

The Ballard Vale Gazette

Vol. 5

BALLARDDVALE, MASS.

SUMMER, 1986

Ballard Vale Wins Sidewalks

April, 1986 - Town Meeting unanimously approved Article 68 on the Warrant to construct granite curbed sidewalks on sections of Andover and Tewksbury Sts. and Clark Road. A slide-show depicting the condition of sidewalks and volume of traffic was presented. It graphically demonstrated our need for reasons of safety. BVIS is grateful to Dick Bowen for the excellent array of slides used in the presentation.

Ballard Vale's 150th Birthday

October, 1985 - A special anniversary service was celebrated at Ballard Vale United Church by Rev. Gary Cornell and Father Jim Vitali of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. As part of the service, the first annual "Honored Citizen" awards were presented to: Ruth Sharpe, George Bruce, Franklin Haggerty, Charlotte Tynning, Dick Bowen, Sherron Heller, Roger Turpening, Edna McIntyre, and Edward

Brown. A special presentation was made in memory of Ballard Vale's first librarian, Martha D. Byington to be hung in the Ballard Vale Library.

After the service, a reception was held in the Church Hall where a slide show of "Old Ballard Vale" was presented by Ruth Sharpe. Many dignitaries attended, including Town Manager Kenneth Mahoney, Rep. Susan Tucker, Senator Robert Buell, Selectman Donn Byrne, and School Committee member Susan Poore.

A print of the painting by Bancroft Haynes, done in 1881, from a vantage point on High St. overlooking Ballard Vale Center was presented to the Town from the Ballard Vale Village Improvement Society by President Sherron Heller. The print is now prominently displayed in the new Town Hall.

The third issue of the Ballard Vale Gazette reprinting articles from 1867, 1875 and including current news was sold. Copies still available at the Ballardvale Library for \$1.00.

Updates Since Last Issue

November, 1985 Cleanup. BVIS has sponsored several cleanups in the last few years with as many as 60-70 people coming to help. Major improvements include rebuilding the Railroad Station (courtesy of Bob Henderson, Ed Morrissey and others), planting of grass and flowers (courtesy of Jan Henderson and Jan Morrissey), painting of hydrants (courtesy of Dick Bowen, Carol Monk, Charlotte Tynning, Dick Darling and others). Sandblasting of graffiti from the Shawsheen River bridge, playground building and other locations, courtesy of Jim Frederick and Peter Misenti. The sand used was donated by M. O'Mahoney Co. of Lawrence. General trash pickup courtesy of Bob Hamilton, Boy Scout Troop # 76 and many others. Thanks to Jim Bamford, Bob McQuade, Ted Surette and Rudy Perron for the Town's cooperation in supplying us with the materials and trucks needed to do the job. Watch for announcement of our Fall cleanup date!

Veteran's Day

The Town's observance of Veteran's Day was held at Ballard Vale Green with featured speaker Brig. General John E. Haggerty (Ret.), a Ballard Vale native.

A new flagpole was dedicated in memory of Ballard Vale's first librarian, Martha D. Byington who served from 1913-1943.

Military honor guards, Veteran's groups, the Andover High School Band and Chorus group participated in the ceremonies.

Current Happenings

1. March, 1985 - A truck exclusion has been approved by the State DPW for Clark Road. It is hoped that this will lessen the number of trucks traveling through Ballard Vale

Center. We will closely watch the traffic patterns when this is implemented to be sure no one street is adversely affected.

2. Safety Hazard - During the spring, there have been many fires of discarded railroad ties along the tracks. These fires emit toxic fumes. The use of fire hydrants caused water problems, i.e., sludge, discoloration, flushing of water heaters throughout the area. The railroad is currently being petitioned by the Town and BVIS to dispose of the ties properly.

3. The Ballard Vale Playground is not staffed this summer. Local residents are determined that the equipment and area be maintained as needed for a community park. Improvements to the playground and building are currently being discussed.

BVIS Facts

Meetings every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Ballard Vale Library. Contact persons for questions or comments: Sherron Heller, Dick Bowan, Ruth Sharpe or Charlotte Tynning.

Dues are used for:

1. Printing and copying
2. Civic improvements: playground, benches, signs, materials
3. Church Hall rental for large functions
4. Slideshow - Town Meeting Article
5. Public Relations - Gift to Town, awards.



BVIS

**Ballard Vale
Village Improvement Society**

P.O. Box 83, BallardVale Station, Andover, Mass. 01810

Questionnaire

Please number 1-7 in order of importance to you.

- ___ Sidewalk plan continued
- ___ Traffic
- ___ Vandalism
- ___ Larger Library with meeting area
- ___ New Fire Station
- ___ Bank-Drugstore-Other
- ___ Police Sub-Station
- ___ Other

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

- ___ Family \$10.00
- ___ Single 5.00
- ___ Senior 5.00

BVIS, to become a directing influence and contributing body in our community, needs your ideas, opinions and input. We sincerely solicit and appreciate the time you take to complete the brief questionnaire and membership application and return both to the P.O. Box listed. A follow up program will be conducted to those whose returns are not received by August 31, 1986.

The BallardVale Gazette is a publication of the BallardVale Village Improvement Society and Andover Copy Center