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### Collection Pouches

Nelson M. Parkhurst, treasurer of the Congregational Church in Hollis, displays the restored collection pouches that were used during a recent service. Parkhurst was assisted in restoring the woodwork by Roy Staveley, and the new pouches were sewn by Mrs. C. Woodbury Bell. (Telegraphphoto — Jones)



# Old Collection Pouches Used in Hollis

By CYNTHIA JONES

The Hollis Congregational Church, U.C.C., recently used six very old collection pouches at its worship service.

The collection pouches were used for many years in the old church that burned in 1923; they were saved and stored in the present church attic. Through the years, these relics of earlier worship services became broken and moth-eaten.

Nelson M. Parkhurst, assisted by Roy Stavely, repaired and refinished the wooden handles and rims of the pouches, and sewing on the new pouches was done by Mrs. C. Woodbury Bell. They are now housed in a display case in the church vestibule. Building and installation of the display case was the work of Irvin Londry. Warren Towne supplied the materials for the case and sponsored the work as a gift from the family.

Parkhurst, 83, has been a member of the church for as long as he has lived in Hollis, and is the church treasurer and custodian. His wife has sung in the church choir for 63 years, and the two celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary this year.

The church treasurer, a native of Hyde Park, Mass., remembers similar collection pouches with longer handles being used in the church he attended as a boy. He also remembered being somewhat restless during the services, but recalled the highlight for him was when he watched the ushers present the collection

pouches with an elegant flourish.

He said current church ushers, used to handling plates, had a little difficulty in presenting the pouches in the elegant manner with which they were used in the old days, but with a little practice, the ushers achieved more grace. The pouches will only be used at special services.

The history of the Hollis Congregational Church dates back to 1741 when the first meeting house was built. A larger one was built in 1746, and in 1804, a full-sized one was erected. Additions to the 1804 building were completed in 1849, and it was this church, destroyed by fire in 1923, from which the collection pouches originated.

Originally the Parish of West Dunstable owned the meeting house and hired the minister. Then in 1746 when the town was incorporated, the town of Hollis assumed all financial responsibilities.

Sometime during the year 1746, the name of the church was changed from the Second Church in Dunstable to the Church of Christ in Hollis. A

century later, The Evangelical Congregational Society was formed "for the purpose of supporting the Gospel."

When changes in the building were made in 1849, the town gave the society the ownership of the church auditorium on the second floor and the vestry on the first floor. All pews were individually owned.

At a joint meeting of church and society in 1925, it was voted to form a corporation under the name of "The First Congregational Church of Hollis, N.H."

By vote of the church in 1943, the constitution was revised and the name of the church was changed to "The Congregational Church of

Hollis, N.H."

The present church building was dedicated in 1925, and is of the same colonial architecture as the old church, but drawn to smaller dimensions. A parish house was added and a room set apart in memory of Daniel Emerson, the first pastor who was ordained in 1743 and served as its pastor for 58 years.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL