

BETHLEHEM  
NEW HAMPSHIRE,



# BETHLEHEM NEW HAMPSHIRE,

## A Bicentennial History

(Updated 1999 Edition)

*edited with introductory chapters by*

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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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## BETHLEHEM VILLAGE PRECINCT 1893-1974

By DORIS STEVENSON  
CLERK FROM 1943 TO 1972

For many years before the precinct applied for and received its charter in 1893 efforts were made to raise money for sprinkling streets, which at that time were unsurfaced, and for other purposes to improve conditions within the precinct. The requests were repeatedly turned down at town meetings due to the fact that the voters outside the precinct far outnumbered those inside. However, after three fires within three weeks, the precinct residents formed a fire precinct. The first fire-fighting equipment dated 1863 is on display at our fire station.

For some time the precinct had purchased water from the Crystal Springs Water Company, a privately owned concern formed in 1878 of which John G. Sinclair acted as agent. This company owned a water line from Gale River as well as numerous springs on Mt. Agassiz and Lewis Hill, including the Great Blandin Spring which is one of the most productive in the area.

In 1893 a committee was elected to investigate the possibility of additional water supply necessary because of the increases in population and the number of summer guests. A reservoir was constructed on Strawberry Hill and the Crystal Springs Company installed a pumping station on what is now the Robert Strauss property on Prospect Street, for the purpose of pumping water from a pond to the reservoir to be gravity-fed back to the village during the summer months. In 1895 an agreement was made with the company to receive more water for sprinkling the streets at a cost of \$300 a year for five years.

In 1903 the precinct purchased all water property of the Crystal Springs Company for

the sum of \$49,500. In 1916 a new reservoir was constructed and is still in use. Construction of the eight-inch Zealand Line was completed in the early 1930's. A chlorinating system was installed in 1949.

In 1954 there was heavy storm damage to the Gale River intake. When the repairs were made the intake was considerably enlarged, providing for a greater reserve of water. There was also extensive damage to this line in 1973.

In 1906 the precinct entered into a 99-year contract with Charles Atto and Albanus Thompson in which the precinct would furnish water for an ice pond (now Churchill Lake). The ice was to be sold only to residents of the precinct "at a cost of 2½¢ for a cake 17 by 17 inches square and of such thickness as the weather allowed."

In 1893 it was voted to establish a drainage and sewerage system to take care of the needs of the precinct. In 1899 it was voted to lay a main sewer line to the Ammonoosuc River. A study of sewerage treatment to conform with Federal and State laws was approved by the voters at the 1960 annual meeting.

In 1895 a committee of three was elected to look into the cost of building an electric power plant to furnish electricity for street and house lighting. A thorough study was made, and in 1899 the precinct contracted with the town to buy electricity to light the streets from the Bethlehem Electric Light Company for a period of five years.

In 1905 the precinct received permission from the State Legislature to elect three water commissioners, aside from the three precinct commissioners. Previous to 1893 the precinct covered a very small area in the center of town. Those living outside its boundary (upper Congress Avenue as an example) paid sewerage tax of \$4.70 per thousand valuation for the privilege of joining onto the precinct

sewer. It is interesting to note that the valuation of a typical family home was \$1000 to \$1500. In 1893 the size of the precinct was substantially enlarged, as it was later in 1911 and again in 1924.

The precinct was reorganized in 1925 under a new charter and became the Bethlehem Village District which gave the commissioners the powers within the district that selectmen have in town affairs. The Bethlehem Village District regulates the use of water, sidewalks, sewerage system, Fire Department, shade trees and highways within the district, and has played an important role in the development of the town over the years.

### FROM MY WINDOW IN BETHLEHEM

Though cloudy days invade my stay,  
And crisp the air, "So what?" I say,  
Come join me as I play a game,  
Each window here is a picture frame.

To the East, the Presidential Range we see,  
Purple and pink, horizons three,  
To the North the Daltons, going East  
and West  
To the South, our Agassiz, we love the best.

So come you days of cold and chill,  
We rest secure, as does our hill,  
Bethlehem's summer guests are gone,  
Winter's here with another song.

And as the seasons come and go,  
The guests likewise change too.  
One thing is sure, and all agree  
We're coming back to you.

Stasia Rawinski



## SCOUTING

By PHILIP B. LYSTER

The New Hampshire Boy Scout Council is divided into ten districts. Bethlehem is a part of the White Mountain District. Edward Robertson of Jefferson is the executive in charge of Scouting activities in this area.

The Bethlehem Scouts and Cubs were organized by Bill Houle in 1940 as Troop 230. Mr. Corbett, a retired Army officer, was the first Scoutmaster, and Bill Reardon was the first Cubmaster. The Scout Troop received first aid training under the able leadership of Scoutmaster Charles Whittier. In later years the training paid off when Bernard Sanborn received honorable mention for first aid work in a train wreck in the State of Washington. Scout Sanborn also represented the troop at the World Monetary Conference held at Bretton Woods' Mt. Washington Hotel. Scout Troop 230 received an award in World War II for collecting the most iron and paper of any troop in the White Mountain District. The project took four months.

In 1944 Scout Philip Lyster, Jr., attended the Phelmont Scout Ranch in Arizona for six weeks where he made a record growth of four inches in height. Charles Whittier was an assistant Scoutmaster on that trip.

A few years later the Bethlehem Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts participated in a parade in Littleton for Bette Davis which featured a movie premiere for this North Country lady who then resided in Sugar Hill.

Over the years the following men are among those who have done much to promote Scouting in our town: Scoutmasters Corbett, Charles Whittier, Philip Lyster, Sr., Leonard Greco, Russell Maguire, George Blaney and Henry Drapeau.

Perhaps the longest in continued service is

Philip Lyster, Sr., who became a Scout in 1912 and received one of Scouting's highest honors in 1969—the Silver Beaver. His citation reads in part: "An extremely active churchman for many years, he is currently on the Stewardship and Finance Committee, and the Committee for Christian Social Concerns. He served as usher and trustee for many years, and two years as a conference delegate. A town selectman for 12 years, he has always been active in town affairs. He is a 25-year veteran member of the I.O.O.F. and a 32nd degree Mason. A retired farmer and milk dealer, Mr. Lyster typifies the solid citizenry of northern New England . . ."

The late William Reardon, Sr., Elwyn Miller, Philip Lyster, Jr., Allan Jackson, Clem Hubert and many others have done exception-

ally good work with the Cub Scouts and they are to be highly commended.

Scouting in Bethlehem has really paid off in citizenship development and offers much to boys in camping, hiking, etc. The highlights in our area are the camporees and the Klondyke Derby which is held near Jefferson. The Derby offers competition in first aid, fire building and survival techniques. Locally, Scouts can qualify for camping, cooking, hiking and other merit badges at Midacre Farm on Wing Road.

Henry Drapeau is the current Scoutmaster and there are about 30 Scouts in Troop 230. For those who want to do a good turn for their community and nation, I highly recommend Scouting. It is a golden opportunity for service.



Bethlehem Girl Scouts preparing to sell Scout cookies.



## THE UPPERMOST HOUSE

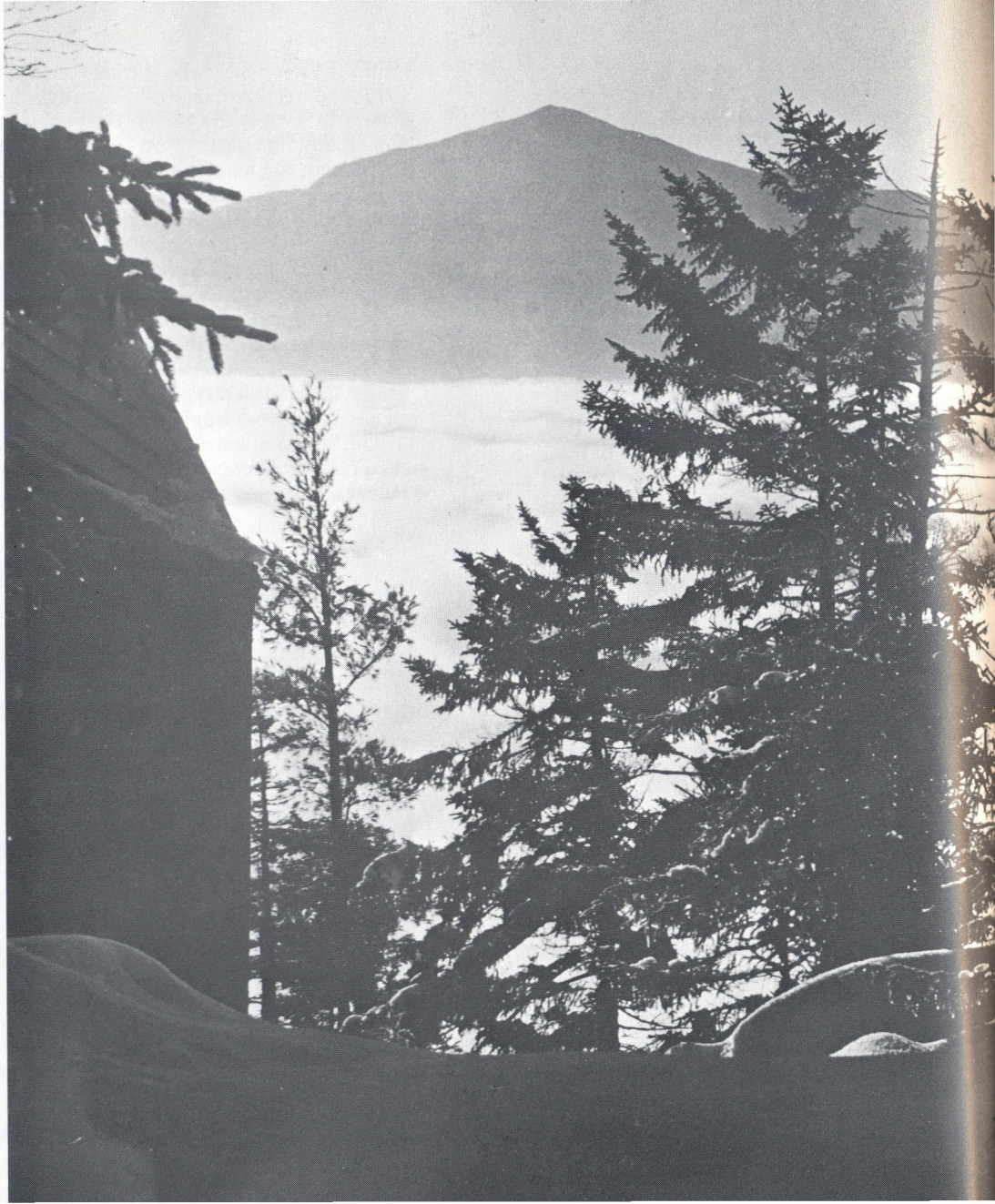
BY NICHOLAS HOWE

Bethlehem can make a little known but distinctive claim: within our borders is the highest home in the northeast quarter of the North American continent.

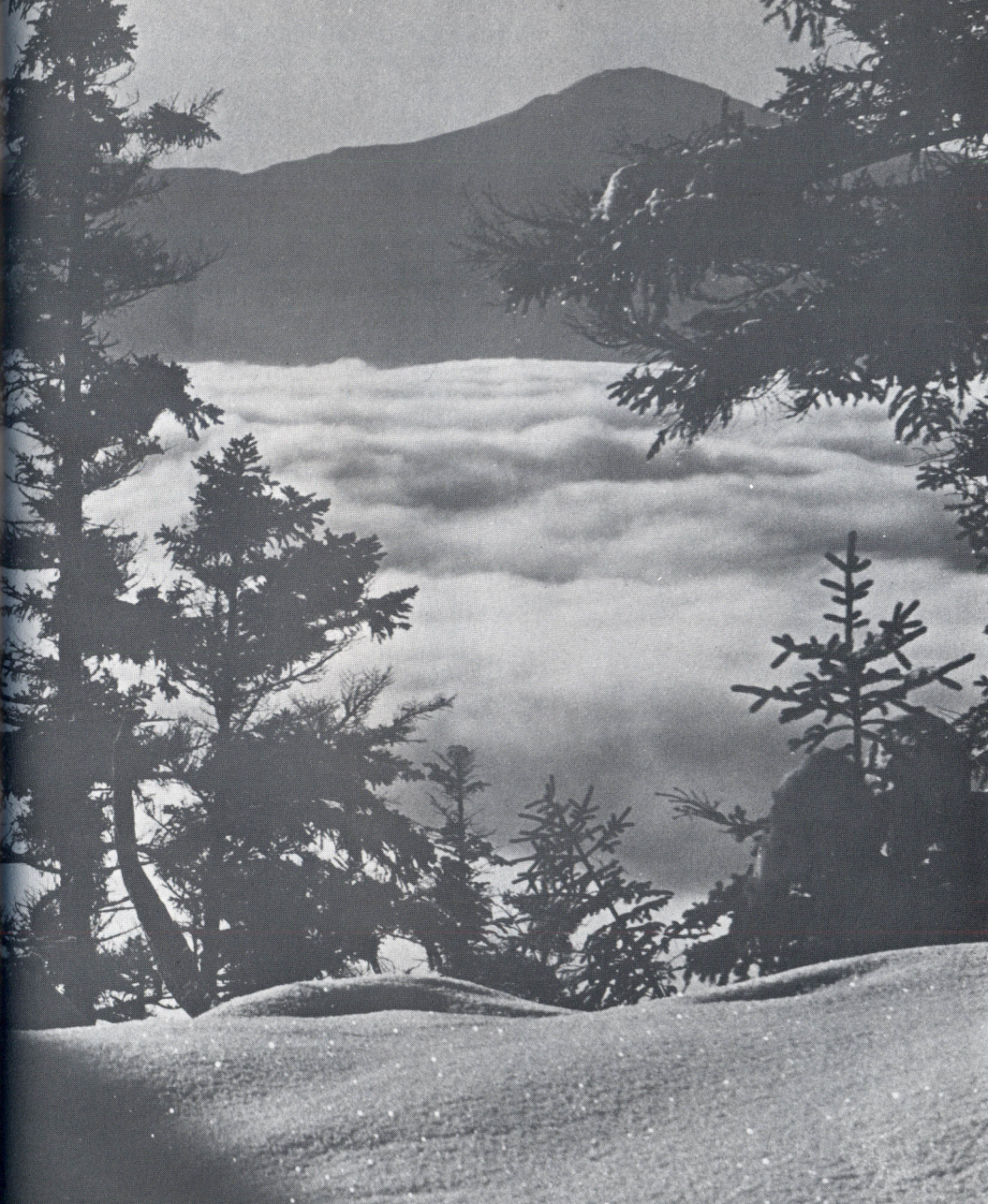
In 1967 I bought Cleveland Mountain and recklessly made plans to build a house on top. Since this spot was far beyond the last signs of civilization, builders and bankers alike expressed an understandably deep disinterest in the enterprise. Fortunately, an adventurous student of architecture at Franconia College offered his help for the next summer and we set to work as soon as the snow melted.

I found a long abandoned logging skid road, now more akin to a brook bed, and brushed it out to make way for my bargain-basement Bombardier tractor, a vehicle so ancient that the shop foreman at the Lancaster dealership could not remember even seeing one like it. The site we chose was atop a series of ledges falling away to the Gale River valley 1,200 feet below, fully exposed to both vertigo and the prevailing southwest storm winds; but recommended by a providential spring for water, and a view sweeping 300 degrees from the Presidential Range across the Twin, Garfield, Franconia, Kinsman, and Moosilauke Ranges, and the Easton Valley to Sugar Hill.

The first summer we drilled a total of 220 inches of holes into the granite and set the bolts which we hoped would anchor the house against the often violent winds. Then we hauled up some 20 tons of building material, the tractor more often propelled by faith than by any identifiable principles of mechanics, and framed a most improbably shaped structure. The floor plan is an unequilateral trapezoid, and it gets more complicated as it goes up. Fortunately, my "architect" was better







at geometry, and at sawing double angles, than I.

My one man contracting crew went back to school in September and I settled down in the shell, nothing but plywood sheathing, a plank roof, and plastic windows between me and what turned out to be the severest weather within memory—the Great Winter of '69. As the bumper stickers said the next Spring: "I survived . . ." But not by much.

Since then, insulation, clapboards, inside finish, a steel roof, and the Cleveland Mountain Power and Light Company (a diesel installation 200 yards back in the woods) have all contributed to a steadily rising standard of living. The days are past when my dog would come in, melt the snow on his coat by the stove, then lie down six feet away and freeze to the floor.

Nevertheless, life on the mountain is still not to be confused with downtown Bethlehem. I soon discovered that I had moved into what was evidently a very fashionable residential suburb for bears. The ledges around me have many caves and are carpeted with blueberries, an irresistible combination from a bear's point of view. But the summer of 1968 brought a terrible drought, and the berry crop failed entirely. Consequently, the bottom fell out of the ursine economy and they were reduced to chewing up my house for the glue in the plywood, which was apparently better than nothing. I couldn't afford this, so I set out kibble dog food every night until the bears' bedtime—350 pounds in all. We have had good neighborhood relations ever since.

Above the clouds on top of Mount Cleveland on a winter morning. The Howe home is at the left, with Garfield and Lafayette in the background. The next page shows a close up of the Howe home.





The weather is distinctive as well. During storms, the wind buffets the house so violently that at times a book on my lap jiggles too much for me to focus my eyes on the print. At times like this I remember that the bolts on the windward corner broke loose during construction and the footing is glued to the rock with epoxy, and I cross my fingers.

There are gentler moments as well. A family of goshawks lives just east of me, and each year they bring their babies over to learn to soar just beyond my porch. While I eat breakfast outdoors in the first warm spring mornings, the hawks fly their pedagogical ballet. First the father slides into the strong updraft which sweeps up from the valley, and leaps 500 feet with practiced nonchalance. Then the fledgling wobbles over from the nest, terrified, but encouraged by sympathetic clucks from the mother at his side. She nudges him from the stiller air into the invisible elevator and the baby is immediately upended. It falls out of the updraft again and again, each time the mother gently urging him to try once more. All the while the father hangs motionless far above, calling down directions to his hopeful but obviously far too permissive spouse. Finally, at the end of his patience at last, he swoops down and cuffs his ne'er-do-well child into the elevator, slapping him back in whenever he tries to slip away to easier air. By noon, the lesson is always learned.

Events like these punctuate the turning seasons, but the mountain divides each day as well. In the morning I walk down the trail to work in the valley, and each evening more slowly climb back home. Each day asserts itself, identifies itself to me. People often ask if it wouldn't be easier to live in a more practical house, closer to driveways and stores. They're right of course, but that's not all there is to it.



## A HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

BY RABBI SEYMORE BRICKMAN

The Jewish community of Bethlehem is primarily a summer community. It is only during the months of June through September that Bethlehem has a sizable Jewish population, although a handful of Jews reside here during the winter months.

Jews began arriving in Bethlehem in the early 1920's. They came from New York, New Jersey, Boston, Connecticut and other large urban areas of the East by train, bus and private automobile, primarily to obtain relief for their hay fever, asthma and similar respiratory ailments. They came on advice from their physicians who recommended Bethlehem as a pollen-free haven for hay fever sufferers. At that time the clear air of Bethlehem offered the only known remedy to the hay fever sufferer.

The earliest known record which marks the formal organization of the Bethlehem summer Jewish population is a framed listing of donors who contributed towards the purchase of a Torah (Biblical scroll) for use at worship services. The paper inside the frame reads: "List of Donators and donations contributed by the Jews of Bethlehem for a Torah . . . Season 1920." The contributions ranged from \$1 to \$25 with a total of 77 individual names recorded.

The earliest group of arrivals found shelter in local hotels, rooming houses and rented cottages. Soon a few purchased or built their own summer homes. The owners of these homes became permanent summer residents, returning year after year. This group of home owners became the nucleus of the Jewish summer community and from it sprang forth the Jewish community's leadership.



The joint leadership of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation and National Hay Fever Relief Association. Left to right: back row, Barney Rubin, Nathan Faber, Judge Jonah Goldstein, Joseph Rubenstein, Jacob Licht, Dr. Herman Blum, Philip Bassor and Mr. Gold; front row: Mrs. Nathan Faber, Mrs. Jacob Licht, Mrs. Joseph Rubenstein, Miss Sarah Masor, Mrs. Gold, Mrs. Philip Bassor and Mrs. Herman Blum.

At first, worship services were held in a store on Main Street or wherever space could be found. As the Jewish population increased it outgrew its makeshift quarters. A large suitable building on Strawberry Hill was purchased to better serve the increasing religious and social needs of the community. It is here where the major functions of the Jewish community have been conducted until the present day. A name on the Synagogue edifice reads Temple Israel. However, it is better known as the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation.

After the establishment of the permanent Synagogue a Rabbi was engaged to provide spiritual leadership and religious guidance. To the credit of the dynamic leadership, the com-

munity has not been without a summer Rabbi since its formal organization.

The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation was the center of Jewish life. It provided for the personal, social as well as the religious needs of its members and non-members. A kosher butcher store and grocery were opened to serve the population's special dietary needs. When it became known that there were a large number of Jewish school-age youngsters in town, Hebrew school classes were conducted on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. Teenage groups met in the evening for educational and social activities.

A small group of women joined together in forming a Sisterhood. At a meeting on September 12, 1938 the Sisterhood of the Bethle-



hem Hebrew Congregation was organized. Accurate records of the Sisterhood tell a history of community mindedness and religious interest. There were 25 charter members at the founding meeting of this group. Minutes of this first meeting report that the following were elected to office: president, Mrs. Frank Stein; first vice president, Mrs. William Heimowitch; second vice president, Mrs. Michael Bronstein; recording secretary, Mrs. Doris Levy; financial secretary, Mrs. H. Krulik; treasurer, Mrs. I. Silverstein.

The opening paragraph of the Sisterhood's constitution and by-laws outlines the purpose of the organization: "The object for which it was formed (Sisterhood) is to assist the congregation in its charitable pursuits and to sponsor social activities amongst its members and Bethlehem Jewry".

The Sisterhood became an active force immediately. Before the summer of 1938 was over, the enrollment increased to 40 members with \$22 in the treasury. During the summer of 1939 fund-raising activities began in earnest. The funds collected were used to furnish curtains, chairs, tables and other needed equipment for the social hall of the Synagogue. Prayer books and other religious items were purchased for the Sanctuary. Appeals were made at local hotels which responded. The following hotels were listed as having cooperated in the fund-raising activities: Sinclair Hotel, Howard House, Strawberry Hill, Grand View, Park View, Perry House and Maplehurst.

In 1942 during World War II women of the Sisterhood worked with the local Red Cross sewing circle. In September of 1944 the Sisterhood made donations to the Littleton Hospital. This donation became a regular cause of the Sisterhood. Today the Sisterhood allocates \$500 to the Littleton Hospital from funds raised during the summer months.

In 1958 the Sisterhood launched a cultural program called the White Mountain Festival of Music and Art. It received favorable comment from Mr. Jack Colby, editor of the Littleton Courier and from Governor Lane Dwinell. The successful beginning did not assure the permanence of this project and it was terminated.

The leadership of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation began to recognize the sizable number of indigent sufferers of hay fever and related respiratory illnesses who arrived in Bethlehem for relief, unable to provide for their own simplest needs. They therefore established in the late 1920's the Hebrew Hay Fever Relief Association. The camp, located on the Whitefield Road grew under the leadership of Sarah Masor, its present executive director. In 1950 the name was changed to the National Hay Fever Relief Association to clearly indicate its non-sectarian services. Today it accommodates approximately 100 children and older age sufferers during the hay fever season. The leadership of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation became the leadership of the Hay Fever Home. The Sisterhood of the Congregation continues to make substantial donations towards the upkeep of the home.

In recent years Bethlehem has attracted a

group known as Chassidim. These Jews are recognized by their unique dress which is Eastern European in origin. Many of these Chassidim are hay fever sufferers and come for relief. Others come to vacation in the beautiful White Mountains and to enjoy the air. They stay at hotels under Chassidic ownership and in cottages. This group formed its own Synagogue known as Congregation Machzekei Hadath. It is located alongside the Arlington Hotel on Lewis Hill Road.

The discovery of medication to relieve hay fever and asthma plus the help of air-conditioning no longer makes Bethlehem as attractive for hay fever sufferers as it had in previous years. However, beautiful scenery and clear air continue to attract a large number of Jews.

The Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation service is the center of Jewish life and activity under the leadership of Seymore H. Brickman, Rabbi, Bernard Rubin, president and Mrs. Leah Pessah as Sisterhood president.

Bethlehem today is a haven of relief not only to hay fever sufferers but also to countless other vacationers of the Jewish community who come here to rest, relax and enjoy the peaceful and wonderful mountains in the company of a fine group of friendly neighbors.





## THEY CAME TO BREATHE

By RUTH PACTOR

*With comments by Paul Pactor*

It was August of 1915 in Accord, New York when hay fever and asthma struck my mother, Sarah Herskowitz, full force. She was confined to her bed from August to November. After seeing many doctors and having many allergy tests, it seemed hopeless. She got worse every year and after a terrible bout with pneumonia, a very compassionate doctor advised my mother to go to the White Mountains. Where were the White Mountains? Nobody seemed to know. We were very poor and my mother told him she could not afford to go. "Even if you have to walk and live in a barn, you must go," he advised.

It was August, 1924 when we saw her off at the Grand Central Terminal in New York. When she arrived at the Littleton, N.H. railroad station, Max Glantz, who was a taxi driver and owned a rooming house in Bethlehem, approached her and asked her if she was looking for a room. She was in a strange town, knowing nobody and knowing of no place to stay. She went to Max Glantz's house and rented a room for the following six weeks which was the duration of the hay fever season.

Mr. Glantz, a Jew and a New Yorker, had also come to Bethlehem to seek relief from hay fever. His vocation in New York was in the printing field. Unable to work during the hay fever season, he came to New Hampshire and earned his livelihood renting rooms and driving a taxi. I believe his was the first Jewish rooming house in Bethlehem. It consisted of one dining room, one kitchen, about two or three ice boxes, two toilets and one bath. Each roomer had to make reservations for a bath as there was not enough hot water.

(Max Glantz's house on Congress and South Street is now owned by a young man, Harry Newell III, who with his brother, Michael, is opening a business remodeling kitchens and bathrooms.)

The roomers were all from New York suffering with hay fever and asthma in its worst form. These were people who were choking, wheezing or sneezing in New York, making their life impossible to endure, and who were getting almost complete relief in Bethlehem. They left their husbands and children for those six most critical weeks, giving up the conveniences of their own homes and apartments to live among strangers who couldn't understand this invasion from the big city. The scenery and the mountains were breathtaking, and the air was pure, but their minds and hearts were home feeling guilty that their working husbands and children were coming home every evening from hot offices and fac-

tories to an empty house with no mothers or wives to greet them and no meals prepared.

My mother was in her early 30's, but bent over she looked like a woman of 75. We couldn't believe the improvement when we came to visit her. I loved the New Hampshire cool, clean air and remember saying as I stood on the porch, looking at the beautiful scenery, that when I grew up and got married, I would come to Bethlehem every summer. Weren't we in America, the Land of the Free? We didn't need a passport, so why not?

My mother occupied a corner room downstairs as she could not climb stairs. On the upper floor was Mrs. Pashkovsky and her two daughters, Dora and Sylvia who had also rented a room. Dora was about my age and so I had a friend. Mrs. Pashkovsky is now my neighbor in the Bronx and until she moved to Co-Op City with central air conditioning in every room, she came to Bethlehem every year.



An 1874 Harper's Weekly cartoon making fun of hay fever patients on their way to Bethlehem.



Now that my mother was improving so well, she began to look for a house as an assurance for her old age. She was frightened at the thought of not being able to afford a summer in Bethlehem. In October of 1934 she bought the Jellison house on the corner of Congress and South Streets, called the White House. It had been rented to a Jewish family from Boston who ran it as a boarding house. My mother continued to call it the White House and started renovating and remodeling the residence.

One Spring, while in New York in the month of May in the early 1930's, my mother was again struck with asthma worse than in August 1915. This was called Rose Asthma. She lay with ice bags on her heart in bed gasping for breath, coughing and wheezing. Now that she owned her own house, she could come any time of the year. We took her to Bethlehem post haste. Lo and behold, she got

better relief in May and June than in August. She was painting, wall papering, cooking, and baking in the months of May and June.

By word of mouth, more young women with children learned of Bethlehem and the White Mountains. The poorer ones rented houses from the natives for the summer. The more affluent Jews, after coming to the hotels now owned by enterprising and hard working Jewish families, found that here in Bethlehem they could live and breathe, and started purchasing cottages.

I remember many people and families such as the Honorable Judge Jonah Goldstein of New York, who died in the Littleton Hospital a few years ago. He was very active in the Jewish community, hay fever home, and in the synagogue. His daughter, Beatrice, wife of Jules Gordon, was president of the Sisterhood for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Licht, proud parents of the Honorable Gov-

ernor of Rhode Island, owned a cottage on Jefferson Street. They were also active in the synagogue and the hay fever home. Mrs. Licht, now deceased, was exceptionally active in the Sisterhood. There was Mr. and Mrs. Nizer who owned the house on Strawberry Hill, parents of the now famous Louis Nizer who wrote the book, "My Life in Court." Louis Nizer presented their house to the synagogue in memory of his beloved parents to be the residence of our spiritual leader and his family, Rabbi Seymour Brickman.

Another family that came to Bethlehem were the Heifers of Chelsea, Massachusetts. They were very enterprising and an active family in the community. They also came because of allergy in the family. They started selling fresh fruits and vegetables, then bought out the Sanitary Market which is now the Quality Market on Main Street. They then opened up the first fish market.

I remember their daughter, Bertha, who died at the age of 29 in the Littleton Hospital. She was married to Sam who later took over the Quality Market. I also remember the Heifers' handsome son, Irving, who always helped his parents. He was killed in World War II. Ruth Heifer Monsein, another daughter, wife of Abraham, has a cottage on Pine Wood Avenue and also resides in Hallendale, Florida. There is another son, Dr. Heifer, who met and married the daughter of the owner of the one-time Strawberry Hill Hotel on Main Street. Mr. Heifer now owns the antique shop on Main Street.

About 1925 Mrs. Nathen Basin came to Bethlehem and after many years, Mr. and Mrs. Basin bought their own little cottage on Jefferson Street which they sold two years ago when they moved to Miami Beach. Nathen was very active in the synagogue and Mary was active in the Sisterhood.



A 1947 picnic at Forest Lake of persons who were summer tenants of the White House on Congress Street.



Another outstanding family in Bethlehem was Mr. and Mrs. Kurlander. They resided during the summer in a house on Agassiz Street. His daughter, Bea, and her husband still come to Bethlehem and occupy the same house.

When my mother died in the Littleton Hospital in 1964, the White House, their beloved rooming house, was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Jaffe. They continued to rent the apartments to Jewish people from New York.

The Jewish people who come to Bethlehem have been coming for many years. They are mostly the elderly now and very few are left. Our young Jewish families come no more. With antihistamines and air conditioning, they stay home with their husbands and children.

There were many families who came and I apologize to those whose names I have unintentionally forgotten. I depended solely on memory. I do recall some of the active and large contributors in the synagogue: Mr. Glantz, Mr. Basin, Mr. Asch, Mr. Leister, Judge Goldstein, Dr. Blum and Mr. Friedlander. Active in the Sisterhood, past and present are: Mrs. Rae Rubinstern, Mrs. Janet Blum, Mrs. Flora Berman, Mrs. R. Bassar, Mrs. R. Jaffe.

From their early arrival on the scene in Bethlehem, the Jews have always made a concerted effort to become a part of the community by offering their assistance, but this was not always readily accepted. Some of the activities included the year that Dr. Blum and Oran Davis, both now deceased, tried to institute something like the Berkshire Music Festival here in the White Mountains. One year they helped sponsor an art exhibit in the school on Main Street. Admission was free and all persons were invited to exhibit their paintings, sculpture and other forms of art.

At another time they invited the White Mountains Symphony to Bethlehem.

The Maplewood Hotel was still in existence and the local Catholic Church ran an entertainment function at the Casino to raise funds for church needs. Many contributors and entertainers who performed during this entertainment were of Jewish descent. Furthermore, the Sinclair Hotel, the Park View Hotel, the Alpine Hotel and the Perry House also provided members of their professional entertainment staff. Paul Pactor took part by performing at these entertainments. This went on for several years, and the Jewish community took a very active part in supporting the Catholic Church by providing the entertainment and in purchasing many tickets to make these events a great success.

No one can deny the importance of the Littleton Hospital in this particular area. It serves everyone. At a meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hebrew Congregation, Ruth Pactor made a proposal to run a bingo game every week, all funds collected to be contributed to the hospital.

At the time that this proposal was made, Mrs. Helen Gutterman was the president of the Ladies' Auxiliary. They got busy on this proposal, bingo became a weekly function on Monday night, and it has been run more than nine years. The admission charge was \$1.00 plus a very minimal charge for extra cards. All persons who participated—cashiers, ticket collectors, number announcers, callers, award givers—all worked as volunteers. All prizes were given out liberally so that there was a very wide distribution of winners among the people who participated. Initially, Ruth Pactor baked cakes and pies which were offered as prizes.

Over the years that these bingo games have been held, thousands of dollars have been giv-

en to the Littleton Hospital. Some of the men who helped with the bingo games were Barney Rubin, Joe Greenburg, Mr. Goldstein, Jules Gordon, Gus Langenthal and Ben Sand-

er. The Sisterhood is the center of the social life of the Jewish community. Mrs. Frank Stein was the first president of the Sisterhood, and it is now going strong with Lee Pesach. Mrs. Sara Brody has been a very active member for many years. Mrs. Ann Friedlander was president of the Sisterhood in the early fifties.

My husband and I have no hay fever or asthma, but we spend our summers in Bethlehem playing golf and enjoying beautiful Bethlehem with our friends.

Four generations of Jewish summer visitors, Mrs. Rebecca Herskowitz, Mrs. Sarah Herskowitz, Richard Pactor and Ruth Pactor.





## NATIONAL HAY FEVER RELIEF ASS'N.

BY MISS SARAH MASOR

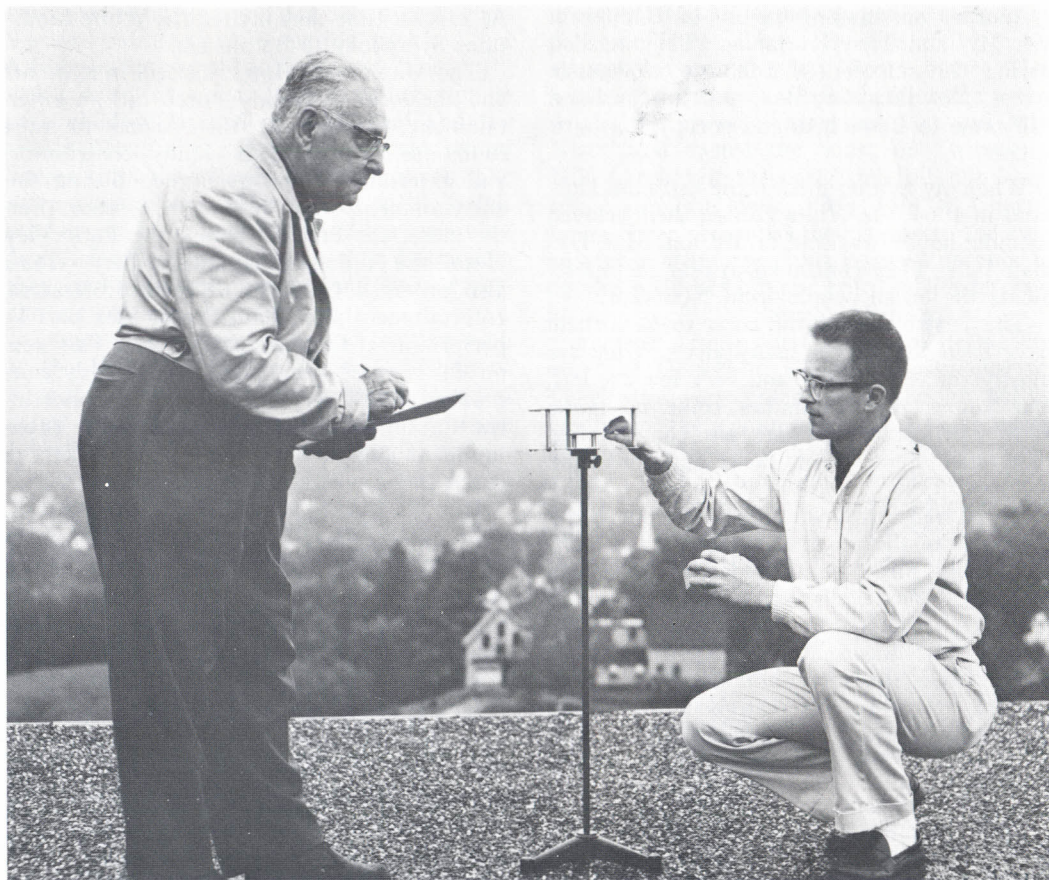
Statistics have revealed that about 10% of the population of our country suffers from some major form of allergy. Allergic diseases may involve any part of the body, and the systems most frequently involved are respiratory which include hay fever and asthma. Hay fever is caused by an allergy to the pollen of trees, grasses or weeds. The sufferer has paroxysms of sneezing, itching and weeping eyes, running nose, burning palate and throat. Nose, throat and ears may become infected, nasal polyps are made worse, and asthma is often a serious complication.

Asthma is a condition characterized by coughing, wheezing, and difficult breathing and is usually associated with a family history of allergies. Asthma may begin at any age and if neglected, becomes chronic and serious. The condition is made worse by emotional reactions to strain. Fortunately, it has been ascertained that the vicinity of Bethlehem, a pollen-free area, is of profound help in combating these ailments.

Recognizing the need of affording relief to indigent sufferers of these allergies whose every breath may be a torture during the Hay Fever season, the National Hay Fever Relief Association came into being. The idea of concerted action had to come from the ranks of the sufferers themselves, who were a group of dedicated philanthropic men and women who obtained relief from their afflictions at Bethlehem.

It was during the summer in the late 1920's that a meeting of involved individuals was held in Bethlehem supplemented by intermittent work in New York City. Funds were obtained to cover the cost of a 100 acre unencumbered farm with facilities suitable for the admission of indigent allergy sufferers.

The Association has progressed gradually



Dr. Herman Blum (left), research director of the National Hay Fever Relief Association, and Richard Daley, science teacher at Littleton High School, examining a ragweed pollen exposure slide on the roof of the Littleton Hospital. Dr. Blum, who passed away in 1973, spent many summers in Bethlehem and did much to encourage the scientific study of hay fever. He is also the author of *The Loom Has A Brain*, a book about the history of weaving.



and now points with pride to the construction of several new buildings, two artesian wells, a water drainage system, a recently constructed recreation hall as well as a modern camp for underprivileged allergy children. All necessary equipment and recreation facilities have been provided for the convenience and health of these needy victims. The home-like atmosphere maintained has evoked unbounded praise and gratitude on the part of the needy recipients, thus making it a haven for them.

It is through the dedicated work and efforts of our officers, directors, membership and numerous philanthropic and community leaders that the National Hay Fever Relief Association was able to function so effectively throughout the years. Dr. Herman Blum ranked among the top leaders. As research director of the Association, Dr. Blum's major activity, which received wide acclaim, was his inauguration of a pollen counting survey in the White Mountain region. Commencing with one station located at the Institution, this activity has expanded to many stations and is one of the most important publicity mediums in New Hampshire, giving authentic scientific information on the incidence of ragweed pollen in the White Mountain region.

Thus, through the kindness of the more fortunate, the sick, the weak and the poor are returned to better health.

In 1973 officers of the National Hay Fever Relief Association were: Jacob Licht, President; Dr. Herman Blum, (who died in the Spring of 1973), chairman of the board and research director and operator of five pollen counting stations in the White Mountains; Sol Ash, executive vice president; Mrs. Dorothy Rubin, treasurer; Jonas Leisten, secretary; Miss Sarah Masor, executive director. Headquarters in New York, 401 Broadway, 10013.





## ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

BY MARGARET CYR

The little country school played an important role in the early settlement of a town and Bethlehem was no exception. Each district had its own school and it was here the children gathered from the nearby farms, sometimes walking quite a distance.

One such school I attended was Gilmanton Hill located near the present Cyr Heating and Plumbing shop. It was comprised of eight grades but often there were not children for each class. It was here we learned a great deal from many fine teachers. Among them were Miss Annie Fahey from Twin Mt., Mrs. Mattie Hibbard from Littleton, and Miss Kelly and Miss Whitney from Franconia. There were others at a later period, including Mrs. Josephine Parker of Littleton and Mrs. Miriam (Fulford) Corliss of Littleton.

A box stove and a full wood shed kept us warm during the long winter days. Mittens and boots were placed on a mat under the stove to keep them warm. Later a zinc jacket was put around the stove for our protection.

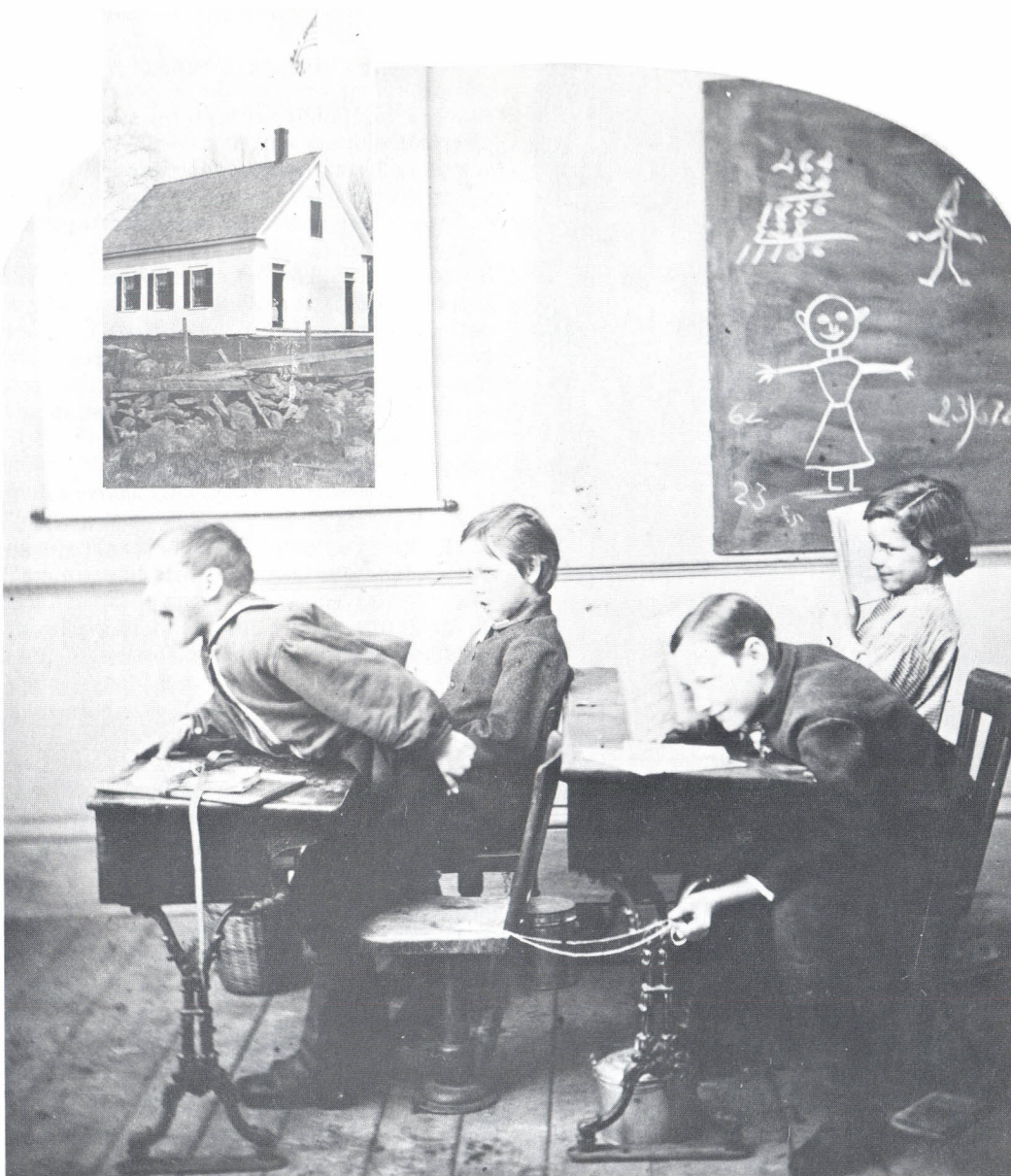
In one corner was the water crock with individual tin cups placed on nails above. Water was brought from a house nearby. Older boys usually did the janitorial work. The outhouse at Gilmanton Hill School, one for each sex, was not always accessible through the woodshed, so it was a walk outdoors to the back of the school.

