



On the back of this photo it says "John and Pinky Rivers, 1949, Fourth of July Parade." Photo courtesy of Beverly Rivers Engelhart

## A History Mystery

This month's History Mystery is another photo from Beverly Rivers Engelhart of Shelby, North Carolina. Beverly graduated from Andover High in 1957.

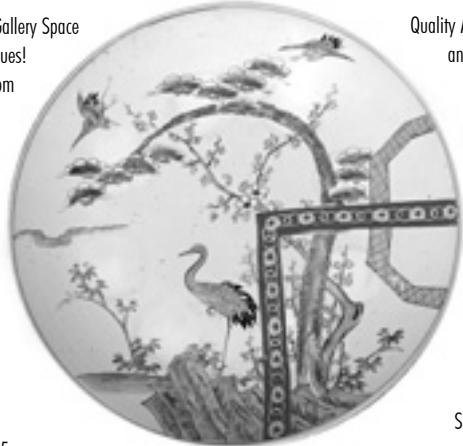
The photo is of an entry in Andover's 1949 Fourth of July parade. We know it's John and Pinky Rivers, but can anyone tell us anything about the "horseless carriage" they're in? The lo-

cation of the photo? The theme of the parade that year? How Fourth of July in Andover was different 50 years ago than it is today?

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

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## Fundraising To Restore Highland Lake Grange Hall Continues

By Lauretta Phillips  
Beacon staff

When you hear "Water, Soda, Water For Sale!" at the Fourth of July parade, look for David Jewitt of Bristol, formerly of East Andover. He will be near the Proctor Field House where the Fourth of July parade forms up, selling soda and water to all who need it. The proceeds of this sale will go to benefit the Highland Lake Grange Hall Restoration project.

The Grange Hall in East Andover looks like many other Grange halls around the state. Nothing really special about it, is there? Well, at least that was my thought before I talked to David Jewitt about the renovation project.

"This building has a lot of history that should not be lost to the community," said David when asked why this renovation was important. "We would like to see it again become a viable part of the community."

The Grange Hall is on the National Historic Register, along with its neighbors, the Andover Congregational Church and the old school house. In recent years, the Congregational Church has had a new facelift, inside and out, and the much-needed repair of the steeple.

The Grange Hall began as the Highland Lake Institute. According to an old advertisement that is framed and kept at the Hall, it was "a school designed to prepare young men for college and to afford young Ladies and Gentlemen the opportunity to acquire a thorough and practical education, with the usual ornamental branches."

The advertisement also says of the location, "This School is located on the line of the Northern Railroad, 25 miles north of Concord, near the 'Ragged

Mountains' and 'Loon Pond' [known as Highland Lake today] in a romantic and delightful section of the country, and in a very pleasant and healthy Village free from all inducements to idleness and vice." I pretty much agree with that description, although I can often be tempted to idleness just sitting and staring off at the views that surround our fair village.

At the Highland Lake Institute you could study Common English Branches for \$3.00, Higher English Branches for \$3.50, and Languages for \$4.00. Among



Photo: Lauretta Phillips

others offered were studies in teaching, lectures in physiology and anatomy, and languages such as French, German, and Hebrew. Room and board was offered in local homes, and the school was connected to three literary societies.

That was just the beginning for this building, later to become a Grange Hall. Over the years, funeral suppers, small wedding receptions, and meetings of many varieties have occurred here in the Grange.

### Restoring The Grange Hall

There is a lot of work to do to restore and update the Grange Hall. The committee for the restoration project includes, among others, Irene Jewitt, David Jewitt, Jim Goody, Donald Gould, and Virginia Newton. According to David, studies are being done with engineers about lifting the building and putting a new basement or foundation under it. Also in the plans are a septic system, leech field, new bathrooms, new kitchen, and renovation of the upstairs hall. The sills on the back wall need to be replaced, too.

There are volunteers waiting in the wings to get some of these jobs done. Important right now are some fundraising projects and some special grant writing to get the funds for these projects. The committee is looking for volunteers who have experience or knowledge of grant writing, and someone to help organize fundraising projects. So far they are one tenth of the way towards their goal of \$250,000.

To donate to the Highland Lake Grange Hall Restoration Fund, send your donations to Irene Jewitt at 40 Maple Street, East Andover 03231 or contact her to volunteer your services.

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