

Alice Ward Town Columns, transcribed from originals held at the Madison Library
Transcription by Jo Adams, proofread by Mary Kennefick

Sept. 1, 1974

Is this your favorite time of year? If so, then you, like us, have probably attained that period when Labor Day no longer means "school days, school days" and the end of summer, but rather golden days of September and October. Robert Browning's words run constantly in one's mind:
"Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be.
The last of life for which the first was made."

And for those who cannot fully enjoy this season, because winter follows, the rest of that stanza is equally applicable:

"Our times are in His hand,
Who saith, "The whole I planned,
Trust Me, nor be afraid."

Well, enough of this rhapsodizing. We must get down to the gleanings of the past week.

Is anybody interested in giving parts of her mornings to volunteer service with little tots? The Pooh Corner Kindergarten is in need of someone to help with the nursery-age group. The Kindergarten will start September 9th, and will be in session daily from 8:30 to 11:30. It would be nice if several volunteers could share those hours. Contact the new Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Henry Forrest, if any of you are willing to help in this worthwhile project.

Edith Kennett is home from the hospital, and staying with her daughter, Joan Sherwood. She says her sight improves from day to day. Edith asked me to express her thanks to all the nice people who send her cards or visited her in the hospital. A lovely and unusual begonia plant was sent by the Madison Church, and this also was greatly appreciated.

The weekly trip to the supermarket provides one with more than groceries. It is a great place to meet friends, and collect news of their doings. Last week I met Betty Lyman there, and she told me of two family reunions which her family had attended. The first one was August 18th, at the old Fickett homestead on the East Madison Road. Fifty-six Fickett "cousins" were present. A week later, the Shackford family reunion was held on the lawn at Al and Betty Lyman's house. Fifty family members and seven guests attended this one. We drove by their house that Sunday afternoon, when everything was in full swing. They all were surely having a wonderful get-together.

On our way back to the car with our load of groceries, we encountered Harry Penberthy, and he walked over with us to tell another bit of news. On September 1st, he and Viola are celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their son, Alan, with wife and family, is here from New York.

Their daughter Constance, and husband, (Mr. and Mrs. William Harmon) and family, from Connecticut, are also expected. So there will be a family party of fifteen who are enjoying a celebration dinner at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway.

At the Hocking's there is the usual buzz of happy activity. Penny was hospitalized last month, but is fully recovered and was back to work last week. She is coming home for the holiday weekend. Edward Kracke is still in Chicago, but is so much improved that he may be able to travel East by the middle of September. Richard and Kay are entertaining somewhat unexpectedly, their five-year old grandson, Samuel Farwell, over this weekend. Sam's sister, Sarah had a week's visit in Madison earlier in the summer. So Sam felt he should be accorded "equal time." Last Friday, Sam and Richard went riding on the North Conway Scenic Railroad, while Kay was busily preparing for dinner guests. We have not heard which one enjoyed the trip more. (Like the old story of "Taking Johnny to the circus!")

The Old Home Week Committee celebrated the end of the season with a covered-dish supper last week. We know, of course, from the number of participants and spectators, that it had been a successful week so far as the activities were concerned. However, it was good to learn that the week was a financial success, also ~ even the Bean Hole Supper which nearly got rained out.

Malcolm McNair's family have been visiting him in relays these past few weeks. Bob and Edie were in town during Old Home Week. Following that, the Malcolm McNair, Jr.'s were there. Last Wednesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. George Shaw from Durham, were dinner guests at Mac's house.

Many of our townspeople have been much concerned by the report of a serious automobile accident involving Mr. and Mrs. Dale Parker and their family in Michigan where they now live. Dale Parker is Carlos Parker's nephew, and his wife, Arlene, is the daughter of William Harmon. All of their friends will be glad to hear that Dale and three of the children, although injured, have been released from the hospital. The youngest boy has been operated on for a ruptured spleen, but is expected to be up and around in a week or so. Arlene, whose injuries were of the back and neck is still hospitalized. Dale's sister who also lives in Michigan is taking care of the family.

Arthur and Lou Gilman's household has quieted down after a busy summer. The four, and part of the time six, boys who were with them for most of July and August, have returned to their homes and schools. Lou's biggest piece of news was that their daughter, Isabel Pedulla, had been released from a three week stay in the hospital. Isabel had a badly broken arm and other injuries as a result of an automobile accident in July. Her arm is still in a cast, but she is able to oversee her home necessities.

May, Cliff Ward, Jr., and Steven went with us to the Barnstormers for the last play of the season. "The Voice of the Turtle," a relatively simple little story of a soldier on leave and two

young actresses, was enlivened by clever and perfectly natural dialogue and situations. We all enjoyed it greatly, especially Steven, who was one broad grin during most of the evening.

Just as this column was being put together, Helen Hatten and her sister, Betsy Woods, dropped in. They had been on a hike, they said "between pickles." It seems that Alice Harmon had given their mother "an unbelievable number of cucumbers," which Virginia was thriftily converting to bread-and-butter pickles. The girls had helped to the point where the pickles had to marinate for three hours. That three hours was approaching an end, so Helen and Betsy only stayed long enough for a glass of water and a quick tour of our old house before heading for home. We hope the pickles turned out well, as Helen promised us a jar.

Since it is now September, and many of the "first of the field" are being harvested, may I remind you again of the October fair for the benefit of the Pooh Corner Kindergarten? Any kind of pickles or preserves will be a most welcome contribution.

(Special note) The annual Parish Meeting of the Madison Church will be held at the Town Hall at 6:30 P.M. on September 13th. There will be a potluck supper, followed by the business meeting. Everybody is urged to attend.

Sept.8

"The rain, it raineth all around,
It rains on field and tree,
It rains on the umbrellas here,
And on the ships at sea."

Perhaps the ships at sea, being wet anyway, don't mind a little more dampness but our fields and trees have been so well soaked down lately that we can't even console ourselves with the thought "the farmers need the rain." Cliff said the other day that his tomatoes would appreciate a little sunshine to ripen properly. Just as I was writing this, the sun came out! How's that for service!

This week's column took a bit of scavenging, as the after Labor Day lull sets in. However, by inquiring here and there, we learned that our townspeople are still finding interesting things to do.

James and Carla McGonigle are announcing with joy the arrival of a new baby daughter. Little Kathleen was born Monday, September 2nd, at Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds and seven and a half ounces. Her mother says she is "perfect" in every way, and as Carla is already at home, we know she must be well, too. Our congratulations to all the family.

Jesse and Ruth Shackford left last week for a vacation at Deer Isle in Maine. We were told "they didn't know when they would return." Everyone wishes them a happy and well-earned vacation, but they will be sadly missed if Deer Isle proves to be enticing.

Project Undercroft is the name of the campaign for the proposed addition and renovation of the Madison Church. Margaret Hayford, chairman of the committee, reported substantial progress on this project, with almost \$19,000 already pledged toward the goal of \$50,000. A meeting is planned for September 9th at which Margaret expects additional pledges will be brought in.

Hiram and Gladys Jones have a new house in the process of construction, on Maple Grove Road, opposite the old Granville homestead where they now live. The foundation and the sub-floor are already installed. It will be most interesting to watch the new house take shape.

Lisa Hayford, who graduated from Kennett High School last June, has enrolled in Manfield Beauty Academy in Portland to study cosmetology. She is a bit homesick, since this is her first time away from home, but has a very comfortable and convenient place to live, and her new studies are engrossing and enjoyable.

We stopped by Grafton Ward's orchard Saturday afternoon to get some early apples, and found Olive there all alone, although she said there were some pickers working up on the hill. Grafton, she said, had slipped off a ladder three days ago, and broken his ankle and heel bone. Dan Feuerborn who lives in the Orchard house and is Grafton's chief assistant, is hospitalized for a gallbladder operation. So Olive is "chief cook and bottle washer" so far as the apple sorting and packing is concerned.

It seems as if reports of our friends being ill or in accidents have been arriving thick and fast of late. So we are glad that in some cases there is a definite improvement. Edith Kennett's eye sight is getting better day by day. Lee Drew is out and driving his truck again, and Marion Weston is home from the hospital and moving around with a walker. Margaret Blake expects to get home by the end of this week. No further word of the Dale Parker family has reached us, but we trust that their news is of the best possible under the circumstances.

The Ward Madisons are back in town again after nearly a month. They had a week's stay at Lake George in New York State for a reunion of Miriam's family. Thirty members of the family gathered there, and it was a time of great enjoyment for all. From there, Ward and Miriam went to Haverford, Pennsylvania, to put the finishing touches on their house which has been readied for new tenants. They hope that this will be the final trip for awhile, as they are anticipating, with joy, the autumn in New Hampshire. From Saturday until Thursday this week, they will be entertaining house guests from Australia. Catherine and Paul Johnson has until recently been a teacher in the Fiji Islands.

After the close of the Barnstormers season, Mrs. Ruth Henry gave a farewell luncheon for Deborah Buckley and Angela Kennedy Sladen. Deborah Buckley has gone to the United Nations

to audition for the Old Vic Company in London. Angela Sladen was Mrs. Henry's former neighbor. (Remember when the Kennedy family lived at The Majors?) She has now returned to her home in California.

P.J., Katherine and Margaret Holmes have just returned to Silver Lake after a week in Canterbury in Quebec province. Margaret says they are related to almost everybody in that town. Their hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Willie MacLeod, and they had visits with many other friends and relatives. They also looked up several old cemeteries, where older family members were buried. Margaret also reported one rather hair-raising item about that section of Quebec. Due to extensive logging operations, some areas are almost devoid of forest cover, and a consequent loss of deer population has ensued. As a result, wolves and black bear are coming out into the open, and have been seen on lawns in the town. One of Mr. MacLeod's neighbors is a sheep-breeder. He has lost twelve lambs to wolf depredations this year. We hope they don't cross the border! Katherine and P.J. are expecting Mr. Bruce Campbell from Sarasota to arrive on Monday for ten-day stay.

A rather flattering note reached here last week from the president of the Wakefield-Brookfield Historical Society. Miss Banks wrote that she had been much interested in the account in the Madison column of the musical program given to our Historical Society by Bruce Acker and his two boys. (I had not realized that the column would be of interest to anyone not affiliated with our town.) Miss Banks would like to have Bruce repeat his program for their society, and requested his address. As you probably know, Bruce has this year accepted a position as teacher in Canaan, New Hampshire, and as I did not know his mailing address, I telephoned him at his summer place this weekend. After the necessary preliminaries, inquiries were made about housing accommodations in Canaan. Bruce said the only place he could rent was a beautiful old house, built 1804, completely furnished with lovely antiques, and his family was "living in the lap of luxury." The owners were more than glad to have people in the house during their absence. As if this were not enough, the backyard is filled with high-bush blueberries, which Jenny is very busy gathering and freezing. One might say the Acker family was "kicked into good luck." Incidentally, in regard to Miss Banks's letter, I asked Bruce if he'd like me to be his press agent!

