

The BallardVale Gazette

Newsletter of the BallardVale Historic District Commission

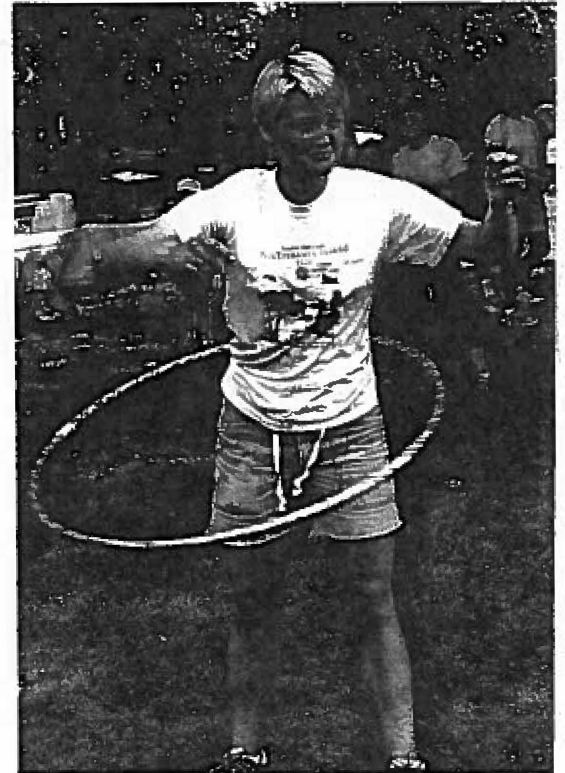
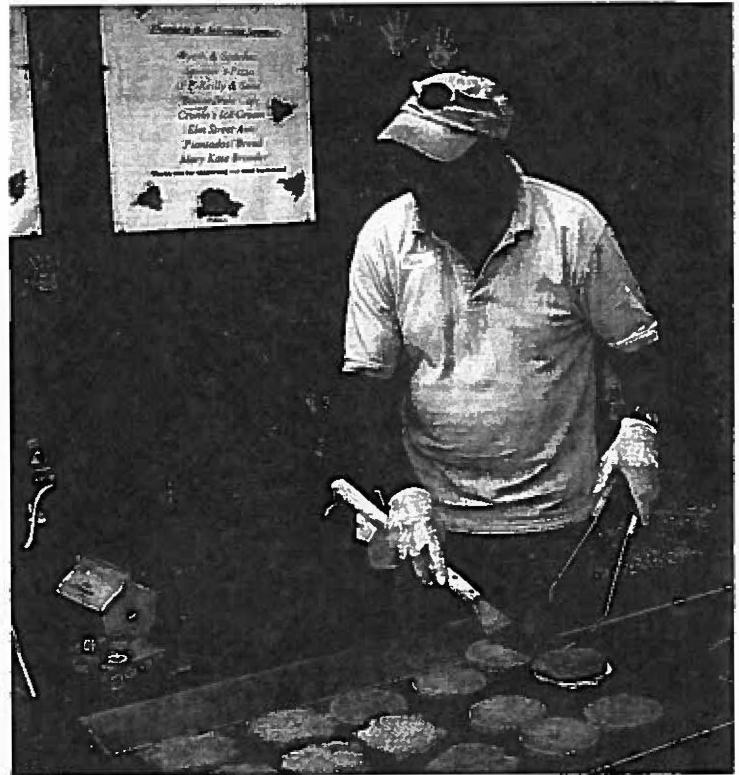
Volume 6, Number 3

BallardVale, Massachusetts

November 2006

2006 BLOCK PARTY RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Once again, a glorious September day brought over 200 people to the BallardVale Playground to enjoy an afternoon of good food and lots of fun activities. DJ Ted Teichert bought his music, bubble machine and activities such as the (raw) egg toss, hula hoop contest, tug o' war, and sack race. Kid of all ages enjoyed Face Painting (by Abigail Huntress) and the Moonwalk. The older "kids" especially enjoyed the chair massages provided by local resident Mary Kate Bronder. The block party is organized every year by Diane and Chris Huntress, with food, drinks and grills provided by Wyeth & Sodehxo, Spinner's Pizza, Ballardvale Café, Cronin's Ice Cream, and Piantadosi Bread. Other sponsors include F.P.Reilly & Sons and Elm Street Auto. A round of applause to Chris and Diane and their dads who man the grills each year, Ted, Mary Kate, Abigail and the other workers, all the generous sponsors, and all the BallardVale residents and friends who come to make this event such a fun-filled.