One other school in our area was the West Hill near the Glessner estate. Mrs. George Glessner set up a library in this school during the summer months and the children from Gilmanton Hill walked to West Hill School on Saturday mornings to get books and enjoy a story read by Mrs. Glessner or a family member. At the end of the season, a party was



The interior of the Gilmanton Hill one-room school house about 1912. Left to right: Jennie Mills, Donald McLeod, Gertrude Spafford, Catherine Lehan, Reginald Barden, Stella Spafford, Hazel Jesseman, Malcolm McLeod, Elizabeth Cyr, Mary Cyr, Clarence Lehan, ? , and Margaret Cyr.





held at her estate for children of both schools. How delighted we were and what fun we had!

During the teens and nineteen twenties, Mrs. Glessner gave each child a very generous gift of their choice. Dolls, carriages, sleds and children's rocking chairs were often selected by the children, unless their parents influenced their decision to choose something more practical, like clothing. These kind deeds rendered by the Glessner family were much appreciated by children and parents.

Programs were frequent and I recall a Christmas one. It was held in the evening with lanterns hung about the room. The children were bubbling with excitement and a bit of concern for the role they were to play in the performance. In the middle of the program our Christmas tree fell over and amidst gales of laughter it was righted. However, it contained my presents, a dime on a pretty card, for each child. Normally I would have given them a small toy or gift but since I lived so far from town, this was not possible on this particular Christmas. The cards and dimes rolled out onto the floor into cracks and corners of the room. All this was finally straightened out and each little youngster went home happy.

Many Bethlehemites posed for the famous Kilburn stereopticians and the group at the left may include some of our town's children. Taken in the 1880's they are behaving quite unlike the children on Page 142 and Page 144. The Gilmanton School (upper left) and the 1906 photograph of the school (Page 144) at the corner of Lewis Hill and South Road were typical of Bethlehem's one room school houses.





My early teaching years were in rural schools. They were wonderful ones. We were like one big family with no bells or buses to interfere with our day. If we wished to extend classes or have a longer play period, we didn't upset any school routine.

I would like to cite an instance of responsibility and the fun of playing the teacher role by two of my eighth grade girls who held classes when I was snowed in and unable to get back from a weekend at home. The superintendent happened to visit that particular day, and they did so well it was recorded as a school day with no make-up. Needless to say, I was bursting with pride to think my little troupe rose to the occasion.

Looking back over my long career of 46 years teaching, mostly in one room schools, I feel deeply grateful for the cherished memories that these boys and girls have brought into my life. The joy of accomplishment seen in an upturned face leaves an indelible imprint on one's mind that lasts forever.



## BETHLEHEM SCHOOL 1885-1971

BY MELODY BROWN

In 1885 Bethlehem had nine school districts, 11 common schools and one grade school. There were 329 children attending school, 30 of whom were in the higher grades and were taught during the year by four male and 15 female teachers. The grade school at the east end of town was known as District 1. This was replaced in 1932 by a more modern building. In 1885 the people realized that the old fashioned District school was becoming a thing of the past so they elected a "Board of Education," who mapped out a course of studies for the new high school that would enable a graduate to enter college.

The first graduation from this high school was in 1889 and was held in Cruft Hall. There were six graduates and the hall was filled with spectators. Some of the Common District schools were at Gilmanton Hill, West Hill, Agassiz Hill, Lewis Hill Road, Cherry Valley, Bethlehem Hollow, Bethlehem Junction and South Road. These little schools had one small room lighted by about six windows. There was no electricity, so for a dark day the only light was by a kerosene lamp. Large blackboards were put on the walls, and the water pail and dipper were on a shelf in the corner. The desks and benches were long, with two or three students seated at each. The one room was heated by a large box-stove, and it was the duty of the boy living closest to the school to come early and build the fire. However, boys will be boys in any day and age. The boy would usually find some excuse to be late and the teacher would end up building the fire.

The average monthly salary for teachers was \$38.50 for males and \$21.90 for females. Not a sign of women's lib there! Some of the



Children resting in front of the original Bethlehem School on a summer afternoon before the turn of the century.





The School House about 1931. This building was torn down in 1932 and replaced with the present structure.

early subjects included writing, spelling, arithmetic, bookkeeping, geography, grammar, history, philosophy, algebra, botany and physiology.

During the first five years (1885-90) the general problems were with the teachers. In 1885 the schoolmaster in his annual report stated, "Measures could be taken to secure permanent and competent teachers, ones with the capacity for organization, leadership and

government as well as the aptitude to teach." Other problems came up in this period such as the hiring of a janitor, the purchasing of new books, and renovations in some of the schools. At this time a man was paid 50 cents per week for the care of the "privy." In 1893 District No. 3 was abolished because they had only one pupil. This happened often because at certain times of the year children would have to stay home to work. When a school got down to three students it was closed, and they were transported to another school. When the harvesting, etc. was done, the school would re-open.

During the 1890-95 period the biggest problem seemed to be with parents. The teachers insisted that parents must encourage students and visit the schools. Most of the teachers did not receive college educations; those who did were very lucky. They boarded at local homes and, as mentioned before, were poorly paid. Mrs. Hattie Taylor, the lady I interviewed, was taken right from high school to teach at the Agassiz Hill school. In 1893 contents for a museum were donated to the school by Charles A. Sinclair of Lunenburg, Vermont. A museum was to be built, also by him, but he died, so the collection was kept in an extra room until money was raised for an addition.

The big question during the next five year period was sanitary conditions. In 1896 water from public service was introduced for the benefit of the schools. Also needed was a furnace to take the place of the old box stoves. Finally these conditions improved and in 1898 the schools were reported as "never in better condition."

During the years from 1900-05 people were beginning to recognize the importance of schools. The pupils realized that close application to work brings good results. Maps, encyclopedias, etc. were purchased out of the



budget. An addition was added to the school for the collection donated by Mr. Sinclair. There were also thoughts of adding a laboratory for physics and chemistry.

The span of years from 1905-10 brought more parental problems. With enrollment only 6-10 pupils, the lack of inspiration which comes from healthy competition was apparent in the work of pupils and teachers. The low-average attendance was discouraging to everyone. Parents were very indifferent about sending their children to school. Because of these problems, many teachers wished to go elsewhere; consequently, the salaries of these teachers were raised. Also during these years three of the district schools were closed because of small attendance and lack of interest. They were little by little trying to centralize the schools.

In 1914 a new principal was hired and he was shocked at our ways. "Plenty of fresh water and suitable places for washing as well as drinking are recommended. Conditions are very primitive." The superintendent said school in 1915 should be extended to 36 weeks in order to agree with neighboring districts.

Many new things happened between the years 1915-25. One interesting fact was on enrollment. In 1919 there were 108 pupils, the daily attendance was 83.25 and the average absence was 7.76. The tuition paid out from Bethlehem that year was \$984.17. This sum was paid out to the Littleton, Whitefield and Bethlehem schools. Also during these years, they started giving arithmetic, reading and spelling achievement tests. The arithmetic was above average but reading needed more emphasis. All in all, the average at Bethlehem was higher than surrounding area schools. In 1922 hot lunches were started. They consisted of "well-watered down" soup and hot chocolate. They were hot, so everyone forgot about



A science class about 1952. Left to right: ?, Marjorie Blaney, ?, Patricia Gearwar, Henry Wilcox (chemistry teacher), Lynn Robinson, Alton Mosher, Bernard Burlock, Richard Thompson, Patricia Bonardi, William Reardon, Malcolm Campbell, Kenneth Hildreth, Charles Lavoie, John McCrea, Ralph Burlock, Benton Lyons and Bill McCrea.





the taste. The lunches cost the grand sum of 2 cents per student. In 1923 there was talk of consolidating the schools under one name—the Bethlehem School District. They wished to put the older students in one school so that more individual attention could be spent on each child.