Today, Sunday, our two boys and their families are giving Cliff a birthday party at Gerald's house. Cliff declares he is going to swear off birthdays from now on, or start counting backwards!

The sun is still shining!

Sept. 14

Only a few clouds saved us from having "frost on the punkin" last night. When New Englanders haven't much to talk about, they can always discuss the weather. Thursday when we went shopping, the temperature was up to 80 degrees, and those who stayed in the car were nearly

frizzled. Saturday we went to an auction, and were really too cool, especially when clouds hid the sun. Today is sunny, but the best the weatherman can promise is "high in the 60's", and the leaves are beginning to turn red and gold. So the autumn is really with us.

All this palaver about the weather is really a screen for the fact that there is not much news to tell you. Most of our summer residents have returned to their winter homes, and with the townspeople, it seems to be very much "business as usual."

Circumstances prevented our attendance at the Parish Supper Friday night, but we got to the Town Hall in time for the business meeting, which had to do with the proposed Church budget for the coming year. As might be expected, inflation has hit there, as everywhere else, on all items from supplies for the Sunday School to salaries for the minister and the organist. There are many new families in town ~ the population count has risen from 500 to 800 ~ and it was generally agreed that a concerted effort to interest these people in our church should be made. Margaret Hayford, chairman of the Project Undercroft campaign, reported that sixty-nine favorable pledges had been received, with a total of \$21,752 promised towards the goal of \$50,000.

The increase in our population is particularly noticeable in the school enrollment. About fifteen little tots are entered in the Pooh Corner Kindergarten, and Mrs. Giles has an unusually large class of twenty-three first-graders ~ about eight more than were anticipated.

Grafton Ward has a walking cast on his foot and ankle, which makes it possible for him to drive and moved around somewhat.

Dan Feuerborn has been released from the hospital, Mrs. Dan had him out for a ride one day recently.

Fred Frost, whose heart condition confined him to bed for several weeks, is able to be up and dressed for a few hours each day.

Kay and Richard Hocking have been down in Maine this past week on a sailing expedition with friends who own a yawl. We hope that the heavy fogs reported along the coast for two or three days have not caused them difficulty or hindered their fun.

The Ward Madisons were so busy tripping around with their Australian guests last week that they needed a couple of days to rest up afterwards. Then there was the Parish Meeting in which Ward had a definite part. In the moments in between, Miriam and I have been trying to concoct a program for the next Historical Society meeting on September 17th. The subject is to be "The Exciting Year of 1774," and is to be a sort of symposium (although that is much too pompous a term) with several members contributing items of interest from their reading about that period. Leon Gerry's help has been enlisted, and we hope some other members will contribute their "two cents worth."

Our Sandy-cat is doing his bit to combat inflation. He has a recently acquired habit of awakening us at three in the morning by announcing loudly that he has brought in his daily ration of one field mouse or one chipmunk. So far, I think he does not feel that his efforts have been properly appreciated.

So what else is news? If you have any, you have not told me about it.

Sept. 22

How about making a collection of old-time cough remedies? Margaret Holmes gave me this idea when she heard I was laid low with bronchitis. She said, "If my grandmother were here, she would mix up a concoction of slipper elm, Irish moss and lemon juice, and make you take it, and your cough would be all gone!" If any of you have similar recipes in your background, I will promise to print them, not to take them!

The Holmes household is buzzing with activity as usual. Dr. and Mrs. John Filson, with their two children, Alex and Christie, and a young friend of Alex, David Austerman, are there for the weekend. Mary Holmes is coming from Greenfield on Monday for a week's vacation. Last Saturday evening, P.J. and Katherine and George and Flora Chick attended the Eastern Star Reception for Grace Morrison in North Conway.

It is with sadness and a feeling of personal loss that we record the passing of a lifelong friend and neighbor, Fred Frost. Fred's quiet, but ready "wit" has enlivened many a community gathering over the years, as he was always active in local and Grange affairs. He will be greatly missed by all. Our deepest sympathy to Mildred and Pat and the grandchildren.

Mrs. Marion Acker, who now makes her home at Havenwood in Concord, has been a house guest of Mrs. Duncan Brainard at Silver Lake this past week.

A Tupperware Party was held at Norma Holmes's home last Thursday evening. A baker's dozen of local ladies attended. The recent addition to Norma and Dick's house is very attractive, and everyone enjoyed the sociability and the delicious refreshments.

Penny Hathaway called with additional news of the October Fair for the benefit of the Pooh Corner Kindergarten. October fifth is approaching forthwith! In addition to those items previously listed, there is to be an exhibit of paintings by local artists. Four who have signed up to present their work are Cindy Swanson, who does both oil paintings and bottle paintings; Bob Duncan (not the photographer, I think); Jack Alexander of our own town, and Chuck Selmi. There will also be a display of woodcarving by Don Galvin. Some paintings done by the Kindergarten pupil will add a touch of piquance by way of contrast. A huge handmade Raggedy Andy will be the victim of a special raffle, and for the Silent Auction, a patchwork quilt made by Penny Hathaway, free music lessons by Michael Hathaway, some fabrics, and jewelry will be

among the items offered. It all adds up to a big time. Be prepared to attend ~ with your pocketbook!