AGENDA ONLINE

The BallardVale Historic District Commission meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm in Town Offices on Bartlet Street. You can now find the BVHDC meeting agenda posted on Andover's official town website. Check it to keep track of new applications as well as those that are continued over several meetings. We expect the agenda to be posted one week prior to each meeting. While we will try to be as accurate and timely as possible, there may be occasional last minute changes to the agenda not reflected in the online version. Click on "BallardVale Historic District Commission" listed under "Meeting Agendas" on the Town of Andover home page at <http://andoverma.gov/>.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The annual tree lighting on the BallardVale Green will be held on Sunday, December 3 at 5:00pm. Join with neighbors and friends for some holiday fun and singing. Refreshments will be provided by the BallardVale Historic District Commission. Dogs are welcome, but please bring them on a leash. Dress warmly and bring your singing voices and holiday spirit.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Occasionally we would like to share information or pictures with you by email, but we have very few email addresses of BallardVale residents and other interested parties. Recently the Block Party pictures were available to access through a link to Snapfish. I sent this link to all those whose email addresses I have. If you did not receive an email from me with this link, it means I do not have your email address. If you would like to receive links to photos of events in the BallardVale Historic District and (rare) occasional informational emails (like notices of upcoming B'Vale events), please send me an email at derby01@comcast.net. You can also reach me by phone at 978-475-0125. --- Diane Derby

FRIENDS OF BALLARDVALE

Long-time BallardVale resident John Petty remembers BallardVale and describes his twenty year role as overseer of the Pole Hill Conservation Area.

Although I was born in Mrs. Kate O'Donnell's "nursing home" at a house (since torn down and replaced) on 15 Center Street in 1927, I did not live in the Vale until I was almost 13. My family moved from Whittier Street in uptown Andover to 79 Center Street in 1940 after my grandmother died to take care of my grandfather. However, my knowledge of BallardVale was quite extensive because my paternal grandparents lived at 80 Center Street and my maternal grandparents lived across the street at 79 Center Street. My mother's father also owned the property next door (81), which had been my great-grandmother's home. Obviously both my parents grew up in the Vale and imparted a great deal of information to my younger brother and myself.

BallardVale was a wonderful, friendly and close-knit environment as I grew up in the early 1940's. You can't imagine the great small town atmosphere that existed here. We kids had a lot to keep us busy...swimming, canoeing and skating on the Shawsheen River, mainly in the Lowell Junction area where we had a boyhood friend. Many also skated on Stark's Pond located between Marland Street and the railroad tracks. We enjoyed nighttime bonfires there, too. Also popular was camping out as boy scouts on Pole Hill near the old dance hall area, and skiing downhill in the woods behind my house to the pasture behind the barn that was owned by the house at 34 Tewksbury Street. Our friend who lived there had a large old bobsled that we used mainly on the sharp hill of Oak Street. That same friend taught me how to drive on a narrow country road in his father's old Packard. That was how to describe Lovejoy Road in those days. It had only three houses.

My dad had a 1916 Old Town canoe that I frequently wheeled down to the river along the Pole Hill path from the top of Marland Street. (This canoe is still in good shape today!) The



Andover Historical Society

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



December 1-2, 2006

Andover Holiday Happenings

Friday Night, December 1, 2006 - Stroll downtown for an old-fashioned celebration. Listen to holiday choral music and bell ringers. Take a hayride. Try some roasted chestnuts. Drop by the Historical Society's Amos Blanchard House for a holiday open house from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. and enjoy the seasonal decorations.

Saturday Morning, December 2, 2006 - Don't miss Breakfast with Santa from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., second floor of the Town House. Historical Society volunteers will be doing craft activities with the kids. For more information about *Andover Holiday Happenings* and to read the full schedule of events visit www.AndoverBusinesses.org.