The first basketball and baseball teams were started in 1923. It was stated that according to the size and number of the boys, they did very well. It was not stated how well! During 1927 school was maintained for

36 weeks. A notable improvement in attendance was shown this year. Also this year the school presented two plays. This was something new and provided good entertainment. Added to the school curriculum was a debating and drama club. Joint assemblies of classes also became weekly. These sessions would be on subjects of general interest and were well accepted by the students. At the annual meeting of the District in 1928 a vote was passed to have a committee report on the plans for a new modern school building. This

The last high school class to graduate from the Bethlehem School in 1963. Left to right: front row—Julie Moser, Sharon Nelson, Norma Bryar, Madalynn MacKay, Linda Charland and Sandra Drouse; back row—Steven Greco, Wayne Stone, Michael Whitcomb, Timothy Jackson, Donald Ross, Richard Robie, Bruce Brown, Alfred Corliss and David Louis.





A school trip to the Weathervane Theatre. Left to right: Andrea Inghram, Stephanie Blandin, James Seely, Donald Therrien, Russell Holmes, John Seely, Wanita Ordway, Deborah Duplissis and Diane Heald.

year basketball could not be played because of lack of space. A place for sports was badly needed and they considered this with the new school. The outstanding feature this year was the shortening of the noon hour from one hour and 10 minutes to 55 minutes.

The need for a new school building became greater in 1931. A study showed that a building capable of accommodating the children of the entire district for the present could be constructed and equipped at a cost of not over \$100,000. This year construction was started and finished on the new and present school. Gilman Hill School closed in 1932 so there was only one left, Bethlehem Jun-

tion. The school board considered closing it, but recognized a petition by the people of that area. However, by the end of this year the school was closed and now all students were under one roof.

In 1934 there was a question of school program expansion. There was too much leisure time for all classes of people of all ages. Should Bethlehem expand the program with courses in Home Economics and Mechanical Arts? Should it start evening courses for the benefit of adults? The citizens were asked to ponder this question. During these years a good many graduates were furthering their education. It was reported in 1935 that the majority of students were doing creditable work in their respective colleges.

Between 1940-50 the school steadily improved. The ranking cards were thought inadequate by the teachers, so a new form was put into use. The extra-curricular program improved. More plays were given, more students enjoyed sports, and many clubs were formed. In 1943 a band was organized and lessons were offered for the first time. During 1942 and 1943 basketball and baseball were not possible because of the low gas ration because of the war and there was no class trip that year. In 1947 the list of extra-curricular activities included basketball, baseball, softball, skiing, track, music, dramatics and socials.

The class trip of 1950 was a big event. The seniors worked all year so they were able to travel to New York and Washington, D.C. Many of these students had never been out of Littleton and Bethlehem so this was a once-in-a-lifetime chance. In 1954 a new hot lunch program offered a well-balanced meal for 25 cents per day. In 1958 the most vital problem facing the school district was the future of the high school. A number of public meetings



was held to let the citizens know the problem and possible solutions for it. No decision was made that year. During 1963 a radical change took place. As a result of a town vote, Bethlehem High School was closed officially on June 30 and all high school pupils were tuitioned to neighboring schools. In 1968 there were 71 enrolled in Littleton, one in St. Johnsbury Trade School and one at White Mountain Regional. That year the tuition rate for Littleton was \$609.

In the fall there were 200 students enrolled at the Bethlehem Elementary School. Several new courses have been added: a small motor course, secretarial course, drug program, rocketry and foreign language. As of this year, there is an overcrowding problem. The library does not have the proper space or facilities. So, again comes the idea of consolidating the schools and making a regional school.

A school field trip. Back up and down rock: Steve Stone, Mike Lyons, Mickey Wingate, Bucky Nelson, Mickey Styles, "Junior" Roy, Sean Guider, Debbie Heald, Susan Kilde, Linda Therrien and Kelly Teller; back, sitting—Mike Blandin, Scott Stevenson and Cindy Holmes; front—Donnie Sargent, Richard Sanborn, John Kocik (teacher), Amy Gifford and Garcia Woodward (a Franconia College student teacher).





## BETHLEHEM SCHOOL TODAY

BY JOE MAY

Many stories have been passed along to me about what life was like in the Bethlehem School many years ago. When these stories were told to me, it was not really too difficult to see the remarkable similarities in problems that modern day "educators" face. In the earlier days, education took place in several isolated, small, one-room school houses. Some of these buildings are still standing, while some of the foundations are slowly filling in with leaves and other debris.

Six years ago, Bethlehem School was just a school in the town where I chose to bring my family and where I planned to raise our children. Six years ago, the school really entered my life and since entering my life, it has become the next important entity in my life.

The last six years have seen many changes in our school. Most dramatic of all changes has been the rapid increase of the school population. The school now contains 275 students, grades K-8—actually 100 more students than when grades 1-12 were at the school. Although there have been many opinions expressed on what should or should not have

been done years ago concerning maintaining the high school here, the fact is that the Bethlehem School could not, as it stands today, house 365 students in a safe and productive manner. The school population has increased 100 students in the last four years, and projected figures give no indication of a change in this trend.

The faculty at Bethlehem School has had to face many changes in teaching techniques. Individualization has become the key word in modern education. Although many philosophers in education have been stressing individualization for years, courage has finally



The Bethlehem Kindergarten. Left to right: table on right, Nancy Lyndes, Timmy Clark, Melody Derrington, Matthew Ritchotte; table on left, Jacqueline Garneau, Chris Sanborn, Mrs. Pauline Keach, Tony Bilodeau and Mark Degreenia.



been found, along with techniques, to make it a reality at our school in Bethlehem. Many techniques that have been discovered that allow individualization are certainly not conventional. As techniques have been developed in the Bethlehem School, the processes have definitely not become the same. As there are differences in students, there are individual differences in teachers. Individual self-style in teachers is as varied as individual differences in students.

One of the most important outcomes of individualized programs is the discovery of the talents of the children and the discovery of the problem students are having with their academic as well as social development. Classes have also become more student centered. The

student himself becomes the center of the activity and consequently his own self esteem is built up.

Our community has become heavily involved in this program of individualizing programs for students. Many mothers from the community give tutoring to individuals and small groups. Students and faculty from Franconia College have served as excellent resource personnel.

Many other resource people from the surrounding towns have also come to teach music and give lectures of true scientific, social, and community value. Many mini-courses have been devised, and have fulfilled their purposes for students. Some examples: guitar lessons, photography, small office secretary skills, home economics, small motors, rocketry, skiing, hiking and climbing (ecology and science), garden and composting. In the area of Career Education, police work, home building, road building, automotive industries, nursing and hospital courses, movie making, farming, veterinary and forestry have given students insights for their future. Some summer programs included Enrichment and Remedial Math and Reading, Art and Ecology field trips.

These entities do not come all at once and cost little or nothing to implement. Some may

say they are a waste of time. If a careful analysis were to be made, all of these entities, which appear to be frills, allow students to discover things otherwise only read about. They bring fantasies to life and expand the number of entities involved in every exposure encountered.

Academics become real and irrelevancy drops by the wayside as each school entity course or career experience builds towards the future, not the past and the present. Mindlessness and wastefulness are kept to a minimum in modern education if the programs are handled properly. An exact record of skills achievement will follow the child through his K-8 years. With skills cards as a basis for the student's progress, we have an extremely accurate record of what the child can do or cannot do. This method of education is much more clinical than one would realize.

It is the desire of the faculty of the Bethlehem School to develop this program with community involvement and understanding. Many students have gone through schools; few have really discovered their potential and many have even had their self-esteem seriously lowered. We of the Bethlehem School are striving to change this situation by providing the children of Bethlehem with the optimal type of education.



A field trip to the mountains during the summer program. Left to right: Ward Ordway, Brian Charland, Chris May, Danny Lavoie, Peter Marshall, Henry Von Vorise (Franconia College student teacher), Kenny Reardon, Ritchie McNeil and Jimmy Reardon.



## THE WHITE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

*Formerly St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains*

BY LINDA DAVIS

In 1936 on the 50th anniversary of its founding, St. Mary's School for Girls moved to Bethlehem. A small boarding and day school, St. Mary's was established in 1886 in Concord, N.H., through an affiliation with the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Its purpose originally was to educate the daughters of clergymen and other girls desiring a preparation for post-secondary learning. A strong Christian upbringing as well as concentration on cultural development became central emphasis at St. Mary's School. The school, small in size and close in spirit, drew students mainly from New Hampshire and other New England states. Many were attracted to the comfortable, stately dwellings on Concord's South Main Street because of the School's "urban" setting and the proximity to St. Paul's Church.

Of the first three head-mistresses, two were women well-acquainted with the North Country of New Hampshire—Miss Isabel M. Parks of Littleton, principal from 1898 to 1919; and Miss Mary E. Ladd of Lancaster, head of the School from 1919 to 1931. But it was not until another New Hampshire woman became the fourth principal that the School moved to its present North Country location.