Sept. 29

Today is Saturday and at the moment of beginning this column, we are "socked in" with a pea-soup fog, but a bowl of late-blooming pansies on the table is a colorful reminder that yesterday was so golden and warm, and the sky a pale blue baby blanket. Cliff and I made the most of it. A few small errands took us to Conway in the late morning, and lunch at Howard Johnson's offered a change from the daily routine. Broiled fresh swordfish steak was the special for the day! "How long, O Cataline," since a paternalistic government decided that swordfish might be injurious to our health, and took it completely off the market! It was fresh and delicious and such a welcome change. Then we went for a ride ~ another thing we have not done in lo, these many months, ~ through Bartlett and the Bear Notch Road to the Kancamaugus and so home. Those trees which have turned made red and gold exclamation points in the surrounding green. It was beautiful all the way.

Margaret Gilman had a surprise visitor last Monday morning as she was hanging out her laundry. A big bull moose came from the meadows, stalked through her yard and unhurriedly crossed the road. He was not in the least perturbed that traffic in both directions was held up by his leisurely progress, and at the same measured pace, he went on his way between Reg Lyman's and the adjoining house. Margaret was so thrilled that she called up to tell me about it, but the moose had no comment.

Last Monday night the Philathea Class held a casserole-and-salad supper meeting at the Parsonage. A goodly number attended and enjoyed the sociability. At the business meeting which followed, plans were made for the annual rummage sale to be held at the Town Hall October 25th. As the Philatheas would like to gather in materials for this sale before the last minute rush, we were asked to announce that anyone having thing to donate could leave them with Roberta Lyman or May Ward before the final date. Roberta's telephone number is 367-9965, May's is 367-4431, if anyone would like to have their donations picked up.

Penny Hathaway called with a few "last words" about plans for the Pooh Corner Kindergarten fair on October 5th. It will be held at the Town Hall, rain or shine. Some of the games planned may be held outdoors, if the weather is good. Three more entrants will be showing their work in the arts exhibition; Tonya Wold, painter, and Alan Solar, potter, and Vinnie Valerino, photographer. Many items of decoupage, and other crafts have been donated. There is also a last-minute request for donations to the preserves-and-pickles table and White Elephants. Mrs. Hathaway would also like to mention again the need for volunteer service with the nursery school children in the Kindergarten. If you can give some time to this project, call Susie Forrest.

October 5th bids fair to be a big day in town. Malcolm McNair will attain the landmark of eighty years young on that day, and there will be a birthday dinner celebration with many of his family and friends attending from far and near. Everybody wishes you all the best, always, Mac.

October 6th marks the opening day for Sunday School. It will begin at the regular church hour of 9 A.M.

Since many Madisonians live nearer to Runnells Hall in Chocorua than some people in Tamworth, it has been suggested that we could enjoy some of the many worthwhile programs presented there. Specifically, the Arts Council would like to call attention to a most unusual meeting to be held there on October 9th at 8 P.M. Two members of the historic Pewterers Guild of the City of London will display some beautiful products of their craft, and will "show and tell" of its manufacture. A revival of this lovely old craft is a most desirable venture, and many of our townspeople would surely enjoy knowing more about it.

Margaret Holmes handed me another "blockbuster" request this morning. She wanted suggestions on how to transfer different varieties of mushrooms from their habitat to make a sort of living display, also any directions for drying mushrooms. My complete ignorance on the subject is abysmal, so her it is dropped in your lap. Mary Holmes, who is Children's Librarian in Greenfield, has been visiting her mother and grandparents this week. She is fascinated by the numerous varieties of mushrooms to be found in this area, and would like to create a living display in a big glass case in the Children's Library. Would it be possible to take them up in clumps of earth, and make a sort of large-size terrarium? If any of you have knowledge or suggestions for such a project, do call Margaret Holmes. Her telephone is 367-4609.

Saturday night ~ we are just returned from the first church supper of this season. It was well patronized in spite of the drizzle. Jerry and Martha (Kennett) Dreyer were there, with Leah Kennett, at whose house they are weekend guests. Ward Madison's brother and his wife from Pinehurst, North Carolina were at our table with Miriam. Ward could not attend, as this miserable flu had him pinned down.

Two additional items of coming events were garnered. The Great Books group plans to start again on October 13th, the place of meeting to be announced later. "Macbeth" will be the subject.

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be on October 16th at the Historical Building. Jack Alexander will talk on Strawberry Banke, and will show colored slides illustrating his lecture.

With all these interesting events planned for the next few weeks, our engagement calendar ~ and we hope, yours ~ will be well filled.

Oct. 6

What a party-going week this has been for so many people in Madison! Almost every bit of news received has told of some special celebration, and they all sound as gay as the colors in the foliage.

It all started last Monday when Katherine Holmes called to tell me that she and P.J. had spent the previous weekend in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The occasion of the trip was two-fold, a visit with cousins there and an Alumnae Banquet of the Franklin County Public Hospital Training School for Nurses, which was held on Saturday at the Gables Inn in South Deerfield. Katherine graduated there in 1913, and as she was the oldest nurse present at the banquet, received a special award. A tour of the hospital was of special interest because of the many increases in improvements and accommodations. Before returning home on Sunday, Katherine and P.J. were invited to dinner at their cousins' house, and this turned out to be a surprise party for them. Several unexpected relatives and friends had also been invited, among them, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Drake of Holyoke. Mrs. Drake is Katherine's niece, and she and her husband were guests of the Holmes earlier this summer. The whole weekend was a most happy experience, and Katherine was still bubbling over with pleasant memories.