December 10, 2006

"Our Company Increases Apace"

Learn about the early settlement of Andover at this lecture and book signing by Andover historian Ellnor Abbot. The lecture and book signing is a collaboration between the Andover and North Andover Historical Societies and will take place at the North Andover Historical Society, 153 Academy Road, North Andover. For directions call the North Andover Historical Society at 978-686-4035. Sunday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free.

December 14, 2006

"The Spirit of Christmas Past: Three Centuries of Christmas in New England"

Enjoy a lively presentation on the history of Christmas celebrations from when it was outlawed in 17th century New England, to the beginning of the 20th Century when all the trappings of a traditional Christmas were in place. Speaker Kenneth C. Turino will look at how Christmas was transformed from a rowdy celebration to a family centered event, how the Christmas tree became popular, halls were decked, and how Santa Clause came to town. Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. Admission \$6.

January 21, 2007

Special Ballardvale History Program

Mark your calendar now and don't miss this special event! Please join us for an afternoon of Ballardvale history at the Historical Society. Invitations will be mailed in early January with all the details. Visit www.andhist.org for further information.

Gift Memberships are always in season. Gift a gift membership to the Historical Society. Your gift recipient will receive a certificate welcoming them to the Andover Historical Society and outlining the benefits of membership.

Membership Form

AHS Membership year is July 1-June 30

MEMBERSHIP FROM:

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO:

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Please indicate the type of Membership:

- ☐ Individual (\$25) ☐ Student/Senior (\$20) ☐ Dual/Family (\$40) ☐ Contributor (\$75)
☐ Sustaining (\$100) ☐ Patron (\$250) ☐ Benefactor (\$500) ☐ Blanchard Circle (\$1,000)

☐ I have enclosed my check payable to the *Andover Historical Society*.

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Card Number

Exp. Date

Signature

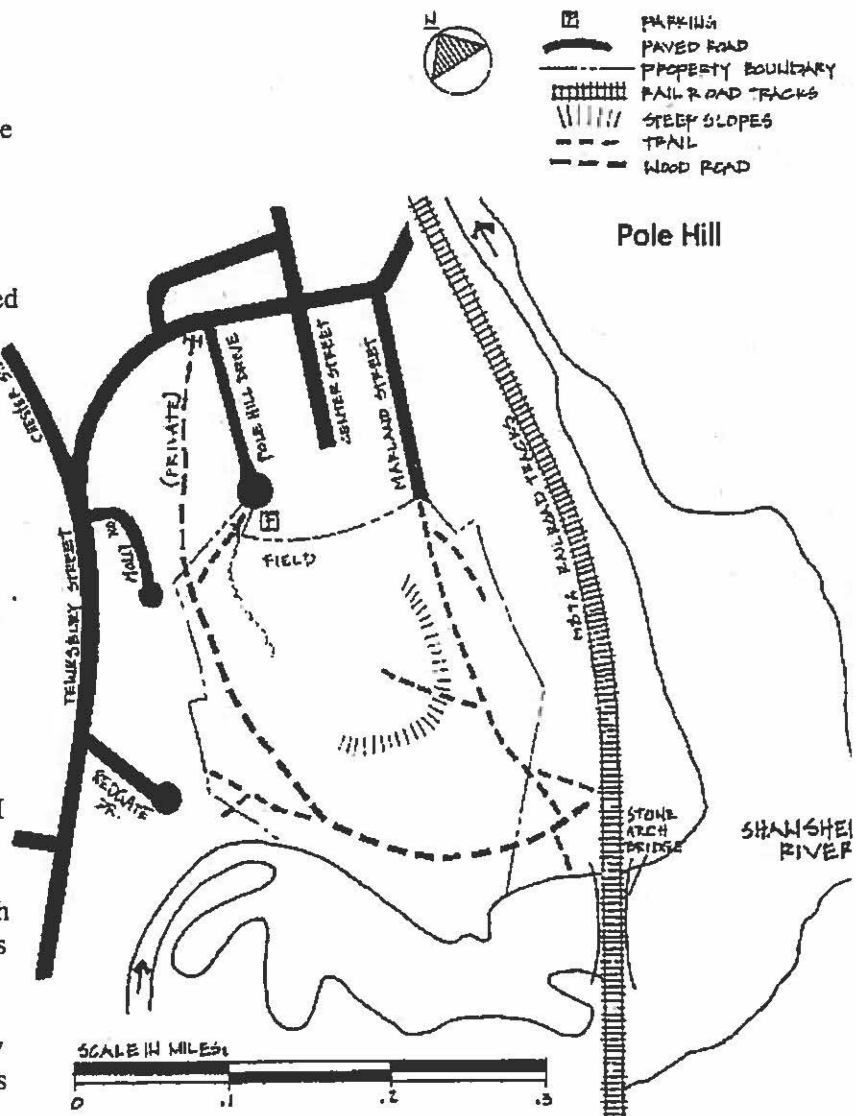
launch site still exists on the point not far from the stone arch railroad bridge. As you can see, the Pole Hill area was my extended back yard while growing up.

