Letters

Re: Last month's excerpt from *Halfway up the Hill* about the World War II fighter plane on the green in Andover. Like many others, I remember that plane well, but my memory is different than what was in the *Beacon*.

I first saw a Corsair, which was a gull-winged plane, at an air show at Laconia airport in, I think, 1943, when about four of those planes came down from Canada and put on a simple show there. Later, while in the USAF, I saw many flown by Navy reserves out of Dallas.

My memory says that the plane on Proctor's campus was either a Grumman F6F Hellcat or F4F Wildcat that usually flew off aircraft carriers. We all agree it was donated by someone who graduated from Proctor, and I think I know who that man was.

Felix Bertagna, who grew up in Wilmot, went to Proctor. He enlisted in the Navy, then married Jane Stone of Andover. The Stones were a very well-to-do family, from George W. who was a lawyer living in Andover at the turn of the century, down to Jane. The Stones could have paid for the cost of transporting and mounting that aircraft.

My memory also tells me that Felix and Jane divorced after his time in the war, which happens to men today who go through the same hell Felix did. He spent 20 years in the Navy and died in Seattle, Washington on June 20, 1967 of cancer.

I hope this helps clear up some of the thoughts about that plane.

Sincerely,

Walter Walker

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

This is a note in reference to the Dog Park article which was featured on page 3 of the July 20 *Intertown Record.*

I am completely for the prospect of a local dog park. What a wonderful and much-needed addition to our community. Even though I am not a New London resident, living right "down the road" I feel I would go there often with my two dogs. It also would be a great prospect for the town of Andover.

Socialization is a very important factor in raising healthy, happy, and well-behaved dogs. My husband and I lived in Eugene, Oregon, where dog parks and happy dogs are a-plenty.

We were particularly impressed with a way they achieved the necessary fundraising to build and maintain the dog park fencing in Eugene. A local potter made ceramics and do-it-yourself tile squares. The town partnered with local artisans such as this, and fanciful benches were created which honored and featured the local people's beloved pets.

For a donation of a suggested amount (I believe it was around $60) you could go to the pottery shop and design your custom bench tile which would be used for the backs and footings of each of the new benches in the dog park. It could be a tribute to a lost pet or a paw stamp from a current pet.

The tiles were colorful and wonderful; the benches were a great addition to the dog park, and the extra donated money paid for fencing, mowing, trash removal, and maintenance. This tile art idea could also be incorporated for the top of picnic tables.

Perhaps our community, with all of its amazingly talented artisans, can host a similar fundraising theme for a future dog park!

Jessica McAuliff
Potter Place

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