Tuesday, October 1st, was the twenty-fourth wedding anniversary for Loren and Patty Shackford, and the twenty-fifth for Paul and Marion Bickford. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Nason gave them a joint celebration dinner at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway. Afterwards they all went back to the Shackford's house, where others of Marion's family had gathered as a surprise party for Paul and Marion. The surprise was so complete that Marion was almost a nervous wreck! There was a money tree presented, and everyone, including Marion, had a most enjoyable evening.

On Monday evening, September 30th, there was a surprise bridal shower for Judy Bickford. Virginia Currier and Suzanne Lyman sponsored the party which was held at the Currier house. A dozen or so friends of the bride-to-be attended, and Judy was presented with many lovely and useful gifts.

The cold weather in the middle of the week brought us down off the hill to the village, where the living is easier and fireplace fires don't require constant attention. Where has the old pioneer spirit gone? Anyway, the telephone here is 367-4322, if there are any bits of news to be relayed.

The October fair for the benefit of the Pooh Corner Kindergarten was a huge success and well worth all the time and effort expended on its preparation. The Town Hall was buzzing with activity during the whole period, and we understand that there was a net profit of \$1400 ~ surely a sizable amount towards the upkeep of the Kindergarten.

Judging only by the number of cars outside the Town Hall Saturday night the old-fashioned boiled dinner put on by the Scrub Oak Scramblers was also a success. None of the club members have reported on the results of their venture.

We and about a hundred other people had a wonderful time at Malcolm McNair's birthday celebration. The party started around four o'clock on Saturday afternoon with cocktails at the McNair barn studio. All of Mac's family and grandchildren were there, and there were friends from all over ~ Cambridge, Boston, New York and Washington. One friend who could not attend sent an unique memento ~ a floral cat made of white chrysanthemums. We understand this was sent with special regards to Jo-Jo, Mac's favorite feline companion! About 6:30, seventy-three of the party adjourned to the Silver Lake Motor Lodge, to a most delicious dinner. When we were all at our assigned places, Mac as guest of honor, was "piped in" by a grandson playing the bagpipes. After the dinner, champagne was served, and toasts were offered by Malcolm McNair Jr. and Robert, and by John McNair as the oldest grandson, and by Diane Fraser, daughter of Mac's oldest friend. It was a lovely party, and everybody there seemed to be enjoying every minute of it.

Now some notes of coming events:

The Missionary Society will meet at Katherine Holmes' house on Friday, October 11.

The Great Books group will meet at the Library on October 13. The subject will be "MacBeth."

The Historical Society will meet at their building on October 16. A special lecture on Williamsburg, illustrated with colored slides, is planned. Jack Alexander's talk on Strawberry Banke has been postponed to the November meeting.

The next church supper will be held at the Town Hall October 26.

The not-so-happy items of news have just been reported. Margaret Blake has returned to Memorial Hospital this past week. Her recent operation is not improving as expected. Sam Lyman is confined to his home with some circulatory difficulty which we hope will be so short duration. Send cards to both of them, everybody.

Some adult education classes are to be held in Tamworth at the Kenneth Brett School. It is hoped that people from the surrounding towns will be interested in joining one or more of these courses, which will last for ten weeks, with a fee of \$10 per course. The following courses are offered:

Public Speaking, teacher Robert Margruder, Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 15

Non-fiction Writing, teacher Leonard Witt, Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 16

Book Keeping , teacher Whipple Farnum, Thursdays, beginning Oct. 17

American History, by Professor Norman Dawes, Mondays, beginning Oct. 21

All classes will start at 7:30 P.M. Registration forms are obtainable at the school, the Tamworth Laundromat or the Chocorua or South Tamworth post offices. An early registration is desired.

Oct. 13

"O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather."

Do school children still memorize that poem, I wonder or is Helen Hunt Jackson outmoded now? Whatever its literary merits, it is a joyous outpouring, well-describing the beauties of this time of year in New England. An early morning appointment last Tuesday necessitated being on the road just as the sun was stretching long fingers of light over the treetops. Foliage colors were so rich, so vibrant, so heartwarming, that one wished it were possible to bottle up some of it for the grey days that will come later. It was "October's bright blue weather" at its best.

Thursday, October 10th, was the twenty-first wedding anniversary of Clint and Lorraine LeBlanc. Mr. and Mrs. LeBlanc are the owners of the ranch house, set back from Route 113 with a long driveway, just beyond the Boulder Road. We understand that a celebration dinner was planned for their anniversary. Mr. LeBlanc also said that he had encountered that moose which has been seen in various parts of the town. This time the moose was near the Pequawket Road where it enters Route 16, but Mr. LeBlanc reported many Moose tracks all along the railrad tracks.

October 10th was also Terry Ward's twenty-first birthday. She could not get home for the family celebration until the weekend, but we hear that her friends in Portland gave her such a party that she was terribly sleepy the next day!

Ward and Miriam Madison are expecting as guests, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hull, from Bryn Mawr. Pennsylvania on Monday, the 14th. They are hoping the foliage will hold its bright color and that they can tour them around to enjoy it. The Madisons asked us to tea last Friday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. David Meeker were also invited. The Meekers are planning to stay in town until October 23rd, although Mrs. Meeker said it was a bit chilly up in the hills, and that she was wearing all the warm clothes she owned. The tea party was fun, with lots of nice things to eat and lots of pleasant conversation.

