

Mysterious Plaque Honors Five Andover High Yearbooks

By Judy Perreault

Andover High School '53

The attic at the Andover Elementary/Middle School, formerly the Andover High School, has yielded a strange piece of memorabilia. Workmen found a 20-by-31-inch plaque which, once the dust and dirt was removed, bore the heading "Yearbook Staff Achievement Awards."

Under this are silver medallions that say "Yearbook Staff," and under these medallions are five wooden panels with the following inscriptions:

1955: Few things are impossible to diligence and skill – Johnson

1956: The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves, that we are underlings – Shakespeare

1957: From contemplation one may become wise, but knowledge comes only from study – Newton

1958: Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of – Franklin

1959: If you want work well done, select a busy man – the other kind has no time – Hubbard

These quotes were not in any of the yearbooks for those years.

On the back of the plaque is a small plate stating it is a trophy made by Jostens, Owatonna, Minnesota.

The yearbook editors for these years were Judy Cutler Rayno '55; Theodore (Teddy) Andrus '56; Marlene Nelson Allison '57; Bonnie Dargie Moe '58; and Janet Smith Kuhlmeier '59.

Thinking these folks could clear up the mystery, I was able to contact four out of the five. Judy had never seen the plaque but thought it might have something to do with the publishers. She said the best part of being



This mysterious plaque, found in the AE/MS attic, dates from the 1950s, when the building was Andover High.

editor was she got to pick the candid photos that went into the yearbook. Judy also provided this bit of alumni trivia. One of her classmates was Roger Downes, and he had a brother Chester. It seems

Chester's grandson is engaged to Judy's granddaughter.

I was not able to contact Teddy Andrus.

I had a nice conversation with Marlene. She lives in Owlhead, Maine and volunteers at the General Henry Knox museum in Thomaston. It seems there are quite a few



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Reminiscence

Clara Currier's Pines

By Paul Fenton Jr.

For the Beacon

I read with interest last month that Don Gould would like to take down a pine tree that borders his property and the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Probably few people know why that line of pine trees was planted on that property line.

In 1933 the town voted by a very narrow margin to build a high school which today is a part of the existing Andover Elementary/Middle School. Clara Currier, who lived at what is now 20 Lawrence Street, across the street

from the school, was so angry the town voted to build the new school that she caused those pines to be planted on land she owned adjacent to the school property, across Lawrence Street from her house. She said she wanted to be able to "sit on my porch and not have to look at that school." Today, the Gould and Zimmerman homes are on that property adjacent to the school.

Information on how and why the school came to be can be found starting on page 25 in *History of Andover, New Hampshire 1900-1965* by Ralph Chaffee.

historical places in her area. She had no knowledge of the plaque, and her comment about the editorship was, "It was the job from hell."

Bonnie, who also hadn't heard of or seen the plaque, enjoyed her time as editor. She worked on the layout and dedication, and other class members handled other things. She recalls that Timmy Frost did a great job on advertising and Jackie Rayno, class advisor, was "wonderful." At graduation she received a yearbook editor pin, which she still has in her possession.

I had to track Janet to Florida (she was on vacation) and in the process spoke to Murray Smith, who was her classmate. Murray's best class memory was that there were four boys and eleven girls. What guy wouldn't be happy with those odds!

Janet had not seen the plaque either. She thought that they got their

class rings from Jostens. She, too, received a yearbook pin, which she thinks is pinned to her school letter.

Her comment on the editorship was, "It was a hell of a job." Sound familiar? She said that if they had had today's technology, it would have been a lot easier.

So it seems our mysterious plaque is still a bit of a mystery. Maybe it was always kept in the attic. We plan to have it on display at the reunion and possibly at the Andover library. For the class of 1955 it is only 55 years later, but "all good things come to he who waits." Maybe we should put that quote on the plaque.

If any alumni out there can shed any light on our plaque or have yearbook memories they would like to share, please write to the *Beacon* at PO Box 149, Andover 03216 or Mail@AndoverBeacon.com.

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