

BETHLEHEM
NEW HAMPSHIRE

BETHLEHEM NEW HAMPSHIRE,

A Bicentennial History

(Updated 1999 Edition)

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and 1974–1999 update by

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and written by the people of Bethlehem
with dedication to Hattie Whitcomb Taylor

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DURRELL MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

By HATTIE WHITCOMB TAYLOR

The first edifice devoted to religious purposes in Bethlehem was built by the Methodists and Congregationalists about 1825. It was erected on ground a little east of the present Arlington Hotel, then known as the common. The inhabitants previous to this had worshipped in barns, in the school house and in private dwellings.

Shortly after 1830 the Methodists erected a church of their own where the present edifice now stands. This was disheartening to the Congregationalists as they had suffered many changes since the establishment of their society on October 15, 1802. The result was that in 1853 they decided to resign their building and made arrangements with the Methodists to occupy their church on alternate Sundays. This agreement was in force until 1865.

In 1876 the Congregationalists decided to build a new church, but the membership had fallen off by death and other reasons to such an extent that there were only eight members left of the congregation. However, these eight and four more resolved to build a church and form an organization. Isaac Cruft of Boston owned some land near the "Street" and he offered to make the society a present of the land and \$150 if the members would build a church. He also promised to open a road to the church. So with that original gift and monies from other persons, the Congregational Church building was opened for public worship in the summer of 1877.

The earliest record of members in full connection in the Methodist Church is that of Mariah H. Gordon who was received in 1856 by C. U. Dunning, and Julia and Moses Noyes received by L. P. Cushman in 1863.

The pastoral record dates back to 1828 and Joseph Baker was the appointed pastor. From 1828 to 1898, with a few exceptions, a different pastor supplied the pulpit each year. John H. Knott served the longest during that period, being here for four years. The first baptism shown in the old church records of the Durrell Memorial Methodist Church was on June 20, 1869. It was performed by immer-

The first Quarterly Conference meeting found on record was held on May 13, 1871 with the Presiding Elder, S. G. Kellogg in the chair. The pastor was C. H. Smith. An estimate of \$825 was presented for the Preacher's Claim and a vote was taken for D. F. Gordon as agent to secure this claim by subscription. The matter of the pastor's moving expenses of \$16 was also discussed. D. F. Gordon was



Durrell Memorial Church painted by Herman Blum.

sion and was for Charles L. Bartlett, son of Alpha and Melinda Bartlett. John H. Knott was the officiating minister.

appointed secretary. The average attendance of the Sunday School in 1871 was 79 pupils.

In 1872 committees were chosen, and

Moses C. Noyes was elected by ballot to be the delegate to the Electoral Conference held at Bristol, N.H. on April 6, 1872. Rent of \$250 was charged for the parsonage and was applied on the Preacher's Claim. In 1873 there were 176 volumes in the church library, and in 1878 a new organ was purchased at a cost of \$250.

The first probationers on record were received in November and December, 1873 by Charles H. Smith, pastor. There were eight of them, one of whom was Ira Simonds. All of them joined the church in full in 1874 and 1876.

The first wedding in the Methodist Church took place on Easter Sunday, March 25, 1894, in the presence of a large congregation. This was the marriage of Wilson H. Abbott of Olcott, Vt. and Maude H. Tucker of Bethlehem. They were married by Rev. William R. Webster. All other weddings before this had taken place either at the parsonage or at the bride's home.

In 1853 the church was materially renovated and improved. It grew and in 1874 extensive improvements were made to it. The structure was raised and a vestry built at a cost of \$6,000. A dedicating service conducted by Dr. E. Adams of Concord and assisted by Rev. Ruland Miliken, C. H. Smith, E. Akins, and Mr. Warner was held on December 22, 1874.

In 1899 at a Quarterly Conference meeting it was unanimously resolved that a new church was needed at the earliest practicable date and that steps should be taken at once to secure such an edifice. Rev. C. M. Howard, W. C. Noyes, R. N. Gordon, F. L. White and C. H. Hazen were chosen a committee to develop plans for the new edifice.

At a meeting held in October a building committee of three was elected: F. L. White

chairman, R. N. Gordon and C. H. Hazen. On November 25, 1899 the committee reported that a contract had been made for the building of a new church to be completed in July 1900. H. A. Thayer was the contractor and the church was built at a cost of \$5,964. The contract called for framing and shingling; all other necessities were to be done at an extra cost.

In 1901 the trustees borrowed \$4,000 from the Tamar M. Sinclair fund to help pay the expense of the new church. The agreement in the Sinclair will was that such part of it as was needed could be invested in the church building and land of said church and secured by a mortgage. The trustees of the church at that time were J. P. Wallace, C. C. Shattuck, Elisha Swett, C. H. Hazen and R. N. Gordon.

At a meeting held on March 9, 1900 the pastor, Rev. C. M. Howard, O. S. Baketel, and John Rhey Thompson were elected to consider plans and arrange for the dedication of the new church. During the first three months of 1900 services were held in the dining hall at the Columbus Hotel on Park Avenue. The first service held in the new church was on July 15, 1900 but the formal dedication exercises were deferred until August 12. Rev. George P. Mains, D.D. of New York City was the preacher for the dedication ceremonies. After the sermon he succeeded in raising \$600 toward the building fund. At the evening service, Rev. Luther Freeman, pastor of the Chestnut Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Portland, Maine, preached, and \$67 was realized toward the building fund.

In 1928 the trustees of the Methodist Church made an offer, which was accepted, to the trustees of the New Hampshire Conference of their church property at a price of \$17,000. The agreement between the trustees was that a clear title of the Bethlehem Church

should be given, that the insurance of said building be transferred to the Trustees of New Hampshire Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and that a deed be made to the Trustees of the New Hampshire Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church, custodians of the fund known as the Durrell Memorial Fund. On July 21, 1928 Dedication Day was observed. Rev. Edward A. Durham of Haverhill, Mass. preached the dedicatory sermon. Also taking part in the service was Rev. C. W. Frye, pastor. A musical program was presented in the evening by the Curtis sisters of Boston. After the dedicatory services, the church became known as All Souls Durrell Memorial Church.

The dining room of the church was arranged in the summer of 1928 to serve as a recreational center for the young people who spent their summers in Bethlehem as well as for the local young people. Writing tables were provided as were indoor games, books and magazines. The room was arranged under the supervision of Mrs. James Turner, Mrs. Verna Malcolm, Mrs. Frederick Lewis, Mrs. Charles W. Frye, and Mrs. W. W. McGregor. A special worker, Mrs. Jane Larson of Keene, was secured for the season. This recreation center was carried on for approximately 15 years during the summer seasons and was under the supervision of the pastor and his wife and some of the church members. Mrs. Al Jackle supervised it for many years.

In 1960 two flags, the American Flag and the Christian Flag, were purchased and placed in the Sanctuary, one on each side of the altar. The Boy Scouts assisted in the unveiling of the flags at the morning service on February 12. These flags were given in memory of Mrs. Mable Doris by the ladies of the W.S.C.S.

On August 5, 1962 recognition was given to the first young campers to go to Camp

Wanakee from the Bethlehem Church. They were Paula Sheedy, Donna Eliot, Richard Currie and Curtis Brown. In December, 1962 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McCulloch purchased 25 new hymnals for the church. In 1965 they also gave 12 illustrated Children's Bibles to the Sunday School.

On Sunday, May 17, 1964 the Durrell Memorial Church was filled to capacity for a service of Re-dedication and Recognition. The service commemorated the biblical concept of the seventh year of Jubilee. Rev. Ray H. Cowen, past district superintendent of the Northern District of the New Hampshire Conference of the Methodist Church, delivered the re-dedicatory address, while the service was conducted by Rev. James F. Quimby. Various lay men and women participated in the service including Philip B. Lyster for the Finance Commission and Official Board who also recognized the Allen and Elizabeth Varney remembrance; Allen Hazen, representing older dedicated members; Mrs. June Warner, representing the Commission on Education; Elwyn Miller for the Church School; Charles H. Whittier, II, representing future members, and Mrs. Kay Reid for the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

In this service of Jubilee recent accomplishments were recalled which had been done over the past few years. The grounds around the church were landscaped and several shrubs set out; adequate drainage pipes were placed underground around the foundation; the roof of the church including the steeple was re-shingled, and all of the ceiling areas of the church were insulated including the lower area of the north and east walls. An automatic light was installed illuminating the window of "The Good Shepherd." A new heating system was installed with an additional new furnace, and fire barrier walls were placed

around the furnace room. The old hot water heater was taken out and a new automatic gas heater put in its place. Twelve new tables were purchased and a new store room was built. New chalk boards were built and placed on the walls for educational purposes.

During the winter of 1963-64 two attractive church school rooms were added. All the painting, including walls, cupboards and furniture, was done on a voluntary basis by both men and women. A new church kitchen was also constructed with modern counterspace, three all steel sinks, and up-to-date lighting, made possible by Mr. and Mrs. Varney. Following the service the congregation moved downstairs where a memorial plaque was placed on the entrance to the newly renovated kitchen in memory of Allen and Elizabeth Varney.

Rev. and Mrs. Quimby were pleasantly surprised when they were called to the altar to receive a plaque in appreciation of their untiring efforts to improve the church, the church school room, and the kitchen facilities. Rev. Mr. Cowen made the presentation and James and Steven Warner, twin brothers, presented a bouquet of roses to Mrs. Quimby. The plaque was placed on a panel in the church school rooms. Following the benediction, a social hour was held in the dining room with coffee and doughnuts served by members of the W.S.C.S. The fellowship hour was in charge of Mrs. Kay Reid, Mrs. Elizabeth Jackle, Mrs. Dorothy Meglitz and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Lewis.

In 1966 a complete brass altar set consisting of cross, candlesticks with wax savers, collection plates and vases was purchased by interested members of the church. The two collection plates were given by Mr. and Mrs. Clare Churchill and were engraved in memory of their son. The price of the cross was given

by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McCulloch, with the balance of the set and the velvet cloths contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown, Mrs. Kay Reid, Mrs. Esther Lowell, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Taylor, Mrs. Margaret Hildreth, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Meglitz, Mrs. Gertrude Harrigan, Mr. and Mrs. Alton Mosher, Mrs. Lola Mosher, Mrs. Leona Reardon, Mr. and Mrs. Norman McCulloch, Rev. and Mrs. John D. Cornelius, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Jackle. A service of dedication of the Altar Set and offering plates was conducted by Rev. John D. Cornelius.

In 1967 a new Gulbransen electric organ was purchased for the church by the Durrell Society. The old pipe organ was sold to the highest bidder, Charles Whittier, whose bid was \$201.00.

In 1968 the Methodist Churches united with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and the word "united" was added to the names of the Methodist Churches. The Bethlehem church is now known as the Durrell Memorial United Methodist Church. New red hymnals were bought in 1968 and a short dedication service was held in March of that year. Many of the hymn books were given in memory of loved ones.

On October 19, 1969 a service of dedication was given for a new pulpit light given in memory of Mrs. Leona Reardon. Also in 1969 new choir vestments were dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Phoebe Brebner.

Many repairs were made to the church building in 1970 and fluorescent lights were installed in the diningroom and kitchen, given as memorials by the W.S.C.S. New light fixtures were installed in the sanctuary and vestibule and were given in memory of loved ones by Mrs. Harold Brown, Mr. and Mrs.

William Mohr, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. William Reardon, Jr., and their families, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Taylor. In January 1971 a dedication service for the memorial lights and a service of rededication of the church building were held conducted by the pastor, Rev. John D. Cornelius with Rev. William R. Keeffe, District Superintendent, preaching the sermon.

In 1972 the ladies' society of W.S.C.S. was renamed United Methodist Women. In 1973 a set of candelabras was given and dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Howard (Louise) Sanborn, by friends and church members.

Rev. John D. Cornelius was transferred to the Woodsville - North Haverhill parish in June 1973. Rev. Ralph L. Sabine was appointed to the Bethlehem and Whitefield churches. He is a native of Norton, N.B. and had been serving the churches of Pittsburg and Canaan, Vermont since 1963. Rev. and Mrs. Sabine have six children.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

BY EVELYN GARNEAU

The first meeting of the Bethlehem Catholic Women's Club was held on March 30, 1949 at the home of Delia Inghram.

The charter members were: Mrs. Mildred Bonardi, Mrs. Helen Steller, Mrs. Helen Greco, Mrs. Frances Martignetti, Mrs. Harriet Garneau, Mrs. Delia Inghram, Mrs. Amy Flanagan, Mrs. Winifred Gearwar and Mrs. Anne Garneau.

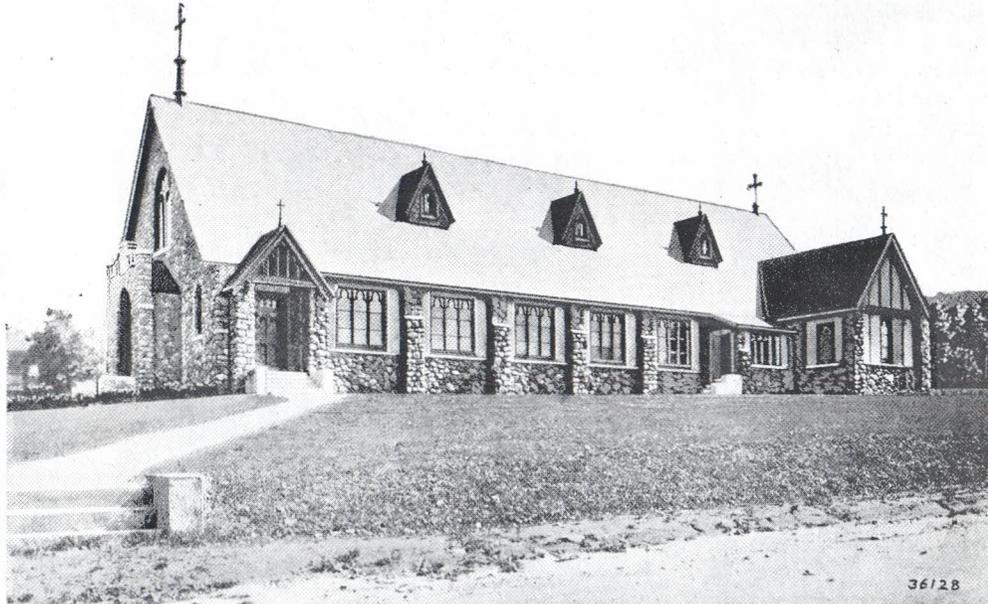
The first officers of the club were: President, Mildred Bonardi; Vice President, Harriet Garneau; Secretary, Helen Steller; Treasurer, Delia Inghram. The purpose of the club was, and is, to assist the parish in the care of the church in Bethlehem.

The club first met in the Town Hall on the first Wednesday of the month. We now meet at the homes of various members on the second Wednesday of the month.

The club has participated in various activities such as card parties, beano parties, plays, dances and parish suppers, sponsored Christmas parties for the children of the parish, and now is one of the sponsors of the Community Christmas Party. Members also have helped serve refreshments to the marchers in the Memorial Day Parade.

A banquet ends our year which starts in October and ends in June.

27.—Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King, Bethlehem, White Mts., N. H.



Christ the King Church in Bethlehem was organized in 1897 as a Mission of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Littleton. The first church building was St. Theodore's at Bethlehem Junction, which was erected in 1897. The present Christ the King Church was built in 1928.

SUN-FIRE FESTIVALS

By MRS. AL (KAY) REID

At the close of World War II Bethlehem was hosting a record number of summer guests. The town had really "split its seams" when gas rationing made travel to far away places an impossibility. All hotels were crowded to capacity and many large, old private homes had been purchased and renovated into housekeeping rooms, apartments, etc. Others had purchased single dwellings, improving and renovating according to their needs. Therefore war's end found these people with property they might not have otherwise acquired and so they continued to return here each summer.

During the war years Bethlehem residents and summer guests alike lived daily with fear and anxiety as did everyone else, but in this small hamlet there were only two daily outlets for emotional relief. One was the arrival of the evening mail delivered by bus from the Littleton railroad depot to the Bethlehem post office, then located in the east side of the Jackson block. The mail was delivered downstairs on the Maple Street side and was conveyed upstairs to the post office by means of an ancient hand-operated elevator. By the time the mail was ready for sorting, the street in front of the post office was so packed with people it was necessary for the police to be on hand to prevent accidents and keep a portion open for through traffic. As Chief of

Police Howard Sanborn will tell you, this was by no means an easy feat! In fact the post office lobby had to be locked until all mail was in the boxes.

It was a rare summer evening when less than 300 people congregated there for one and a half to two hours. Here daily events were discussed, everyone talking to everyone else; here they shared their anxieties, joys and sorrows as well as their gripes and grievances. Here a joke, there an argument, and always present was a prankster or two. Two of the "tall tale tellers" most looked for and enjoyed were Mr. Ness with his horses and our own Bill Clark!

Once the mail was received, all were ready for the second event, and the crowd turned in the opposite direction and headed for the "picture show" at the Colonial Theatre. Waiting lines often formed as far down as the upper entrance to the Sinclair and in the other direction up past the Bethlehem Inn. Here again our police kept watch, for these people just spilled out into the line of traffic, but never did we have a serious accident because of the watchful eye of Howard Sanborn and his men.



Chief Howard Sanborn, Phil Lyster, Al Reid and Tom Flanagan, in costume for the Sun Fire Festival.

This was the Bethlehem that Al Reid and I saw when we returned home with our family at the end of the war. Once again I was back in contact with summer guests through my work as well as socially. Quickly I felt a growing sense of restlessness and a great need of an outlet for pent-up emotions. Tensions relaxed with the ending of the war but through the summers of '47, '48 and '49 we were still having record numbers of guests who were in Bethlehem in summer and Miami Beach in winter. Always the same old query—what's to do?—where to go?—nothing exciting happens here—why?—you should be in Miami and see what they do for us there! —etc., etc.

During past years I had spent a good bit of time in the employ of Mary Turner Noyes and her sister Gertrude. In spare moments they never tired of regaling me with tales of the long ago "Gala Day" parades. I listened in wonder as they told of the untiring energy and efforts of the people (both resident and summer guest alike) to make this special day one of excitement and gaiety as well as to create a real extravaganza of pageantry and beauty. As I listened to these tales of past glories on one side and to the tales of lament on the other, a small nucleus of an idea began forming in my mind and finally out of this was born the Sun-Fire Festival.

By the fall of '49 I was seriously considering what we as a town could do to make the summers more interesting and entertaining for our guests. Any ideas I entertained needed money to promote them. All during the winter I dreamed and schemed, arrived at and discarded one idea after another. Finally I had a skeleton plan, still no money and no clear idea of how to obtain it. In mid-July I approached the Selectmen of the town, John MacAuley, Allen Hazen and Phillip Lyster, with my plans for five days activity in mid-



Planners of the festival were left to right: front row—Mrs. Sherman Adams, Gov. Adams and Mrs. Lynne Levin; back row—Charles Whittier, Mr. Levin, Allen Hazen, John MacAuley, H. Kernoff, Myron Herman, Pauline Leander, Herman Marcus, George Noyes, Louis Nizer, Philip Lyster and Kay Reid.

August. I cited the need for an event of this type with which they heartily agreed. But they hastened to advise me that no money could be given me since none had been specifically appropriated for this purpose. They offered all the moral support I needed but I would have to raise the money in some other manner.

I left the meeting more determined than ever to have several days of festivities and to

find some way to finance it. Up until now I had not seriously discussed this project with anyone except Henry Wilcox, a teacher at Bethlehem high school. Henry was an ardent supporter of town activity and commitment. With his encouragement I was now ready to contact others I was quite certain would be interested and willing to work. Dorothea Sarnborn, who is a marvelous organizer, agreed to help and in ten days she and her committee

had carried out the first plan for raising money. It was so successful it was the only project needed.

This project was a gigantic food, vegetable and flower sale held under a very large tent in the Sinclair Park. The sale was made possible by the wonderful cooperation of everyone in the entire town. My how the ladies baked! The "goodies" they sent from Gilmanton Hill to River Bend and from Beech Hill and Bethlehem Hollow to Bonnie Briar are still remembered. Besides this, all attics were ransacked, and at the end of the food sale we finished the day by holding a tremendous "treasure and trash" sale. At the close of the day we had netted well over \$700.00! Hooray! !

The money we had; now I needed expert help to put the plan into action. There was only one person I knew who could really get this "show on the road" in the short space of time we had. This was Lynne Levin of the Park View Hotel. Lynne was most enthusiastic about the idea and when I finished giving her my skeleton plan she had already far outdistanced me and was on her way to making my dream an exciting event.

First came the name for this celebration, and after considering several and liking none, Paul Hudson, a high school student, suggested calling it "Sun-Fire" since we planned for fun in the sun and under the stars. And so it was.

The reality was more than we had dreamed or hoped for, as quoted by the Littleton Courier: "Crowds that at times exceeded 2000 people, Bethlehem, home of 30 hotels, staged its greatest celebration in many years with its five day Sun-Fire Festival. Aimed at increasing Bethlehem's fame as one of the country's leading resorts, the Sun-Fire Festival originated with one of the town's staunchest supporters, Mrs. Al Reid. Both residents and

summer visitors gave wholehearted participation. Within one week the gala attractions were whipped into shape and Bethlehem launched what proved to be an exceedingly popular event and will certainly become an annual affair."

The official opening took place at the Country Club on Sunday evening. Mrs. Levin acted as mistress of ceremonies. She welcomed Governor Sherman Adams who responded by calling it the greatest event to be staged in this resort town since the old "gala days" and expressed the hope it would become a yearly affair.

The two highlights of the first year were the Kiddie Parade with a very large number of entries and the Beauty Pageant with over 60 entries. Space will not permit me to tell of the excitement and fun that accompanied both these events. However, it is now over 20 years since the kiddies were entrants so I would like to name the winners of that first parade: first, second and third respectively were Ronald Perry Strauss, Iris Jill Starr, and Alice Rae Hoffman; patriotic theme, Rita Linda Rubin, and the prettiest decorated vehicle, John Worthman.

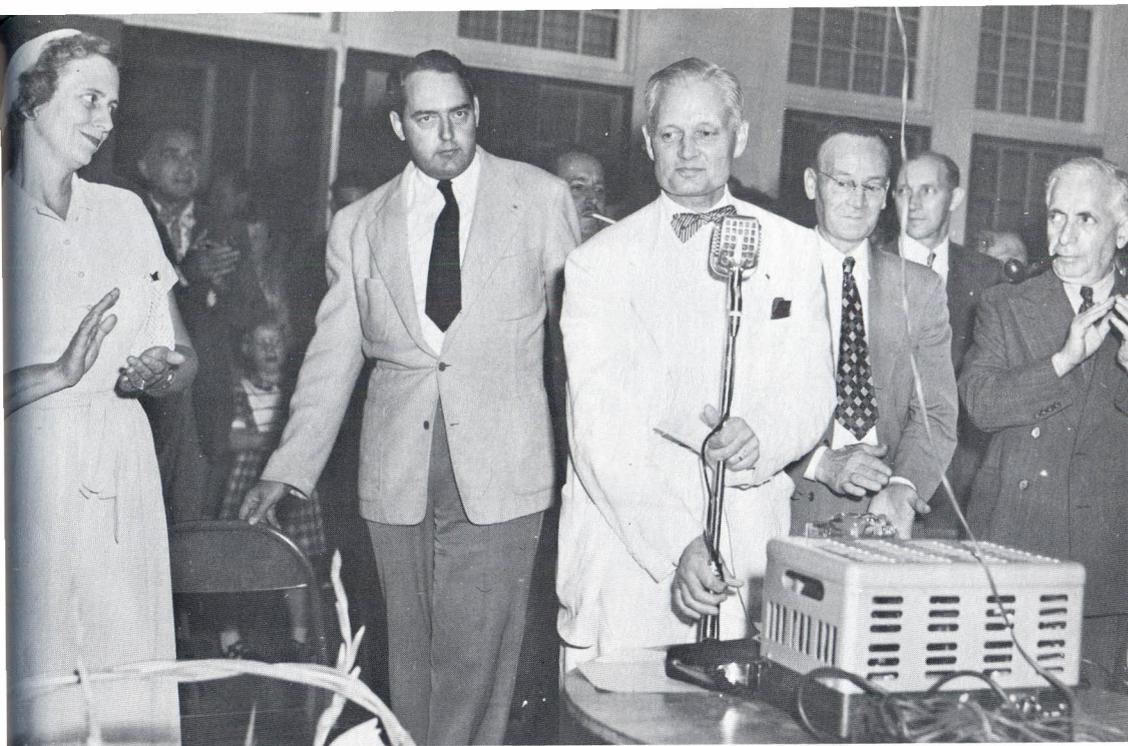
Entrants in the Beauty Pageant aspired to be named Miss Sun-Fire and to reign as queen of the festival. This contest was held in Jackson's hall with an estimated crowd of 600 present. The panel of judges were A. Monsein, president of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Judge Jonah Goldstein of New York, Louis Nizer, famous attorney and writer, Joe Hirsch, New York newspaper man and Jack Colby of the Littleton Courier. The queen was Linda Peters of the London House with Marie Geisdorf of the Sinclair, and Barbara Edinger of the Howard House as runners-up. The queen was fittingly crowned by "Wassi" Wasserman of the Sinclair. Climaxing the event

for the summer was an enormous "weeny" roast held at the Bethlehem Ball Park and sponsored by the Bethlehem Police and Fire Departments. Group singing by the huge bonfire was the finale for 1950.

The festival created so much interest on the part of the hotelmen, business men and the chamber of commerce that, within a week after its closing, a new organization known as the Bethlehem Resort Association was founded with Lynne Levin as president. The purpose of this group was to promote and publicize Bethlehem to its greatest potential as a summer resort.

In 1951, through the efforts of the Bethlehem Resort Association and the vote of the residents, the Public Relations firm, Erbe Maybrook of New York City, was hired to publicize Bethlehem by newspaper, television and radio. They also provided us with two people, Antoinette Spitzer and Lester Stanford to organize and help us to continue the summer festival.

"Tony" and Lester soon became familiar figures on Main Street and presently a plan for the summer's activities began emerging. On July 1 we re-created the old "Blue Law" Sunday, "stocks" for penalties being erected in the Sinclair Park and with everyone dressed in appropriate costume for the day. A two-hour edict was ordered by the Bethlehem selectmen. Mr. Hazen as spokesman for the selectmen said he thought we should become aware of how much freedom we enjoy in this modern age. The importance of freedom was the keynote of a speech by George T. Noyes, clerk of the court for Blue Law Day, who quietly addressed offenders before they were sentenced by Special Justice Charles Brown. Violation of the Blue Laws resulted in being confined to the stocks for a period of time. Not only was this an uncomfortable proce-



A festival speech. Left to right: Mrs. Sherman Adams, George T. Noyes, Gov. Adams, John MacAuley, Philip Lyster and Judge Jonah Goldstein.

ture, but one was also visible for public ridicule.

Children as well as adults were punished for violation of the law, and the penalty for their misdemeanors was to throw pennies into a 160 year old cauldron loaned for the occasion by Mary Noyes of the Turner Cottage. Some of our youthful offenders were Clare Lou and Carol Ann Brown, Jean Ann and Alinda Roy, Valerie Lynch, Lois Lang, Mabel Wilcox and Joan Wilcox of Belfast, Maine, Sandra Beaton, David Perkins and "Becky" Kidney. When the fines were counted, a total of \$28.71 resulted. This money was sent by the Selectmen to the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund.

This gesture resulted in radio and TV mentions over national hook-ups for Bethlehem. The message was read in its entirety by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on her NBC TV program, who added some comments of her own, ending with, "I think that is a wonderful story from Bethlehem, New Hampshire." Walter Winchell on his show, heard by an approximate 15 million people, expressed his thanks: "To those children in Bethlehem, N. H., we received your money today — your check for \$28.71 . . . hugs and kisses from the Damon Runyan Fund and me."

Shortly after this event George T. Noyes appeared on several radio and TV shows in New York, the highlight being a "prop"

stocks especially built for the interview in which he and Susan Peters were confined. This scene along with several photos was flashed on the TV screen. Since this was viewed by people all across America we felt Bethlehem was rightfully taking its place in the sun as one of the country's oldest summer resorts.

In early August another spectacular food fair was held, once again under a huge old tent and in the pouring rain! This was followed by a most successful Horse Show sponsored by the Bethlehem Resort Association. Robert Perry of the Perry House was chairman of the affair. Over 1,000 people attended. Later in the month a Calico Carnival, featuring a "chinese auction," fortune teller, wandering minstrels, and sketch artists, enlivened the day. The evening events were an amateur show and square dancing.

The Sun-Fire Festival opened with a revival of the old Gala Day Parade. This parade entailed an unbelievable amount of work, including finding horses, coaches, rigs and such. It was even suggested to me, when I asked one man to loan his hayrack for the occasion, that perhaps I would like to come and unload the hay from the wagon! I really had to find some boys to do this. The parade itself was beyond belief and this listing seems to be of historic significance:

Leading the parade was Chief of Police Howard Sanborn and Mrs. Stanley McIntyre (Barbara Richards) on horseback, followed by McLure's Student Band. Next, the color guard of the Howard Shawney Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars from Bethlehem and Littleton. And now the entries. Leading was George Tucker, dressed in an old-fashioned duster, driving his 1900 horseless carriage. From the Howard House there was a reproduction of the Aerial Tramway entitled "The Thrill of the White Mountains." This replica of the

“tram” was meticulously and lovingly built by Leon Sanborn. His wife Dorothea was kept busy many days searching the surrounding town’s shops for dolls tiny enough to be placed as passengers in the tram!

The Perry House carried the theme “Everyone comes to Bethlehem.” Guests were dressed in costumes of all nations. Joe Russell’s Perry House Band accompanied the float with Joe appearing as Groucho Marx. A most beautiful and impressive float was that of the Park View. The sides and back of the float were murals depicting the beauty of the White Mountains. These lovely murals were painted by Lynne Levin. Lynne dressed as an artist with paint brush and palette in hand rode on the vehicle.

Other motor driven floats were from the Strawberry Hill House, the Valley View, Upland Terrace, Hotel Sinclair, Hotel Taverne, The Maplewood, Camp Hilary, Bethlehem Boy Scout Troop 230, Churchill’s Dairy, Perkins Garage and MacEddie’s restaurant. Charles Blandin entered with a kerosene dispenser which was used in 1912 by the McCullocks. Other entries were by the National Hay Fever Relief Association, Clark’s Stable, Reid’s Electrical Shop, and an old fashioned bicycle ridden by the McCullock children.

Special note must be given to Bill Clark’s 1870 stone lifter which he, George Tucker and Harold Taylor worked on for weeks to make it ready for exhibition. No one knows of the existence of another stone lifter in this part of the country, and it was the cause of much curiosity and comment. Another of Bill’s entries was a horse driven coach on top of which a 150 year old rocking bed was “rocking away.”

Earlier in the day, General Grant’s historic ride of almost 80 years before was re-enacted in front of the Sinclair Hotel. Mr. Clark’s



Sun Fire Parade entry of Al and Kay Reid (shown) at pony’s head. Richard Coney stands behind his children, Chery and Richard. Front row is Bessie Coney of Coney’s Taxi.



mountain-brake was hitched to four horses. Frank Steller was dressed as General Grant and "Bill" enacted the role of the famous whip, Ed Cox.

These were the winners in this memorable parade: horse drawn—first, Clark's Stable; second, Sinclair Hotel, and Al and Kay Reid's pony cart with the Coney children as passengers and their father R. J. Coney as the driver, winning third prize. Honorable mention went to Mr. Cooley of Easton for his 100 year old rig. Auto driven vehicles — first, George Tucker with his horseless carriage; second Howard House, and third, Park View Hotel. Honorable mention went to Joe Russell of the Perry House for his portrayal of "Groucho" and also to the Upland Terrace Hotel.

Concluding the summer long festivities were two highly entertaining contests, one a quest for the most glamorous grandmother and the other for a girl to be crowned as the Sun-Fire Queen. In the grandmother contest, 89 year old Mrs. Alice Lewis easily captured the title as most glamorous. Her quick wit, wry humor and pervading charm won the hearts of everyone present. Little nine year old "Becky" Kidney was one of the first to congratulate Mrs. Lewis. Honorable mention for the most glamorous went to Mrs. Nan Perry of the Perry House and to Mrs. Sophie Wolotsky. Mrs. Vera Katz, a 30 year summer visitor, won the prize as the most typical. Mrs. Manus Perkins won a prize for being the youngest grandmother. Honorable mention went to Mrs. Edna Smith, 95, of Whitefield, as the oldest entrant.

Al Reid and Al Perry, as chairmen of the bathing beauty contest, made it a memorable event for both contestants and guests. Prelimi-

nary judging of the bathing beauties was held in the Sinclair Park in the afternoon, concluded by the crowning of the queen by Governor Sherman Adams at the Bethlehem High School auditorium. The chosen queen was Helen Nobler of Brooklyn, N.Y., and the Park View. Second prize went to Myrna Danenberg and third to Rhoda Weinstein, both from Brooklyn, New York. All awards for other events were presented to winning contestants at the school auditorium following the crowning of the Sun-Fire Queen. This drew to a close the festivities for the summer of '51.

Tony Spitzer and Lester Stanford returned to New York and continued to publicize Bethlehem through news items, letters, etc. In the summer of '52 they once again took up their pursuit of events and activities in Bethlehem. This summer was a similar pattern of the previous seasons but it was becoming more difficult to interest people in taking an active part in the "workings" of these projects. The world these past years had suddenly become more compact, one might say, since air travel made it possible to traverse the globe in a relatively short space of time. Also many of our summer visitors were now able to visit their beloved Israel.

I have used all the space allotted me to record these events, and I hope many of the people reading this account will remember with nostalgia the hectic days and frantic nights, but most of all the laughter and gaiety that echoed along the streets of this little town of Bethlehem.

Lynne Levin, we salute you for all you did. Your untiring energy and charming personality in great part made these days the success they were.

THE BRETTON WOODS BOY SINGERS

BY FRANCES ANN JOHNSON HANCOCK

Because of Bethlehem's long association with the Bretton Woods Boy Singers, the town takes special pride in this famous group, one of America's oldest boy choirs. The Singers are now located each summer at Bethlehem's former Maplewood Hotel Caddy Camp, under the direction of Richard H. Bond. They were founded in 1910 in a most unusual way.

In July of 1902 wealthy Joseph Stickney of Concord, owner of the Mount Pleasant Hotel at Bretton Woods, completed the even more luxurious hotel, the Mount Washington, with the grand Presidential Range as a backdrop. Late in 1903 Mr. Stickney passed away, and his widow and many hotel friends wished to establish a memorial. They contributed to the erection of a beautiful little stone chapel—the Joseph Stickney Memorial Church of the Transfiguration on Highway 302, within walking distance of the two hotels. A prominent Mount Washington hotel guest and patron of music, George Duncan of Portland, Maine, was appointed to find appropriate music for the Chapel, preferably a boy choir.

In the spring of 1910 Mr. Duncan went to Saint Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Boston, to his friend Warren Locke who was choir master of the Cathedral's Boys' and Men's Choirs. When asked if he knew of a man who could organize and direct a boy choir for the Bretton Woods Chapel, Mr. Locke said he had just the man—Frank R. Hancock who was a music major in his sophomore year at Harvard. Frank had been a soloist at the Cathedral since he was eight — first as a mezzo-soprano, then an alto in the Boys' Choir, then a baritone in the Men's Choir. He was a leading member of the Harvard Glee Club, Chapel Choir, and Hasty Pudding Club. He had exceptional musical talent, was full of vigor

and joy and had a firm but happy way with boys. When Frank agreed to accept the position, Mr. Locke helped him select twelve sopranos and altos from the Cathedral Boys' Choir, and with two college friends as assistants, the Bretton Woods Boy Choir was established.

Back at Bretton Woods Mr. Duncan assisted in locating a site for the Choir's summer camp. A delightful woodland spot was cleared on hotel property, beside the road leading to the Base Station of the famous Mount Washington Cog Railway. It was named, appropriately, Camp Duncan.

A main lodge of spruce logs was built at the center of the clearing, and five large sleep-

ing tents with wooden floors were placed at the right of the lodge in a half circle. After 12 years the tents were replaced by cabins. A cook was hired to preside in the kitchen, and meals and rehearsals were held in the large front room with its huge fireplace. This first Camp Duncan became the greatly-loved summer home of the Choir during eight to ten weeks of each summer until 1969.

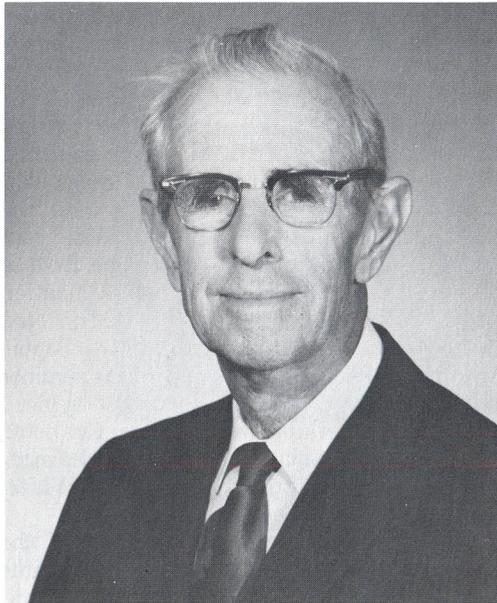
During the first summer, Frank (soon affectionately known as "Uncle" Frank) sang with his Boys on several occasions at the Mount Washington Hotel Ballroom, giving concerts of both secular and sacred numbers. This gave Uncle Frank the idea that many of the numerous summer hotels in the mountain region might enjoy their concerts. Early in the second year, 1911, he had an opportunity to prove he was right, at a prominent Bethlehem hotel. This marked the beginning of public concerts and a continuing association with Bethlehem.

This first public concert was the outgrowth of a trip to visit the famous Stone Profile, Old Man of the Mountains at the head of Franconia Notch. On the way home, in the early afternoon, the hiking choir boys passed through Bethlehem Village, known for many years as a charming resort town with "30 hotels."

One of the finest, The Maplewood, was at the eastern end of town. As the boys came in view of the hotel estate, Uncle Frank made a quick and historic decision.

He directed the Choir to stop at the imposing entrance of the hotel. He dashed inside and asked for the manager. When he introduced himself, he was cordially welcomed because his Choir was already popular with many guests who attended Sunday services at Bretton Woods Chapel.

Uncle Frank didn't have to work at all at "selling" his idea. He simply asked if they



FRANK R. HANCOCK

would like the Choir Boys to come in, right then, and give a concert.

They certainly would!

Many guests were out on the cool porches or the broad green acres of Maplewood's golf links, but it wouldn't take long to round them up. Bell boys were sent in several directions, and in a surprisingly short time guests were assembling in the large Music Room. By three o'clock the place was crowded. It was a friendly, informal scene, with many of the guests in their golf outfits, and the Choir Boys in their hiking clothes.

After several numbers, all enthusiastically received by the audience, Uncle Frank called a brief intermission, and on sudden impulse decided to "pass the hat"! A cap had to serve, but the results were gratifying. When the contents were counted later, they amounted to around \$36, a goodly sum in 1911.

The Maplewood's lively applause and generous collection launched the concert idea

with flying colors. Life at Camp Duncan now would move around a new and challenging music schedule of *both* church and concert singing. At Bethlehem's Maplewood Hotel the Bretton Woods Boy Singers had found a new dimension of service, and for many years a number of the larger Bethlehem hotels scheduled regular dates for the Boys' concerts.

Uncle Frank was Director of the Singers through 1964. In 1960 the 50th anniversary of the Choir was observed at Bretton Woods Chapel and Camp Duncan, with many "Old Boys" returning to help celebrate the occasion and enjoy the rich traditions of half a century.

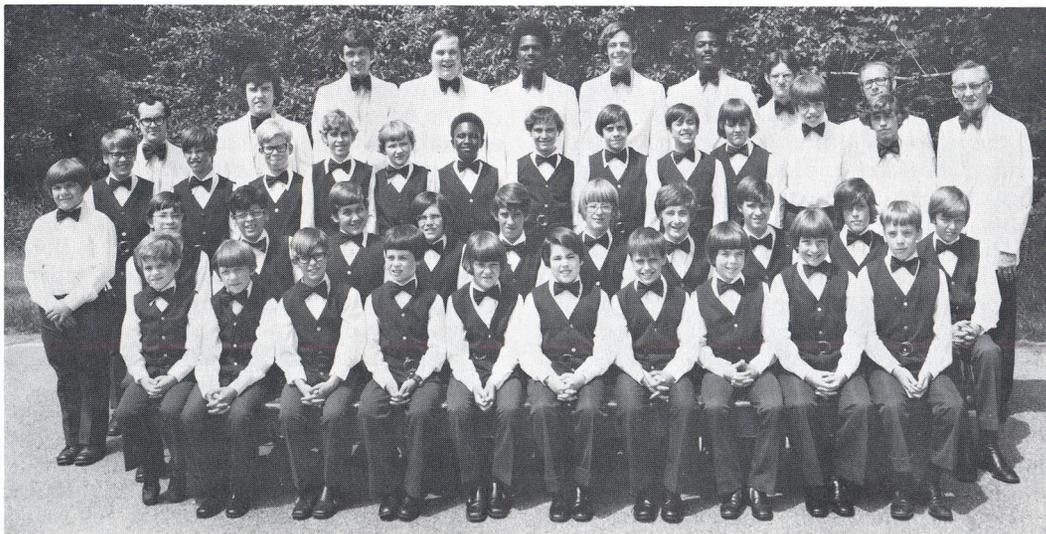
But changes were soon to begin. Uncle Frank was looking for the right man to take over the responsibilities of Director. In the summer of 1963 the right man was found. Richard H. Bond of Reading, Mass. substituted for the Choir's regular Sunday organist and concert accompanist for the month of

August. He was a superior musician, being organist and choir master of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading where he had a men's and boys' choir of 45 voices; he was a natural leader of boys, with years of work with boy choirs and summer camps; and he was a competent manager, with long experience as Controller of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

Uncle Frank continued as Director in 1964, with Mr. Bond visiting the Choir frequently at camp, church, and concerts in preparation for his coming acceptance of the position. He became Director in 1965.

One of the first necessary changes at Camp Duncan was tearing down the 53-year-old main lodge and replacing it with a larger, more modern building. Membership was increased, and more cabins were added to the half circle beside the lodge.

In 1967 Mr. Bond resigned as organist and choir director at Reading to accept the posi-



The Boy Singers in 1973. This year the Singers will feel a special loneliness for their friend, Frank R. Hancock, who passed away in February of 1974. He will be long remembered as an individual who gave of himself and brought the joy of music to thousands.

tion of Music Master of Saint Paul's Cathedral in Boston. This was where Uncle Frank had started singing at the age of eight and from where, for many summers, he chose boys for the Bretton Woods Choir. Now, as Saint Paul's Choir Master, Mr. Bond revived the Boys' Choir which had been discontinued for several years. The new Choir sang for the first time at the Cathedral's Easter services. In June it renewed the custom of sending specially qualified boys to sing in the summer choir of Bretton Woods Chapel. This arrangement completed a historic cycle, and it has continued to supply a large percentage of Bretton Woods Singers, now numbering about 45 members.

In 1969 the delightfully rustic, forest-sheltered Camp Duncan had to be abandoned. Heavy winter snows had caused severe damage, and larger quarters were needed for an expanding program of activities. Fortunately, Bethlehem's former Maplewood Hotel Caddy Camp was for sale. (The hotel had been destroyed by fire in January 1963.) This second Camp Duncan included a comfortable, rambling building with dormitory wings, dining-room, kitchen, and laundry areas, and a large recreation and rehearsal hall, all pleasantly situated on several acres of land with a fine view of the Presidential Range. A large swimming pool was installed back of the Camp, and renovations were made to meet the special needs of the new occupants.

The name *Bretton Woods* was retained by the group, regardless of the new address. The name was historic. In 1772, it was given to the area north of Crawford Notch by New Hampshire's last royal governor, John Wentworth. He named it for his ancestral estate, Bretton Hall, in Yorkshire, England. And it had special meaning for the Singers, too, for their original and continuing main purpose was to be the Choir at Bretton Woods Chapel.

At the reunion of 1969, Camp Duncan's first summer in its new home, a center of special attention was an arrangement of three large framed photographs on the wall at the entrance to the recreation and music hall. At the left of the group was a fine likeness of Uncle Frank, in the center was a panoramic view of the Maplewood Estate, and at the right was a picture of George Duncan for whom the Camp was named.

In 1970 another important change made a new tie between Bethlehem and the Bretton Woods Boy Singers. For several reasons, including rising costs, a need for extensive repairs, and shrinking congregations, it was decided to move the summer Sunday morning services from the Bretton Woods Chapel to the larger, more centrally located Ivie Memorial Church of the Messiah at Bethlehem, a short distance from the new Camp Duncan. Vesper services would still be held at 4:30 at Bretton Woods, so the lovely little Chapel where the Choir had sung for 60 years would not be entirely out of use. Now, the Ivie Memorial chimes would ring out every Sunday morning before the 11 o'clock service, inviting Bethlehem residents and visitors to come and hear the famous Bretton Woods Boy Singers at their best — lifting their young voices in hymns, anthems, and responses of holy worship, as they had been doing for more than half a century.

There have been many dramatic highlights for the Boys during their many years together. As Singers have come and gone, according to the quality of their voices, each year has been a little different, with its own special experiences to treasure in memory.

The first event of each season is auditioning in the spring. Every boy, old and new, must have his voice tested by the Director. Happy are the boys who "make it"!

Great experiences for those who have made

it have included overnight trips up the Mt. Washington Cog Railway as guests of the owners, the Arthur Teague family, with sign-off singing at 11 p.m. over TV Channel 8 on the mountaintop. There have been hikes up peaks of the nearby Presidential Range, excursions to the beaches, swimming in the sparkling clear cold Ammonoosuc river across the road from Old Camp Duncan and in the present swimming pool, exciting baseball games, and day trips to White Mountains attractions including Lost River in Kinsman Notch, and the Flume, Tramway, and Old Man of the Mountains in Franconia Notch. One of the most thrilling events came in 1955 when the Boys sang as special performers at the 150th Birthday of the Old Man of the Mountains, attended by an audience of several thousand spectators and state and national dignitaries including President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Less spectacular, but exciting in a very intimate way, were occasions at the old Camp when wilderness neighbors came right into the camp clearing. There were hedgehogs, squirrels, a red fox, a humming bird, and a friendly partridge that came every day one summer to sit on a chair and listen to rehearsals and take a lively part in camp activities.

More recently, in May of 1967, several Singers belonging to the Saint Paul's newly-reorganized Boy Choir had opportunity to appear in the opera *Tosca* for the Boston Opera Company. They sang in the stirring Sacristan scene, a most enjoyable and interesting experience.

Camp life in itself has always been an exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure for boys who love music. Besides the regular rehearsals of church and concert music, there have been challenging classes in music theory, music history, ear-training, sight-reading and stage deportment. There is also a well-round-

ed camping experience including crafts, sports, mountain trips, and character building.

Many life-long friendships are made that represent far-flung geographic backgrounds. Besides the members from Saint Paul's Choir, boys and staff come from such distant places as the Panama Canal Zone, southern states, Chicago, England, and countries of the European mainland. It is always remarkable to see how quickly each year the 40 to 50 members blend into a well-coordinated team, and radiate a very special spirit of loyal togetherness, singleness of purpose, and joyous enthusiasm.

An added Choir attraction of 1973 was a series of instrumental and vocal recital programs given by the talented Choir Staff each Monday evening at Bethlehem's Ivie Memorial Chapel. The concerts included solo and ensemble numbers for piano, pipe organ, harpsichord, cello, trumpet, recorder, and voice. These fine performances gave Bethlehem added opportunity to share in the musical life of the Bretton Woods Boy Singers, now a well-established part of the town's summer population.

Regular summer concerts are still given in the White Mountains area, many of them at leading summer hotels, others at churches, schools, and town halls. The public concert idea, started in 1911 at Bethlehem's Maplewood Hotel, is now a splendid tradition, and the Stickney Memorial Chapel Choir, now the famous organization known as the Bretton Woods Boy Singers located at Bethlehem, is recognized as one of America's oldest and best-loved Boy Choir groups.

Mrs. Hancock is the historian of the Bretton Woods Boy Singers and gave permission to use this material from her forth-coming book about the Singers, entitled "They Break Forth Into Singing."



The Ivie Memorial Church.

BETHLEHEM WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB

BY FAY SCHOLZ

It was in the summer of 1964 just 10 short years ago, July 21 to be exact, that 47 ladies gathered together to form a club that would appeal to the civic pride of all Bethlehem residents. Their goal was to encourage the beautification, and promote civic improvement in our town.

During the Charter meeting the club voted to be known as "The Bethlehem Women's Civic Club," and elected the following ladies as their officers: Mrs. Ida Lyster, President; Mrs. Elizabeth Jackle, Vice President; Mrs. Dorothy Meglitz, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Marjorie Miller, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Joyce Sheedy, Treasurer.

The ladies included as Charter Members are: Mrs. Cora Churchill, Mrs. Grace Mack, Mrs. Pauline Goodman, Miss Patricia Bonardi, Mrs. Barbara Holmes, Mrs. Winifred Jordan, Mrs. Dora Katz, Mrs. Olive Whittier, Mrs. Joyce Sheedy, Mrs. Marjorie Miller, Mrs. Margaret Hildreth, Miss Alma McIntire, Mrs. Bessie Coney, Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Mrs. Winifred Gearwar, Mrs. Helen Steller, Mrs. Kay Reid, Mrs. Leona Reardon, Mrs. June Warner, Mrs. Ruth Johnson, Mrs. Muriel C. Brown, Mrs. Esther Kamering, Mrs. Ann Glenn, Mrs. Betty Silver, Mrs. Dorothy Wolf, Mrs. Florence Damin, Mrs. Rose Rollinger, Mrs. S. Abramson, Mrs. F. Morgansworth, Mrs. Gwen Brown, Mrs. Max Meyer, Mrs. L. Plotnick, Mrs. Mildred Jailer, Mrs. Mabel Harrigan, Mrs. Jo Sengelaub, Mrs. Isabelle Meserve, Mrs. Ethel Rowe, Mrs. T. F. Heinemann, Mrs. Clayton Tabbut, Mrs. Frances Martignetti, Mrs. Joanne Weiderman, Mrs. Judy Williams, Mrs. Geraldine Kreps.

By-laws were enacted, and the new club was officially born. As the first beautification project, the club planted flowers in the old

watering trough on Main Street. This project was accomplished by a committee headed by Mrs. Hattie Taylor.

Publicity came in unique form—messages were flashed across the screen at the Jax movie theater to advertise the club's first money raising projects. Since then publicity has come mainly from the Littleton Courier, and Radio Station WLTN, also of Littleton, and most importantly by word of mouth.

Perhaps some folks will remember the large doll and her exquisite hand tailored wardrobe that was sold to raise money for club projects that first year, or the "Suggestion Box" that was placed in the Bethlehem Spa to gather ideas from the townspeople on how to make Bethlehem a more attractive place in which to live. During this year the ladies worked along with some of their husbands to repair and replace wooden road signs that advertised Bethlehem. Ragweed was cut down along Route 302 through the town, and wooden benches were made, painted and placed along Main Street. It was at the meeting of October 24, 1964, that the cedar flower tubs were voted into being. The original tubs were placed in front of the Town Building and filled with flowers.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Ida Lyster, the format and basic functions of this new organization were shaped. It is to the ladies of this Charter Group that we hereby dedicate this history.

In 1965 Mrs. Dorothy Meglitz and Mrs. Jo Sengelaub were co-chairmen of the very successful "Garden Tour and Contest." Mrs. Winifred Jordan was club president and conducted the extensive survey of industry and recreation in our area. Mrs. Dorothy Wolf enthralled the members with her fantastic exhibit of African violets. UNICEF was aided through the efforts of Mrs. Dora Katz, the club began their annual contributions to the

Hay Fever Relief Fund, and in November of 1965 welcomed the newly organized White Mountain Senior Citizens Club, which was founded and directed by one of their new members, Mrs. Fay Scholz.

As 1966 got underway, Mrs. Marjorie Miller was presiding and started her untiring efforts to get a physician for the town of Bethlehem. The annual Christmas baskets for shut-ins were distributed, and Food Sales were held to raise funds for club projects. Fashion shows, card parties and a Food Fair were also part of this busy year.

In 1967 Mrs. Elizabeth Jackle was club president. In this active year the Cadet Girl Scouts put on a lovely fashion show for the ladies. Mrs. Marjorie Miller, Mrs. Dorothy Meglitz and Mrs. Elizabeth Jackle secured a refrigerator for the Bethlehem Country Club. The club elected their first summer president, Mrs. Mildred Jailer. During this summer, under her leadership, card parties, movies, food sales and a wonderful house tour were provided as recreation for our many summer visitors and year round residents. The spectacular Garden and House Tour was conducted by Mrs. Sylvia Kasacove, Mrs. Herman Blum, Mrs. Grace Mack, Mrs. Marjorie Miller, Mrs. Dorothy Meglitz and Mrs. Mildred Jailer.

In November of 1967 the club took its first step forward in promoting civic improvement. The first Vocational Scholarships were offered in the amount of \$25 to a Bethlehem boy and girl who were graduating from High School and going on to vocational schools. New books were bought for the Bethlehem Elementary School Library, and this has become an annual project for the club.

In August of 1967 the saga of the "Living Christmas Tree" began. A stately blue spruce was donated to the Town by the club and planted on the lawn of the Town Hall to be

the town's living Christmas tree. The tree was cut down and destroyed by vandals just days before Christmas. The tale has a happy ending — Mr. Allen Hazen generously donated another tree which was put up and decorated in time for the holidays by Mr. Louis Meglitz.

In 1968 and 1969 Mrs. Dorothy Meglitz was president of the club. During these progressive years new chairs and card tables quietly appeared at the Country Club through the efforts of the busy ladies. The Visiting Nurse project was undertaken by Mrs. Floyd Brown, Mrs. Marjorie Miller and Mrs. William McKenna. Mrs. Dora Katz found a piano for the Country Club (and we're all still trying to figure out how little Dora carried that big piano into the building). The seasonal highlight was the Carroll Reed Fashion Show.

In 1968 through efforts of the Civic Club, town funds were provided for beautification of the town. The Civic Club then purchased large redwood tubs and had them planted with flowers of every description. The tubs were set out in front of all of our public buildings and churches in Bethlehem. This practice continues to this date. During the summer of 1968 Mrs. Mildred Jailer presided over the club. Our summer visitors took great interest in and responded spontaneously to the recreation and social activities offered by the Bethlehem Women's Civic Club. Their participation also provided them an opportunity to help the club in their fund-raising projects.

The year is 1970, and Mrs. Dorothy Meglitz presided over the club for a second term. It was in this year that Mrs. Meglitz introduced the Bethlehem Community Birthday Calendar project to the club. Perhaps some folks will recall the mop and broom brigade that descended upon the Bethlehem Country Club to give it a "spring cleaning." These

were Bethlehem Women's Civic Club members in disguise. A cook book was assembled, published and sold. Food sales were held as well as other fund raising events to help purchase card tables and chairs for the Country Club. Christmas decorations were purchased, and with the donated time of Fire Chief Howard Sanborn and his volunteer fire fighters, husbands of the club members and our members, the town was decorated for the Christmas season. The club members served hot coffee and home-made doughnuts to the decorating crew.

Mrs. Winifred Gearwar became the chairman of our Sunshine and Cheer Committee. Through her efforts, cards of cheer, sympathy and congratulations have been sent to all Bethlehem folks when such occasion warranted. Mrs. Gearwar has also extended greetings to the great and near-great of our nation, and our scrapbook contains the treasured replies.

In 1971-72 Mrs. Fay Scholz was president. The Community Birthday Calendar Project was continued as an annual event as the members made this an addendum to their by-laws. The Vocational Scholarships were raised to \$100 dollars each, with all monies for the project coming from the Community Birthday Calendar Project. The ladies participated in the Littleton Mardi Gras Parade with a colorful motorized float. The truck for the float was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ott.

