounced A-buh-lee) served as town moderator, assessor and principal of Pepperell’s own high school, all the while raising turkeys, apples, berries and Christmas trees on his Lawrence Street farm.

Abele was born April 14, 1901, and was raised in Quincy. He moved to Pepperell in the 1920s. He may have been the last resident to



“He was a character in a way, a farmer, an educator,” says town Treasurer Phyllis Symonds of Trescott Abele.

SUN FILE PHOTO

have ridden both passenger train lines that went through town. Both the Worcester, Nashua and Portland and the Boston & Maine rail lines were abandoned years ago.

“He was really fascinating because he remembered so much,” said Susan J. Smith,

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