

Letters To The Beacon

A Remarkable Woman

I am finally giving tribute to the woman who contributed so much to my life and to the lives of so many young people who grew up in Andover along with me.

With money scarce, with four children and not much else but a comfortable old house blessed with a big kitchen (big enough to accommodate a lot of kids, by no means limited to her own), she accomplished what cities pay large sums to achieve – a safe harbor for youngsters who need a center for play and the social skills they will need for a lifetime.

Etta Currier, second mother to so many of us, was a remarkable woman. You won't read about her in national newspapers, but she has undoubtedly her counterparts in small towns over the United States – she was a true heroine of this country's culture. As one of the lucky ones who played Kick the Can in her back yard on summer evenings, I say thanks.

Ann Shively Kalbach

Thankful In The New Year

Ah, the new year has arrived with promises of snow and icy temperatures, and town and school budget hearings are well under way. I've already noticed a "BUMP" sign on Route 4, and yes, frost heaves have appeared early due to temperature fluctuations. And lo, it is

With School District Meeting and Town Meeting both coming up in March, **please send a letter to the Beacon** expressing your thoughts on the budgets, the warrant articles, our local election, or other local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

the time of year to give thanks.

For Andover's new alternative energy group, whose acronym will be unveiled ASAP, I give thanks especially to Larry and Jeff, oh, and to Pecco the innkeeper, our movers and shakers of biomass and solar energy and NGOs, and to the streetlight crew, Susan and Vick, and to Andy and Steve, proponents and practitioners of conservation and alternative energy.

For the holiday gift exchange, I give thanks to all who participated, either by donating gifts or money (easily over \$120!), or by stocking and un-stocking the tables, especially my co-chair Robin Boynton, then Shirley Currier, Sandra Graves, Nan Kaplan, Kim Halquist, Pat Moyer, and Wendy Pinkham.

It's a great day to be in the school gym, with the holiday swap at one end and the wreath-making workshop at the other. If you ever wanted to see a local version of the movie *Elf*, catch Jane Slayton and her merry crew of kids and adults constructing decorative wreaths.

Merriest elf? Hands down, that award goes to Don Gould, who cheerfully helped break down and pack up

any good leftover items for the August flea market at the Potter Place depot.

Finally, thank you to the stalwart and impassioned Andover Democrats: Art, Bill, Dean, Robin, Steve, Mary, Susan, Mario, and Caroline, and the innkeeper again, and Les. Your collective spirit is unquenchable and inspiring; the cookies in December were outstanding, (danke sehr, Gisela) and we anticipate a May gathering of any interested people of like ilk who want to kick off the campaign to take back state government. The redistricting plan affords us only two representatives in the House. Think about getting involved!

And thank you in advance.

Janet Moore

History In The Woods

Armed with a little history and a walk down Hall Road, I can almost hear the stage coach's metal and wood rattling over the rough road. Horses clop in chorus while kids can be heard running to town to meet with the coach. The stage coach was exciting and brought mail and packages; news from the rest of the world. But, it only came once a week. Hall Road, the old stage coach road, connects Beech Hill Road's dead end and Route 4. It's more of a trail these days, which makes it all

the more awesome!

History on Beech Hill still exists, and some are yet to be discovered. Strewn throughout the forest are rock walls arranged in a small rectangle which looks like a border for a vegetable garden. Often you'll find the sunken area giving clue to a possible cellar hole. Perhaps you'll even find an old dug well near that cellar hole. Along Beech Hill Road is the cellar hole which supported the school serving the Beech Hill School District.

As most communities in this country grapple with land being gobbled up, we, too, must wrestle with this issue. Recent mutterings of development of Beech Hill swirl like a cold winter wind. Development would replace the still undiscovered, lost history of the people who inhabited Beech Hill. These people were hard-working folk who lived off the land and helped to build the Andover we know today.

Beech Hill was a bustling farming community with rich but rocky soil. Today, rock walls, cellar holes, and dug wells are portals and reminders of our history. Development threatens this historic portion of Andover. The tall hardwood trees tower over the old stage coach road flanked by a small stream. We can walk along those historic borders.

Todd Donovan

Correction

Adrian Bolte's name was misspelled in the last issue of the *Beacon* in an article about the ornaments for the New Hampshire Christmas tree in Washington DC.

We regret the error!

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.



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