

Our Town A Fundraising Success

By Mary Hiller

Andover Historical Society

When Mary Anne Broshek suggested that the Andover Historical Society partner with SKIT (Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theater) to produce a play some of the Governing Board members were skeptical, intimidated as to just what such an activity would entail. But when SKIT suggested doing Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* directed by David Cleveland and produced by Debra Barton, the daughter of Board member Marge Leber, the Society decided to go for it – and go for it we did!

After some initial confusion as to who should do what, the role of the Society became largely one of support by obtaining advertising, publicity, poster-ing, selling tickets, publishing programs, providing cast refreshments for every rehearsal, and audience refreshments for the five totally sold-out shows.

Sixty people showed up for auditions for the 27 roles in the play, with ages ranging from six to 90. David picked his cast and the show was on.

Thanks to the Wilmot Selectmen the venue was the beautiful old Wilmot Town Hall – what better place for a tale about early 20th century New Hampshire?

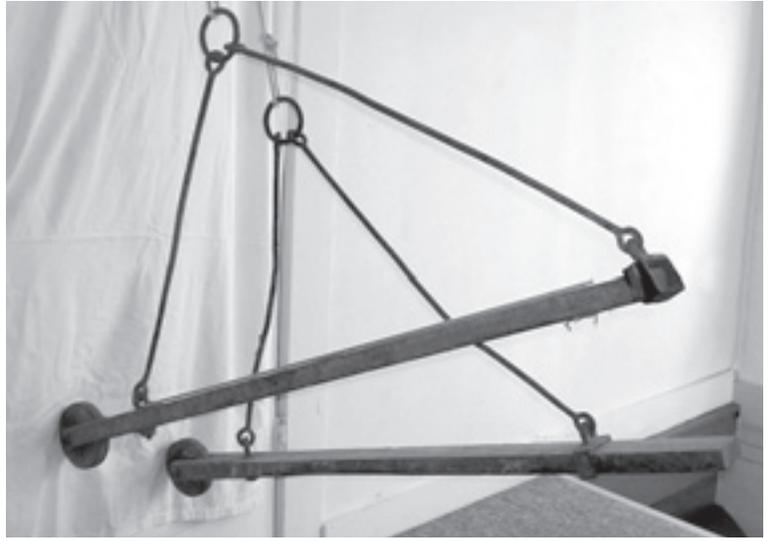
But the play is about life and what matters most in life; namely, living every minute of every day with awareness and joy. As the production was shaped

and honed, this essential message radiated through the whole cast as they spoke their lines and took the audience through three days in the lives of two families in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. The principal role of "Stage Manager" (typically played by a man) was developed with great success in this show by a woman – Mary Morris. This alteration gave the role a unique modernity and emphasized the universality of the story.

As a fund raiser for the Historical Society, the show was a huge success. "Thank you!" to all the generous local advertisers, to *The Andover Beacon* for its many contributions, and to all the people who made each performance a sell-out success.

As a community endeavor the performance involved many local volunteers in countless activities from acting to selling to publishing to cooking. It recreated a sense of community spirit that is beautifully captured in the superb video *Behind the Scenes of Our Town* made by Ethney McMahon, shown on Channel 8, and now on sale on DVD at the Historical Society Museum in Potter Place.

To conclude, if you missed the show, you have a chance to see it yet. The production was so successful that it is being reproduced as a kick-off for the New London Hospital Days, July 29 at 8 PM and July 30 at 4 PM. For information call Deb Barton at 848-4701.



"Whazzit?" Any idea what these devices might be?

Photo: Ed Hiller

A History Mystery

This month's History Mystery is a "whazzit?" photo from the Andover Historical Society. It's a tool of sorts found in a local shed. It kind of looks like a piece of scaffolding for painting or siding a house, but the rollers are an interesting twist. Are there any old-timers out there who recognize this pair of "whazzits"?

Send your thoughts or reminiscences to the *Beacon*, and let's see if we can piece together the story of this month's History Mystery.

Do you have a photo or other artifact of Andover's past that has some mystery about it? Please contact the *Beacon* at 735-6099 or Mail@AndoverBeacon.com so we can share the mystery with our readers... and maybe solve it!

Send your thoughts or reminiscences to the *Beacon*, and let's see if we can piece together the story of this month's History Mystery.



Fourth graders from Webster, Salisbury, and Andover visited the museums at Potter Place in June. One group from AE/MS included: (back, l-r) Emily Lance, Skyler Smith, Nathan French, Emma Walker, Erin Frost, and Brooke Ellis. Front: Kyle Keller and Sam Bentley. Photo: Charlie Darling



Sibley Weed jumping out of the Cilleyville-Bog Bridge. Notice that someone jumped head-first before him – you can just see their legs in the splash. Notice the boy balancing on the logs to the left. Postcard by Carleton Allen, postmarked 1963. Obviously shot before the dam was removed and after Route 11 was opened and the bridge closed. Courtesy of Lincoln Charles

SUMMERS
ON THE LAKE.

A CABIN
IN THE WOODS.

AN OLD HOME
IN THE COUNTRY.

A SMALL FARM...
THE POSSIBILITIES
ARE ENDLESS!

CALL US TODAY
TO GET YOUR DREAMS
STARTED RIGHT AWAY!

HALCYON REALTY



776 Franklin Hwy • PO Box 142
East Andover NH 03231
735-5497
halcyonrealty@tds.net

Volunteer Coordinator Wanted

The *Beacon* needs someone to keep all our wonderful volunteers focused, motivated, and happy, and to manage our on-going recruitment efforts.

For more info, call
Charlie at 735-6099.



Andover Historical Society

Clean up and help the Historical Society - donate items to Andover's Old Time Fair auction and flea market.

Call for pick up:

Bill Cutter - 735-5628
Jim Goody - 735-5676
Ed Hiller - 735-5690
Dennis Fenton - 735-5226
Roger Henderson - 735-5551
Wayne Nicoll - 735-5721

PO Box 167 • Andover NH 03216

Yesterday Inspires Tomorrow