

Jessica Tandy appeared in play by CHS graduate

By George A. Parkhurst
Correspondent

The recent announcement of the death at age 85 of award-winning actress Jessica Tandy calls to mind her relationship, however tenuous, with the town of Chelmsford. More accurately, her relationship was with one of its more notable former residents.

In 1937 the play *Yes, My Darling Daughter*, written by Chelmsford High School graduate Mark Reed ('08) opened its London production with Jessica Tandy as one of the featured players.

Tandy was only 29 years old at the time, and in the early stages of her theatrical career, which would eventually bring her to this country. Tandy is best known, perhaps, for her

portrayal of Miss Daisy in the popular movie *Driving Miss Daisy*, which earned her an academy award.

Playwright Reed spent his early years at 15 Crosby Lane in the center of Chelmsford but later took up residence in White Plains, N.Y. to further his theatrical interest in Greenwich Village and the New York theater district.

Although he was acclaimed nationally and internationally for his stage and movie productions of *Yes, My Darling Daughter* and, earlier, *Pettycoat Fever* in the 1930s, he is remembered by only a few present-day Chelmsfordites.

George A. Parkhurst, a local historian and writer, celebrates his 62nd Chelmsford High School reunion with 23 classmates this week.

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Balloon caused local scare 50 years ago

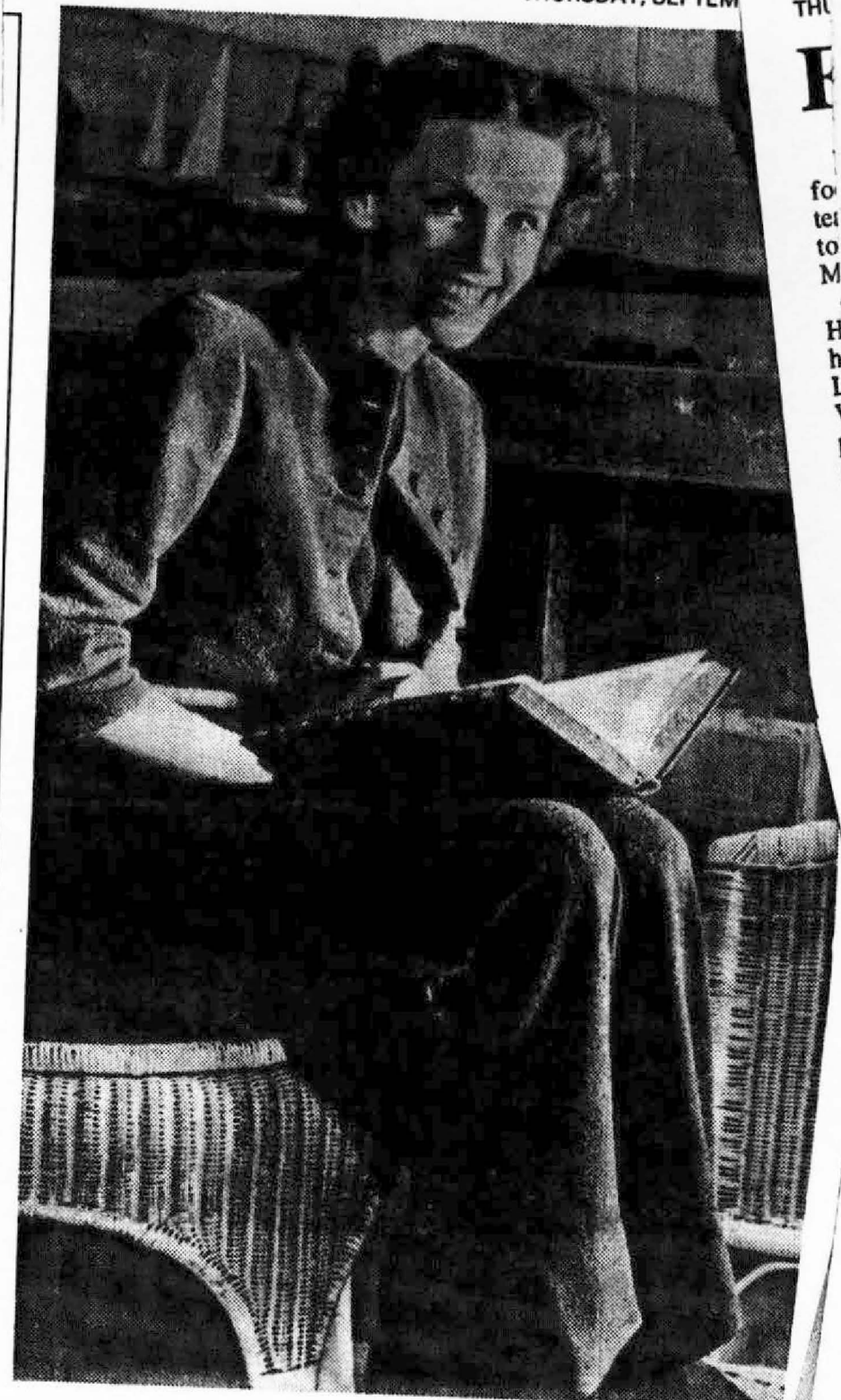
By George Adams Parkhurst
Guest Columnist

"Jap Balloon Scare in Chelmsford — Object Fell on Rooftop in East Part of Town." Thus read the heading on a story in the Lowell newspaper.

The date was June 7, 1945. World War II was continuing in the Pacific area although fighting had ceased in

Because Police Chief Ralph Hulslander was working on another urgent case, the Lowell authorities were called in and Lt. Edward J. Liston and Inspector Andrew W. Hunter were dispatched to the scene. What they found was a torn balloon which, when inflated, was estimated to be about 15 feet in diameter. The

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER



COURTESY F
The late Jessica Tandy in 1937 when she was starring in London version of former Chelmsford resident Mark Reed's 'Yes, My Darling Daughter.'