Kay and Richard Hocking have been visiting their daughter, Jill Farwell, and family in Vermont this past week. They will surely be back by Sunday as Richard is the leader of the Great Books discussion group, and that is the day of the first meeting this fall.

The nicest letter arrived from Richard's sister, Joan Dracke, a couple of days ago. It was especially pleasant to find that she and Ed have been able to come East, and are now at their apartment in Cambridge. Ed's health is much improved, and, according to Joan they spend their leisure moments reading the back numbers of the Carroll County Independent which have piled up during their four month absence in Chicago.

The meeting of the Tamworth Arts Council at Runnells Hall last Wednesday evening was most interesting and informative. The speakers were the Hampshire Pewterers of Wolfeboro, and all of us learned much about the composition, moulding and finishing of the lovely goblets, tankards and bowls which they create and had on display. We have recently received a notice that Friends of the Arts Council of Tamworth is to have the first meeting of the coming season on Wednesday, October 23rd, at 3:45 P.M. at "The Rafters," Philbrick Neighborhood Road in Chocorua. Tea will be served at 3:45 P.M. followed by selected pictures and movies from the African travels of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Kumm. It would be advisable to telephone in advance for a reserved seat, as space is limited. The number to call is 323-7240.

Now a few notes about those in the community who have been on the sick first.

Sam Lyman is much improved, and is getting around in a somewhat limited fashion ~ not quite back on the gold standard, but better than he was last weekend.

Edith Kennett had to return to Huggins hospital for four days last week, for corrective work on her left eye, following the cataract removal. We are glad to report that the right eye is healing perfectly, and the doctor thinks the other eye will be as good soon. She was released from the hospital Saturday and is back in her own home now.

Margaret Blake is still in Memorial Hospital, but is improving, and expects to get home soon.

Bea Harmon, Lou Gilman and Hazel Drew drove to Lancaster last Thursday. Bea's aunt returned to her home there at that time.

Would you like to hear about a new/old use for snuff? Bob Lyman told this story. When he was a young boy, his grandmother would occasionally ask him to get a package of snuff for her. Bob wondered at this for he had never seen her taking snuff in the usual manner. He finally got curious enough to watch what happened when he brought home a supply. His grandmother put it in the soil in her pots of geraniums to kill and troublesome pests! Now you've heard this, you won't need to buy pesticides, if you can find a place to buy snuff!

A false alarm sent the Madison Fire Department on a tour of the Eidelweiss section of town at about 1:30 A.M. Saturday morning. Completely fruitless errand! One couldn't even enjoy the foliage at that time of night.

Oct. 20

"Friday, fairest of foulest," my Maine-iac mother used to quote. So after four days of drizzle and fog. Friday was really obliged to produce a perfect fall day. The trees were gorgeous even in the rain, but the sun intensified their wet sparkle, and Mt. Washington donned a powdered wig in their honor. All of this against an October blue sky ~ truly "my cup runneth over."

Eva Twombly called on Monday to say that her son, Howard, came up from Chatham, Massachusetts, on Oct 12th, accompanied by his oldest son, Stephen, and a friend, Miss Christine Caliri, for a weekend visit. The foliage tour added to the pleasure of getting together made for a very happy time for all.

It is never easy to write of the loss of another old-time friend and neighbor. Annie Clayton and I had known each other since we were teenagers, and although one cannot be sorry that her long illness is over, we shall miss her greatly. To her children, Ruth Lancaster and Roger, we send our sincere sympathy.

There was a good-sized gathering at the meeting of the Historical Society Wednesday night. The Ward Madisons' guests, Bob and Edna Hull from Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and Ruth Henry's guests, John and Betty McNevech of Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania, made a welcome addition to our members. The program proved to be quite different from our expected one on Williamsburg. Someone must have sent the wrong film, for instead of the beautiful architecture we anticipated, this turned out to be an ecology film of Virginia, with brightly colored pictures of old car dumps, the ubiquitous beer can litter, and detergent clog of running streams. Educational probably, but not really enjoyable. Reverend Raymond Stineford's talk which had been planned as a sort of comparison of Williamsburg and New England architecture had to be somewhat modified, but was really the most interesting part of the program.

Margaret Blake is home from the hospital. We hope her recovery is quite complete this time.

Wayne Lyman has returned from Alaska, and expects to be here until next spring.

Ruth Henry has had a houseful of company this past week or two. Her cousins from Boston, Ruth French and Edith MacKienan were here a week ago; Vincent and Edith (Parsons) Rich whom Mrs. Henry first met in Japan, and discovered at that time that Mrs. Rich was a member of the Parsons family of Parsonsfield, Maine; Dr. Roberta Winter were studying drama at Yale under George P. Beker's tutelage. Dr. Winter is professor of drama at Agnes Scott College. John and Betty McNevech complete the list. It surely sounds like a busy time at the Henry household.

Another wedding was celebrated at the Madison Church at two O'clock on Saturday afternoon. Judith Bickford, daughter of Leonard and Doris Bickford, and Kenn Sasscrossi of Barre, Vermont, were married, with Rev. Gordon Umberger and a visiting minister officiating. We understand that Kenn and Judy became acquainted while they were both students at Bates College. It was a pretty wedding, and the church was well filled with family and friends. Suzanne Lyman was

matron of honor. Following the ceremony, a wedding reception was held at New England Inn. Good wishes for continued happiness in the future are extended to the bridal couple by all the townspeople.