The members located Bethlehem's oldest living resident, Miss Josephine Finn, a patient at the "Willows," and presented Miss Finn with the Boston Post Gold Headed Cane, and the official Bethlehem Women's Civic Club Silver Bowl, which is inscribed with her name and will be passed on to each succeeding eldest resident. The first "Square Dance" was held in August, and young and

oldsters alike kicked up their heels in reckless abandon at the Country Club. A "Career-nite" for high school students was held to show the young folks how many careers and courses of study were available at vocational schools.

In 1972-73 Mrs. Fay Scholz was elected to preside for a second term. The club members worked hard to have town funds allocated to buy Christmas decorations for the Town. With the aid of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, and hot coffee and doughnuts provided by the Civic Club, the Christmas decorations were put up. A Christmas Decorating Contest was held, and the Civic Club donated an engraved silver bowl to the winner of the "Best Decorated Business Establishment." Mr. and Mrs. David Hard, new owners of the Bethlehem Stage Depot on Main Street, were the winners. Mrs. Sandra Reinhold, chairman of the Annual Christmas Baskets for Shut-In Project, prepared and distributed many gayly wrapped, heavily laden baskets in time for the festive holidays.

The Elementary School children participated in the Vocational Scholarship Fund Drive by creating hand-drawn posters for the Annual Square Dance. Students of the Bethlehem School, and our high school students, donated their time as "Student Salesmen" for the Bethlehem Community Birthday Calendar Project. Miss Nancy Caswell, Miss Deborah Collins, Miss Joyce Matthew, Mr. Richard MacNeill and Mr. Kenneth Reardon were our outstanding sales force in 1972. Our congratulations go to these young people for their help and time so generously given to help other young men and women further their education.

The Bethlehem Women's Civic Club is proud to be part of the "history" of Bethlehem, New Hampshire, and is always open to new members.

MAPLEWOOD ODD FELLOWS

LODGE NO. 100

By JAMES BLANEY

"Agreeable to previous notice, several members of the Order assembled for the purpose of receiving a dispensation for the formation of Maplewood Lodge No. 100. The Grand Master, Leo Winch, called the Brothers to order at 2:23 p.m., March 29, 1900."

Thus started the reign of one of the oldest fraternal organizations of Bethlehem. A total of 31 Brothers were admitted to the membership of Maplewood Lodge No. 100 on that day.

The Charter was erected with a total of 29 signatures. By 1903 the membership had grown to 51 members, and down through the years it has remained in the 40 to 50 membership bracket. As of 1973, a total of 233 Brothers have belonged to Maplewood Lodge No. 100 at one time or another.

The Lodge has had four halls in its 73 year history. The first meeting place was in the Atto block. A description of the hall is not available except that the Rebekahs, a sister order of the Odd Fellows, did lodge a formal complaint to the Grand Master over the noise and smell of the blacksmith shop which was located directly below the hall. The conditions eventually disturbed the Lodge members and after many discussions a vote was taken and passed to move into the old Grange Hall. So, on the evening of December 30, 1906, the Maplewood Lodge No. 100 entered its second home. It remained there until 1911 when it moved to the Jackson block.

In the summer of 1938 negotiations started with the Congregational Church on the purchase of their hall located on Maple Street. As is the way of most organizations, most big moves take time and Maplewood No. 100 was no exception. What confronted them — how

to get the money, where to get the equipment, how to pacify the Rebekahs — were only a few of the problems. Nonetheless, progress was made and, with the aid of Warren Churchill, a sum of money was raised to purchase the hall. So, in the year of our Lord, 1940, Maplewood Lodge No. 100 moved to its present location.

There have been several improvements on the hall, notably the heating and plumbing. In 1972 a new furnace was installed and the upstairs kitchen was remodeled. Perhaps a little description of the hall is called for. It is one of the largest Odd Fellows halls in the North Country, and the interior is of latticed oak and maple paneled blocks set at various angles to one another. It is doubtful if it could ever be duplicated in this modern day and age. The upstairs has a combined kitchen and dining area. Through the efforts of the Brothers, a shooting range was built in the basement, complete with spotlights and a back-up wall of dirt and heavy planks.

On the main floor is a main entrance to the hall and a good sized ante-room which has several card tables and a coat room. There is another room reserved for the Rebekahs to carry on their business. The Lodge has a regulation pool table upstairs in the dining area. So one can see that there are many diversions to be enjoyed by the Brothers if so desired.

The hall is also available for any functions if a Brother so desires, such as wedding receptions, funeral gatherings or just plain family usages.

It would be remiss not to mention the clock in the tower on top of the hall. The clock faces in three directions and was donated by Mrs. Leonard Knight in memory of her father, Horace Wilder. The spaces where the numerals should be are replaced by letters of his name.

Many people have remarked about the way the numerals seem odd; this may clarify this point. After the hall was taken over by the Lodge, a suggestion was made to remove the clock tower. However, at the next town meeting Harry Goodwin arose and proceeded to recite a poem about the beauty and charm of "the old village clock" and after some discussion, a sum of \$1,000 was raised to electrify the clockworks and modify the steeple. The problem arose that the extreme cold weather of winter would freeze the brass mechanisms of the clock and consequently the motors would burn out. Last year the clock was put in working order with the new cold weather greases.

From its start the Lodge has had many functions, dances, suppers, card parties, plays and receptions. In going through the records of the Lodge, the results of these activities were sometimes disastrous, i.e. "proceeds from card party — thirty-three cents; next week, forty-six cents, and after several weeks of no profit, the motion was made and carried to postpone any future activities until public interest could be aroused." This happened almost every year. The last dances were held around the early fifties.

The Lodge in its earlier days was a bit puritanical. For example, the early membership rules decreed that an applicant must be of good moral character, free of disease, and with good industrious habits, and a respectable means of support. He may NOT be a saloon keeper, gambler or bar keeper. However, this hardly applied to the members from the northern towns. Most of the applicants had good honest vocations: farmers, clerks, "hoss" drivers, smithys, toolmakers, loggers, etc. In going through 73 years of records there is not one instance of an applicant being turn-

ed down for being a professional gambler, bar keeper or salcon owner!

In the years previous to 1940, and especially during the years of the depression, the Lodge played a very important part in many men's lives in the town simply because it was the social highlight of the week. Meetings would start around 7:30 and last perhaps an hour, after which a little refreshment would be served.

Many of the Brothers walked in from their farms outside of town every Thursday night, and few were ever late for the 7:30 meeting! Brother Whyte walked in from Pierce Bridge, and since he was the recording secretary for almost four years, rarely missed a meeting, winter or summer! Who now would endeavor to "pace briskly" four miles or more one way to make a meeting? Likewise, Brother Hoik from Bethlehem Hollow came a mere three and a half mile jaunt. This is how important the Lodge was to the earlier men.

The Lodge, in its records anyway, was never imbued with political affiliations or secular implications. The reason for "Odd Fellowship" is for the diffusion of the principals of benevolence and charity. The Lodge had a sick call committee in which each member had a day of the week assigned to him for sitting with a Brother who may have been ill, lost a loved one or otherwise under personal stress. For this service the member would be paid the sum of one dollar for a 24 hour stint. In many cases this proved invaluable because a Brother who was a farmer needed help doing the chores and this was one way of providing it. It was simply a case of looking after one another.

The current day Lodge has a visiting committee that pays a visit to an ailing Brother and reports to the Lodge the disposition of said Brother. However, it is still stipulated in

the degree that the candidate must be willing to aid and sit with a Brother who may be ill and give aid and comfort to widows and orphans.

Although the Maplewood Lodge No. 100 is not a highly publicized lodge, it has been involved in many town activities. The members help sponsor the annual Community Christmas party and support the Cub Scouts. They donate a sum of money to send some young person to a conservation camp. This writer was the fortunate recipient of the Conservation Award over 20 years ago. Of course the Lodge also contributes to the Odd Fellows Home in Concord.

Several years ago the New Hampshire Eye Bank was formed, sponsored by the Odd Fellows. Although the Lodge has not had a large part in this program, several members have volunteered to act as a liaison team for emergency transportation to and from the hospital located in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

Every year Memorial Day services are held in the Bethlehem cemetery for all the deceased Brothers and Sisters of the Lodge.

One of the interesting events that took place in 1972 was the initiation of 12 new members from Bethlehem and the surrounding area, except that the combined weight of said 12 members was over 2400 pounds! One might even say that we had some "weighty problems" conducting our degrees. As a matter of fact, some of the furniture took a little repair work afterward. The International I.O.O.F. paper wrote it up as "one football team plus a waterboy!"

One of the interesting facts that is prevalent in the International Order of Odd Fellows is that, although the order was started in the mid 1800's, the rules and regulations are worded just about the same now as they were then, and little change is necessary because every

member seems to approve and abide by these rules. This order has maintained the good old adage that God, Country and Fellowman are the important items in life. There is no talk of "changing or challenging" the establishment. The truths and ideals that prevailed over 100 years ago are still important enough to play a major part of our lives. For this we are eternally grateful.



The Congregational Church was opened in 1877 and built through the support of James N. Turner, Deacon Davis and John Pierce. In 1940 the church was acquired by Maplewood Odd Fellows Lodge #100.

REBEKAH LODGE, NO. 84

BY ESTHER LOWELL

Bethlehem Star Rebekah Lodge, No. 84 was instituted on March 29, 1901 during the term of Martha E. Horton as President of the Rebekah Assembly of New Hampshire. Starr B. Center was Grand Master and John Kidder was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire.