I enlisted in the Navy in 1945 and graduated from the University of Vermont in 1951. Then I joined General Electric Co. on their Financial Management Program, got married in 1953 and lived for several years in Marblehead. My father died in 1954, my mother remarried in 1955 and I moved back to 79 Center Street for nine years. In 1964 we sold that house and moved to 10 Talbot Road where my wife and I raised three children. This address was still considered to be in Ballardvale at that time because it was part of the former Doc Youman's farm at the corner of Dascomb Road and Lovejoy Road.

In 1986 the Andover Conservation Committee needed an overseer for Pole Hill and I volunteered because I love the memories of this very familiar area. My main responsibilities include keeping the paths open --- in August, with a chain saw, I removed a large fallen oak that was blocking the lower end of the path from Marland Street --- and picking up rubbish and trash that people discard. The latter problem occurs largely in the grove near the river where illegal campfires and drinking take place. The police are aware of the situation but usually have more important matters to attend to. This problem has now subsided to some degree. Another duty is to keep the only vehicle right-of-way (formally called Green Street) open to Tewksbury Street. This access is on the west side of Pole Hill Drive and runs along the backside of the property on that side of the street.

In 2004 at my request, Boy Scout Troop 76 cleared out this right-of-way, which was heavily overgrown. This was fortunate because in 2005 a Fire Department truck had to use this access to put out a two-day old underground fire that had been ignited by a campfire in the grove down by the river. Fire is a serious concern through out the conservation area.

I retired from General Electric Co. in 1992 after 41 years, and now do additional volunteer work for the Town.



The Pole Hill Conservation Area is approximately 34 acres in size. There is walking access from Pole Hill Drive and Marland Street, both off Tewksbury Street. Parking is available on Pole Hill Drive. A suggested walk, as well as the history, natural features and map of Pole Hill, are obtainable online at the Andover Trails Committee website at www.andovertrails.org/

The Andover Trails Committee is a citizens committee including members of the Conservation Commission, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Andover Village Improvement Society, the Bay Circuit Alliance, the Trustees of Reservations, and anyone who appreciates the outdoor recreational opportunities of Andover. It was reactivated in the spring of 1991 to focus on the establishment of the Bay Circuit Trail in Andover.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Winter is coming! Don't forget to locate the fire hydrant or hydrants nearest your home and remove snow from the area with each snowfall. Clear a 3' circle around the hydrant so that all the ports are accessible, and remember to clear a path to the street for the firehose. Adopt a hydrant and keep it accessible. Alternate the job of shoveling with a neighbor. Help the fire department keep your home and BallardVale safe this winter.

SWAP SHOP

OFFER: replacement panes of glass from old windows, if one of yours gets broken. Most are still in their old frames. Glass sizes range from 20x26 to 24x35. **WANTED:** Your old windows (if they have the old original glass), and if you're getting rid of them. Will save them for anyone who needs replacement old glass. Call Diane Derby @ 978-475-0125 or email derby01@comcast.net *If anyone has items for giveaway (for restoration, historic preservation, etc) or if you're looking for old, original items or parts contact Gazette Editor Mary Bogan at mpbogan@comcast.net or 978-474-1910 for inclusion in the next issue of the Gazette.*

CALENDAR

Nov. 1 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm
Dec. 3 (Sunday)	Annual Tree Lighting on the BallardVale Green – 5:00 pm
Dec. 6 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm
Jan. 3 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm
Feb. 7 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm

BallardVale Historic District Commission

*Andover Town Offices
36 Bartlet Street
Andover, MA 01810*

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See you at the Tree Lighting! Sunday, December 3 at 5 pm.