We have just received sad news of the sudden death of Walter Kennett of Goshen, New York. Walter was the son of the late C. Ralph and Elmira (Frost) Kennett of Madison, and was Edith Kennett's stepson. Funeral services are to be held in the Madison Church on Wednesday October 23rd. It is particularly hard to face the loss of one who was in the midst of a busy and successful career. Our heartfelt sympathy and thoughts go out to all the family.

Two events at the Town Hall:

On Friday, Oct 25 at 10 A.M. the Philathea Class Rummage Sale.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, a church supper, at 6:30 P.M.

Oct. 27

"When politicks become the toast,
Men rise for office like a host,
And often sound their politicks,
That they may work some Knavish tricks!"

Where could one find a better description of the current boring clamor of office seekers on every TV and radio program? Or one which more aptly expresses the feelings of most voters toward the upcoming elections? Yet that verse is part of a longer poem written by Thomas Randall, the Eaton poet, over a hundred and forty years ago. All of which simply proves that, so far as politics is concerned, nothing changes except the date.

Probably you would like some local news rather than a diatribe on would-be politicians. That, after all, is what this column was meant to be. So here are a few more cheerful items.

Last Monday, Leo and Mabel Nickerson dropped in for a brief visit. They had two reasons for making the trip from Falmouth. One was to get some of Grafton Ward's Macintosh apples, than which there is nothing than-whicher! The other equally important reason was a news item for this column. On October 7th, Lee and Mabel flew to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for a ten-day visit with their son, John, and his new wife. They had marvelous flying weather, both going and coming ~ the air was so clear that even from 30,000 feet up they could observe all the scenery over which they were passing. Since Coeur d'Alene is only twenty miles from Spokane, Washington, one day of their stay was spent at the World's Fair. This, of course, was very interesting, but Lee and Mabel said they enjoyed even more the beauty and relative quiet of the scenery in Idaho. For those who are fishing enthusiasts, we pass on Lee's report of wonderful fishing in the lakes and streams around Coeur d'Alene.

Kay Hocking invited me to accompany her at a meeting of the Bear Camp Neighborhood Libraries which was held at Runnells Hall on Tuesday evening, October 22nd. The speaker was Mrs. Hamlin, the librarian at Berlin Public Library, and her subject dealt with various aspects of library work with children. As a past children's librarian, I can vouch for the fact that her talk was interesting, inspirational and down-to-earth.

The Philathea Class Rummage Sale on Friday, the 25th, was a huge success. An appointment in Wolfeboro kept us from attending, but half an hour before the opening time of the sale, cars were lined up on both sides of the road. The proceeds amounted to \$250, which will be a big boost for the Philathea's good works.

The S.R.O. sign was not needed for the church supper Saturday night, but there was a good crowd never the less. As usual the food was delicious, and the tables colorful with the new dinnerware and many attractive salads.

That extra hour Sunday morning gave us the needed impetus to get to church. Rev. Fred Smith, as guest preacher, gave a thought-provoking sermon on "The Inescapable Question." Next Sunday, November 3rd, church and Sunday-school services are scheduled to begin at 10 A.M.

Katherine and P.J. Holmes were at church for the last time this season, as they are starting the trek toward their Florida home on Monday. Margaret Holmes is driving down with them, but plans to come north, at least as far as Massachusetts, in time to spend Christmas in Greenfield with her daughter, Mary. We were glad of the opportunity to bid them Godspeed, but we shall miss them until they return.

The Ward Madisons are the "trippingest" family in town. They just got back from their latest journey to Haverford, Pennsylvania, last Thursday and next Thursday the 31st, they are leaving for Middletown, Connecticut. Miriam's brother, Dr. Clark, is being married on Sunday, and they want to be there in time to help supervise the festivities. It is difficult to get hold of them long enough to invite them to tea!

Speaking of tripping, we may be away ourselves in November. Some business affairs will take us to Florida for a not-too-long time, we hope. I am trying to find someone else to write this column during our absence, but more about this in our next issue!

Either my nose for news is growing longer, or my ears are growing bigger! I overheard Ruth Shackford telling the minister she must get home immediately after church, as a big birthday celebration was in process at her house. Mrs. Pauline Shackford is celebrating her eight-first birthday today, October 27th. Surely that calls for hearty, even though belated, good wishes from all the community.

Nov.3

"Neither Snow, Nor Rain, Nor Heat, Nor Gloom of Night Stops These Couriers From the Swift Completion of Their Appointed Rounds." (From Herodotus)

You will notice that neither Herodotus nor the Post Office who adopted this motto said a word about the entanglements of red tape! I don't know what happened to the Madison column last week. It was mailed as usual early Monday morning. Where and when it went from there, only the Post Office knows.

Since you did not get the news at the proper time, I am going to add some details to that item about the 81st birthday party for Mrs. Pauline Shackford. Her birthday was really Monday, October 28, so she was not expecting a Sunday celebration. Sixty-five relatives and friends including five great-grandchildren came to wish her "Happy Birthday!" It was a complete and very joyous surprise. Our belated good wishes were included last week. They are even more belated now, but none the less sincere.

Bernice Grames hosted a birthday party for her sister, Shirley Colcord, Tuesday evening, October 29th. Their brother, Bernard Keith, was on from New York state at just the right time to attend the party, and there were fifteen guests in all. Needless to say, everybody enjoyed the occasion greatly.

