

What's in a (street) name, anyway? MAR. 19, 1987

If you have ever had occasion to look up an old deed, you may have found that the property was on a different street than you thought it was. Or, an old map might show streets you hadn't heard of, even though you were familiar with the area.

The reason, of course, is that street names have been changed over the years. In many cases the commonly known names had never been officially accepted, frequently resulting in duplication of names in the same town or city. Chelmsford has, in the past, been guilty of this practice.

In order to bring order out of confusion,

The way it was

By George A. Parkhurst



An example of this was in referring to Boston Road as South Street. Though "Boston Road" had been approved by the 1905 committee, it had never been generally accepted. A similar example was Chelmsford Street.

Street since it was a continuation of the Middlesex Turnpike. Instead of Newfield Street, it says Fletcher Street. (Fletcher Street next to St. Mary's Church in the Center was not built until the 1890's.)

Where Church Street is today, you would find Depot Street, which crossed Middlesex Street and went down to the depot near the river. Anyone looking for Quigley Avenue would have to go to Mill Street, the name at that time.

In 1875, Gay Street ran only between Middlesex and Princeton Streets. West of Princeton Street it was Silver Street, both

no longer depend upon war to settle conflict. There is no such thing as a limited nuclear war, they stress. While hardly a delightful evening, the discussion seemed to unleash some of the pent-up fear and emotion that surrounds the issue of nuclear holocaust. The prevailing attitude, especially among peace activists, was that only through action can there be hope. "Simply electing officials who will change the laws won't work,"

threat of destruction, most people rarely, if ever, openly discuss the issue of war in their homes. And yet studies have proven that by the age of eight, most children are not only aware of the possibility of war, they think about it often. Young people worry constantly about injury, genetic damage and abandonment. "We need to let our fears come through, to be honest about our thoughts," insists Robin Howard, a Chelmsford resident and Beyond War group coordinator. "Nuclear war is frightening," she said, "but we need to let our children know that there is hope."