When Mrs. Clinton A. McLane, then and now of Milford, accepted the principalship of St. Mary's School in 1931, the problems of urban progress hampered the School's educational advancement. Traffic on Main Street increased, more encroachments on playground and classroom property occurred—the town of Concord seemed to close in on the School. So, with vision and courage, Dorothy McLane

decided that the School should move to the mountains.

First, Mrs. McLane moved St. Mary's to the Poole residence on Sugar Hill for the year 1935-36. During that year arrangements were completed with Mr. and Mrs. Eman Beck of Bethlehem for the School to purchase their estate known as "Seven Springs."

As part of its new venture, the School added an important dimension to its program, one that also became a harbinger of its future—appreciating the natural, outdoor life. Mrs. McLane spoke of this feature in 1935: "St. Mary's will not only continue to maintain the recognized high standard of scholarship which it has always enjoyed and lead girls towards constructive and happy living, but the new location will add to unlimited opportunity for freedom and out-of-door life." Riding, skiing, mountain climbing, and biking all became possible, where they had not been available in Concord. The blue parkas of St. Mary's girls became omni-present on the ski trails at Cannon Mountain!

In 1944 "Aunt Dot" McLane resigned her position, knowing that in a little more than a decade she had guided St. Mary's through a major readjustment, she had adapted the School to the demands of a change in a new environment, and she had brought to her girls the unique benefits of the North Country.

Her successor was Mary Harley Jenks, a woman of considerable academic prestige. Miss Jenks continued the pattern of leadership by expanding the physical facilities and size of St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains and by strengthening the academic curriculum.

For a decade "Seven Springs" had been the only building incorporating all the activities of St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains. Miss Jenks foresaw the need to enlarge the living quarters and ultimately to expand classroom

space. So Vaillant House, part of the original Beck estate, was first rented, then purchased to provide room for fifteen more girls and three teachers. The attached stable became the gymnasium. This expansion was quickly followed by the acquisition of Hill House, through the continued benevolence of the Beck family. Remodeling this comfortable, rambling home enabled the School to add more girls and faculty. In the Main House a second dining room had to be added and the infirmary enlarged, taking former dormitory space.

But in her first five years as Headmistress, Miss Jenks increased the enrollment to 60 boarding girls. Five years later the enrollment had exceeded 70.

However, more students meant increased pressure on the rooms set aside in the Main House for classrooms. In the chemistry lab in a subterranean cellar room girls experimenting with chlorine gas frequently smoked out students who were studying World War I in an adjacent closet-classroom!

So, for the first time, St. Mary's embarked on a major fund-raising campaign, and in 1957 Miss Jenks and the Trustees enjoyed the deep satisfaction of seeing students in a brand new classroom building linked to the Main House by an attractive, sunny, glassed-in passageway. An all-purpose auditorium enabled plays, musicals and concerts to be performed on campus instead of in local halls, thus permitting the School to become hostess for more local community interchanges.

In the post-World War II era the academic program of St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains underwent considerable change. More rigorous college admissions policies and a national trend toward more opportunities for advanced education for women convinced Miss Jenks that the General Course should be abolished



and St. Mary's should specialize in college preparatory education. She also strove to hire more married couples as teachers to offer strong academic courses and a family atmosphere, instead of continuing dependence upon all-female faculties. One such couple, joining the School in 1947, was Fred and Mary Steele, who celebrated their 25th Anniversary of teaching at St. Mary's in 1972, and have been long-time residents of Bethlehem.

On Sundays St. Mary's traveled en masse to attend services at All Saints Church in Littleton or at Ivie Memorial Chapel in Bethlehem. Since the School had no chapel of its own, the students and faculty participated in local church services for many years, even though the girls usually outnumbered the local congregation. With the School's strong

choral music tradition, it was natural for the St. Mary's "choir" to become the church choir for the service.

In her fifteen years of leadership, Miss Jenks always tried to achieve "quality" in every change and every action. To her this meant quality in intellectual performance and quality of personal integrity. She held out to her students the need to reach the highest of ideals in every part of human existence.

In 1959 Miss Jenks turned over the reins of leadership to a successor who broke precedent at the outset by being a man! The Trustees chose John C. McIlwaine, formerly a teacher of French and a housemaster at St. Paul's School in Concord for ten years. Mr. McIlwaine brought with him an attractive family of four children and wife, Debby.

Believing that a family influence at the helm of the School would be a positive asset, the Trustees decided that now was the time to build a separate home for the headmaster, one that could also be used for social functions for the School. The same style of field stone and white clapboard, so appropriately New England, that was consistent with "Seven Springs" and yet modern and forward-looking for a school, characterized both the new classroom wing and the new residence.

The McIlwaines carried forward the School's continuing commitments to high-quality academics, to religious development, and to the outdoor life. John McIlwaine is an avid ornithologist, an Audubon member, a tennis player and an enthusiastic mountain climber. His own commitment to the respect





and appreciation of the natural world was transmitted to the students on numerous expeditions and provided the foundation, along with that of Fred Steele, for a concentrated emphasis upon science. This growing concern evolved into the building of a Science Wing in 1962 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the School. The wing extended off the classroom wing, housing chemistry, physics and biology labs on the upper level and a projection room in the lower level.

On January 3, 1964, flames licking 100 feet into the black, early morning sky destroyed the Main Building of St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains, the entire estate known as "Seven Springs." The fire was discovered about 4 a.m. by both John McIlwaine, Headmaster, and Ernest Chase, the beloved Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Chase attempted to enter the blazing building to reach the fire hose near the Great Hall, but he was forced back by thick smoke and spreading flames. Mr. McIlwaine called the Littleton and Bethlehem fire departments, whose prompt arrival and untiring efforts were solely responsible for keeping the fire from spreading to the new classroom and science wings.

Despite this heartbreaking loss for all who know the School, all were thankful that the fire occurred during the Christmas holiday so that no one was occupying the Main Building at the time of the disaster and thus no lives were lost or injuries incurred.

While sixty girls went to live at Peckett's on Sugar Hill, a capital fund-raising campaign was mounted and construction on a new major re-building project began. On May 15, 1965, a little over a year since the holocaust, The Rt. Reverend Charles F. Hall, Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire, dedicated the new \$250,000 dormitory on the campus as

the completion of the first phase of the over-all million-dollar project.

Named for the late Dorothy W. Burroughs, chairman of the Board of Trustees, Burroughs House would house fifty students and several faculty families, thus permitting the Main Building to be utilized solely for school activities. The work continued on the core facilities that summer, and, when School opened its doors in the fall of 1965, a gleaming white new Main Building greeted the eyes of 96 boarders and eight day students, a total of 104 girls. John C. McIlwaine had not let any mere problem like a major rebuilding task to deter him from his excellent work in attracting students.

In fact, his work in increasing the population of the School was so effective, and the new, modern campus so appealing, that the Trustees decided to build a second, new dormitory in 1968. This was named Carter House in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Eliot A. Carter of Nashua, New Hampshire, faithful supporters of the School. The enrollment expanded to 110 students with 10 day pupils from the Littleton-Bethlehem-Franconia area, the largest enrollment the School had ever achieved.

When John McIlwaine retired in 1970 after eleven years of leading the School through a period of major crisis and growth, he could well be proud of the impact his work had had on the life of St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains.

However, in the early 1970's changing social and economic influences began to adversely affect St. Mary's-in-the-Mountains. A national trend away from boarding schools, a pattern of social liberalization among young people, a recession in the economy—these and other factors contributed to a lessening demand for what a small, isolated, single-sex school could offer in the educational spectrum.

During this time the Trustees began to look closely at what role the School should play in the new world of the Seventies. As the Board studied the need and the ways and means of change, the Headmaster's role was assumed by Headmaster Donald Hagerman of Holderness School on an acting basis, assisted by Arthur Ingraham, III, for a two-year transitional period.

In 1971-72 the Trustees unveiled their carefully - analyzed decisions regarding the vital changes St. Mary's must make. They announced: 1) the School would become co-educational and non-denominational; 2) the name would be changed to The White Mountain School to become more descriptive of its location and new programs; and 3) new directions in philosophy and program to capitalize on the total environment would be fully implemented and publicized. At the same time a new headmaster, E. Charles Sanborn, was found to carry forward the Trustees' goals.

Basically, the new directions, or "New Horizons," featured a strong commitment to integrating the outdoor life as fully as possible with the total education at the school — academic, physical and spiritual. Especially strong in the natural and physical sciences, The White Mountain School, under "Chuck" Sanborn's leadership, is an environmental school as well as a college preparatory school.

With these changes the School has succeeded in overcoming its economic crisis, for in 1973-74 it had regained strength in numbers by achieving an enrollment of 115 students, an all-time high. The ratio of boys to girls in just two short years of full coeducation had reached parity with a 50-50 balance. With a talented faculty and strong leadership, a physical plant that is totally modern and an inspiring location in Bethlehem, The White Mountain School, looks forward to growth.