On the petition of the required number of Brothers and Sisters of the Rebekah Degree residing in Bethlehem, Grand Master Center and Grand Officers Page and Kidder came to Bethlehem on that evening, called the meeting to order, stated in a few words the object of the meeting and, assisted by his Officers, the lodge was instituted.

The Charter Members as recorded on the Charter now hanging in Odd Fellows Hall were: Salisbury Bickford, Edward N. Jobin, Margaret Jobin, Allen Ayer, Sarah Ayer, John Hoyt, Eliza Hoyt, Lucy Thompson, Carrie Quimby, Charles H. Kay and Mary Kay. The last surviving Charter Member was Carrie Quimby Bean, who passed away January 3, 1966.

After the Institution Ceremony, Grand Secretary Kidder presented 53 Applications for Membership by Initiation which were referred to an investigating committee who made a favorable report. Applications were balloted upon and found favorable. Perseverance Rebekah Lodge, No. 56 of Lancaster conferred the Rebekah Degree on the 45 candidates present, after which nomination and election of Officers was held for the new lodge.

Installation of Officers was then conducted by District Deputy Eliza Huron of District No. 47 and her Staff, and Officers installed were: Noble Grand, Margaret Jobin; Vice Grand, Mary Kay; Secretary, Carrie Quim-

by; Treasurer, Eliza A. Hoyt; Right Supporter Noble Grand, Sarah Ayer; Left Supporter Noble Grand, Ada E. Whyte; Right Supporter Vice Grand, Mary Nourse; Left Supporter Vice Grand, Grace Churchill; Inside Guardian, Ida B. Clifford; Outside Guardian, Allen C. Ayer; Chaplain, Minnie E. Badger; Warden, Ida Dexter; Conductor, Edith Tucker; Past Noble Grand, Hattie L. Buck was elected to serve in this capacity.

Meetings were held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in what was then Atto Hall, but on January 5, 1907 they held their first meeting in Grange Hall on the third floor of what is commonly known as Jackson Block.

Records show that the group was busy with food sales, suppers and dances; and visited back and forth with other Lodges as was possible in those days. Later on, for many years up until the second World War and gas rationing, public dances were held every Monday night—one week by the Grange, and the next by the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs, at which coffee and doughnuts were served.

The music at these dances was furnished by Albert Jackle and his group which consisted of Frank Steller, piano; Frank Guyer, violin; Larry Presby, saxophone; and Mr. Jackle with a banjo, which was very popular at that time. The only surviving member of this group at this time is Larry Presby, a



Officers of Bethlehem Star Rebekah Lodge #84 for term 1969-1970. Left to right: back row—Lillian N. Barnes, Elizabeth Jackle, Lena N. Gray, Lucie H. Brooks, Margaret M. Hildreth, Muriel C. Brown, Alma McIntire, Lillian C. Carpenter and Muriel J. Brown; front row—Jean J. Miller, Ida S. Lyster, Dorothy Meglitz, Stella Gove, Esther A. Lovell and Gertrude Q. Harrigan.

photographer, who now lives in Littleton.

In March, 1940, Bethlehem Star Lodge moved into its present location on Maple Street, the IOOF Hall. This building was formerly the Congregational Church and had been acquired by the Churchill brothers as a Memorial of their father, Thomas W. Churchill, and given to Maplewood Lodge, No. 100, on the 40th Anniversary of its founding.

Until more recently, Rebekahs served meals for the town officers at Town Meetings and on Election Day to help raise money for the various appeals received and donations made to many worthy causes, as well as having sponsored different Girl Scout groups several times.

Veteran's jewels have been given to about 20 members after 25 years of membership, and the Decoration of Chivalry jewel, the highest honor a Rebekah can receive for service to lodge, church and community, has been conferred by the Patriarchs Militant of New Hampshire (the Military Branch of the I.O. O.F.) on about 12 members over the years.

As near as can be determined by records available, the names of members having received the Decoration of Chivalry are Ida M. Dexter, Mabel H. Doris, Helen Brooks Parker, Carrie Bean, Ellen Simonds, Cora Churchill, Ethel Johnston, Gertrude Harri- gan, Ida S. Lyster, Esther A. Lowell, Elizabeth Jackle and Dorothy Meglitz.

The present Noble Grand is Muriel J. Brown, and she has held this office in the lodge for the past three years. The present membership in 1973 is 40 members.

SKI CLUB

BY CAROL BOUCHER

The Bethlehem Ski Club was formed in November of 1961 as a result of a special committee appointed at the annual school meeting in March of that year. Unable to establish a ski program within the framework of the school, the committee met to discuss ways of enabling the children of Bethlehem to have a chance to learn to ski.

The end result of this meeting was "The Bethlehem Ski Club" with the Chairman being Gerald Davidson; Secretary-Treasurer was Leah Cole and the five board members were Garfield Derrington, Leo Stacy, Walter Tibbetts, Frank Casey and Mrs. Philip Lyster. Free instruction was offered by Richard Coney to those who would be giving lessons to the children. In January of 1962, the first lessons were given to 31 beginners at the Bethlehem Country Club.

Work on the present slope began in April of 1962 with all work being done on a volunteer basis. A tow was purchased from the State of New Hampshire and it was removed from the Peabody Slopes and installed at the present site in December of 1962. Operating with a newly purchased rope for the tow, the

ski season opened in December with 109 students taking advantage of lessons that were available.

Each year there have been additions. A warming hut was purchased from Dr. Wessels and this was moved to the slope and enlarged. Lights for night skiing were installed and toilet facilities added. A telephone, a wood stove, and first-aid equipment have been purchased for the betterment of the club.

Professional lessons are given to all skiers who have completed the snow plow stage. The club shares half of the expense for this with the student. Every spring the Varney Memorial Race is held for Bethlehem children in memory of Allen Varney who donated a tract of land on Mount Agassiz to the club.

The objective of the Bethlehem Ski Club is to promote outdoor sports and recreation, especially in helping children to obtain equipment and instruction in skiing. The success which the club has enjoyed during its lifetime can be attributed to the support of the community for all the projects. Volunteers have donated time, money, equipment, technical assistance and numerous other things, all of which have been instrumental in the development of the slope.



The Bethlehem ski slope.

THE END IS THE BEGINNING

I think this THE END will actually become the beginning of the study of our town. We have set down many of the movements, changes, and forces that have developed Bethlehem; yet we have left untold many things.

Because no one associated with the writing of this book received financial compensation, they should be mentioned here with a special thank you. First, both Harold and Hattie Taylor must be thanked for the use of their photographs and research notes. They spent a great deal of time writing captions, searching their scrapbooks for specific information I requested and suggesting topics to be included.

Mrs. Claude Clark did the majority of typing for the book, devoting many hours during the Fall and Winter correcting my spelling and interpreting my handwriting. Mrs. Herbert Waggoner, Mrs. Neil McLaughlin, Mrs. Earl Laleme and Mrs. Goldfinger also typed portions of the book.

We are indebted to all those who provided photographs for this work. John MacIver took the family portrait on Page 17 and provided the photographs on Pages 8, 20 and 103. The following people took the photographs on the subsequent pages: Chris Wilkins, 126, 131 and 175; Geoffrey Gross, 19; Lawrence Presby, 2, 16, 156, 166 and 167; Gregory Wilson, 4, 5, 111, 127, 128, 129 and 141; Alistair MacBain, 3, 57, 76, 127, 128, 169, and 174.

Franconia College, my employer, was happy that I was asked to write the Bethlehem History and accordingly allowed me time to work on this book during the work week. The New Hampshire Historical Society, particularly Mary Lyn Ray, were quite helpful and provided the map on Page 12 and 13. The staff of the Dartmouth College Library, White Mountains Collection was equally helpful and

provided the pictures on Pages 29, 55, 60, 73, 84, 89 and 106. The portrait of Dr. James Lloyd came from the Francis Countway Library of Medicine in Boston. The old photographs of Maplewood came from Betty Wils- husen. In the Fall of 1973 George Blaney flew me over Bethlehem in his airplane so I could take the aerial photographs. The town map on the front end paper was made by Peter Lovell, a student at Franconia College. Many of the postcards were lent by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mascaro, who own the Bella Vista on Main Street. Thanks to all others who loaned pictures for this publication.

Mrs. Floyd Brown deserves special credit for she spent hours and hours searching for historic items, with the assistance of Mrs. Forrest Nelson and Mrs. Harold Brown, in the various newspapers and magazines in the town's library.

Dozens of people allowed me to interview them and provided much of the information in this book. Thanks to all of them. No one should attempt to write a book on North Country history unless they print it at the

Courier Printing Company, Inc., under the eagle editorial eyes of Reginald M. Colby. His vast knowledge of regional history has been of great assistance to this specific work.

Finally, my wife Harriet and son Ethan deserve some thanks for all the hours I left them to work on the book. Almost every week- end since September and every evening for the past month found me working on some aspect of this history. Oddly enough most of the book was written in Northampton, Mass., where my in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hop- kins, entertained my family while I went to the local library to be alone with my piles of research notes. Mr. Hopkins is also to be thanked for showing me the story on the Beth- lehem Casino.

The picture below was made by the Fourth Grade class, taught by Mrs. Natalie Allen of the Bethlehem School, and has the theme, "Bethlehem of the Future." The men with antennas move about in an uncluttered en- vironment. It is difficult to predict what the future holds for us.



To enjoy the pure and sweet smells of Bethlehem
find the pine tree on the back end paper and
follow the instructions.