



Walter Walker, Skip Powers, and Harold Crane all made up for an Andover High School play. Photo: Walter Walker

Reminiscence

The Great Christmas Tree Caper

By Walter Walker
For the Beacon

Why I was not in on this I can't remember. Maybe I was out with a bad cold, but more likely I took the day off to go deer hunting.

Anyway, back in '47 or '48, George "Coach" Corson appointed some of the Andover High School upper class boys to get a Christmas tree. Skip Powers and Harold Crane's memories are a little different, and it is possible that the reason for this is they went on both junior and senior years for a tree.

(Remember, this was in "the good old days" when a tree could be put in the entrance hallway and decorated with a few handmade ornaments, topped off with a star on top, and mixed in the branches would be some fun-type gifts to fellow students and staff, and no one would send a letter to the School Board complaining about the religious items on Town property!)

Memories fade, and I may be wrong, but this is what I remember as Harold first told me this story years ago. He says I am wrong, and he may be right.

It seems that Harold and Skip walked a short distance down Route 4 until they came to a promising spot and asked the owner if maybe he might have a tree out back that they could have for the high school. He asked them how they would like the top of the tree out front near the highway. It seems it was blocking the early sun, and guests had complained about it.

All parties agreed. A chainsaw was provided, and the large fir came down with no real damage to the top. Off went the boys with their prized Christmas tree.

When they showed it to Coach Corson, the first thing he said was, "Whose lawn did you steal that from?" It was not until he made a phone call and got the story from the owner that he allowed the tree to be brought inside and decorated.

We three were in a school play in our senior year with fake beards and real cigars, and someone called us The Three Musketeers. So from the Musketeers, all still alive, we hope all of you had a nice Christmas.

Historical Society Announces 2012 Plans

By Pat Cutter
Andover Historical Society

2011 was a successful year for the Andover Historical Society. The Old Time Fair in August raised sufficient funds to keep us solvent for another year. We were able to complete the first of our capital projects voted in 2011, the painting and repair of the Potter Place railroad station. Brad Hartwell and Frank Baker did an outstanding job, and the change to maroon and tan, B&M colors, was well received.

Attendance at the museum has increased due to the popularity of the rail trail, and the parking lot was full during summer weekends. Winter should be a quiet time for us, but that is when all the ground work for another year is accomplished.

Our 2012 calendar, *Mills and Manufacturers*, was a success thanks to all of the generous sponsors who made it possible. Another calendar is in the

works for 2013, the theme of which will be Farms and Barns. That will also be the subject of the annual display in the station.

Our second capital project is painting the freight car, and we plan for that to happen in 2012.

The third is the refurbishment of the Lull house, and plans will be formulated so that can be started in 2013. Our plan is to use the house for archival storage and office/research space. It will mean that our archives will be in a heated and humidity-controlled environment. The scope of the work needed requires that we have grants to assist in the financing, and they will be sought in 2012.

The Old Time Fair will be on Sunday, August 5 this year. Please think of us when you are doing your spring cleaning, as we are accepting donations to our flea market and auction.

Liaison from page 16

students out of Thoreau House on Lawrence Street. Plans for Thoreau House are unclear at this time.

John kindly asked about the outcome of the Proctor (victorious) – Holderness football game.

Mike discussed the recent interest in an artificial turf athletic field that would include lights. The location for this would be on the north side of campus to minimize the impact on vehicle traffic, neighbors, etc.

Andover/Proctor Liaison Committee

Vicky noted that the Andover Town Administrator has left and Marj Roy is currently the interim Town Administrator. We discussed the demand on the Andover Food Pantry and the increasing economic pressures on Andover families. Proctor is promoting the needs of the Food Pantry as well as local community service needs in a variety of fundraisers.

Andover School Board Report

Don identified some of the interactions and programs that Proctor and AE/MS share. These include:

- Proctor project period student volunteers at AE/MS
- SHARE Day offerings by Proctor faculty and staff
- Coordinated PA-AE/MS teacher educational conferences
- Mural and shed painting at AE/MS
- Painting the Main Street crosswalks
- AE/MS coaches attending an athletic speaker at Proctor

- Proctor teachers and students running math work shops
 - Help officiating soccer games
 - The first AE/MS 7/8th grade vs. Proctor reserves team soccer match
 - Making Carr Field available for an AE/MS soccer tournament
 - Proctor Nordic ski team offering an afternoon Learn to Ski program to AE/MS students.
- John noted that it is time to shift the moderator position back to Proctor. Alex Estin was nominated, accepted the nomination with aplomb, and received full support of the group.
- Next meeting: 7:30 PM on Monday, April 9, at the Blackwater Community Coffee House.

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