It was reported that Dan Feuerborn is in the Lakes Region Hospital for removal of a spur in his back. We hope that his stay there will be brief, and that all will soon be well with him.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Eunice Currier and to all the family. Jesse Currier died suddenly Thursday morning. His passing was a shock to the community, as only the day before he had been making plans for a trip to Florida. Jess will be long remembered for his many years of service as a Madison Selectman, and for his sincere interest in the Madison Church.

Deer hunting season is with us again, and red coats are everywhere in evidence. We understand there is a deer hung up in Russell Webster's yard, so he must have got one the first day. Gerald Ward spent a few hours in the woods early Saturday morning. On being asked, "What luck?" he reported seeing three partridges and a bobcat, and added ruefully, "I missed the bobcat!" It has been reported at the local weighing station at Silver Lake that eleven deer had been bagged in the first two days of the season.

The BYF put on a nice Halloween party for younger children at the Town Hall on Thursday evening. After the party, groups of the children were taken "trick or treating," and each group had a UNICEF collection box. This seems an excellent way to begin early training in the joys of sharing.

The 109th Annual Donation Party of the Madison Church will take place at the Town Hall Friday evening, November 8. Probably you all know of the delicious oyster stew that will be served, and the plates of cut cakes, as well as the auction of beautifully decorated cakes. The cake-

cutting committee has asked that all these cakes to be cut should please be delivered to the Town Hall as early as possible ~ anytime from five o'clock on. Due to lack of space, the committee also asks that purchasers of plates of cake should not request that their purchases be laid aside for them. Such a crowd usually attends Donation that there is barely room for the necessary tables for the cakes, and no place for storage.

Mrs. Ruth Henry and son, David, have recently returned from Belchertown and Amherst, Massachusetts, where they participated in a three-day festival celebrating the organization of the United States branch of the Clan MacPherson. A luncheon and business meeting was held at the chairman's farm in Belchertown, and a banquet at the Lord Jeffrey Inn in Amherst. Other events of the celebration were the performing of Scottish reels, ballads, bagpipe marches and the piping in of the haggis. A bit of traditional Scotland transplanted to New England.

Dr. and Mrs. Norman Wilson were among many who traveled considerable distance to attend the services for Jess Currier. Do you remember when the Wilsons owned the Plummer place, and used to spend all their vacations here? We have not seen them for several years as they have been living in the Middle West. It was a pleasant surprise to learn that they have returned to New England. Dr. Wilson said their home is now in Windham, New Hampshire, and he is practicing in Methuen, Massachusetts, and added, "We're glad to get back. We like it here."

Dec. 8

"Home again, home again,
Jig-a-jig, jig!

While our trip to Florida was not to "buy a fat pig," a matter of business was the reason for going. This was successfully completed, and we had a most pleasurable journey both ways and a happy reunion with old friends there. We stayed with Charlotte Hamilton who was a most gracious hostess, and as Thanksgiving was our last day in Eustis, she planned a Thanksgiving party for us and invited two old friends of my library days. Needless to say, we had a delicious dinner and a lot of fun recalling old times.

Some notes about other Thanksgiving celebrations here in town have reached us lately. Nellie Gilman spent the day very happily with her granddaughter, Betty Eldridge, in Center Ossipee. Donald and Shirley Colcord entertained Shirley's parents, Carlos and Doris Parker, and John and Minnie Gilman with their daughter, Sharon. Larry Lyman was home from Manchester for the day with his parents, Sam and Susie Lyman. Jill and Calvin Farwell with their three children and two friends from France filled the farm house full to bursting at the Hockings. We hear the men folks supervised roasting the turkey in the farmhouse oven, and that it was done to perfection. Margaret and Guy Hayford and their daughters had a second Thanksgiving celebration last weekend in Nashua at the home of their son, Ronald and his wife.

At a church meeting, November 15th, plans for the new addition, Project Undercroft, were voted approved. As none of the church members are in favor of having a mortgage, it was voted to start work on the money which has been pledged, and to carry on as far as possible with the money on hand. Work will be started in the spring.

We have been asked to call your attention again to the project of Madison Boy Scout Troop 153. The boys will be selling freshly cut Christmas trees at the corner of Routes 113 and 41, on the Henry Forrest property. You may pick out and tag your tree, and it will be delivered. The price will be \$1.00 per foot. For more information, call Martin Furnbach 367-8895, Carl Arnold 367-4649, or Frank Burton 367-4335.

Notice to all bookworms! The Bookmobile arrived at the Library last Wednesday with a big supply of new books for your enjoyment.

"Santa's Gift Shop" will be open Saturday, December 14th, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Silver Lake Town Hall. There will be a food table, handmade items, children's toys and refreshments on sale. Old Santa himself will be present, and there will be Polaroid pictures available at cost. This will be sponsored by the Madison P.T.O. for the benefit of the Pooh Corner Kindergarten.

The Christmas meeting of the Historical Society will be held December 18th at the Historical Society building. As our president, Mrs. Henry, is now in Florida, the vice-president, Kay Hocking, will conduct the meeting. Mrs. Eglit is in charge of refreshments, and the speaker, Ernest Meader, will report and comment on the many gifts which have been presented to the Society in the past year or two. If the weather should prove to be too inclement, the meeting will be held at the home of Henry and Susie Forrest.

There will be a Christmas party for the members of the 4H Club at the Town Hall on December 20th at 7:30 P.M. As a gift exchange is planned, boys are asked to bring a gift suitable for a boy, and girls to bring one for a girl.

Edith Kennett traveled South with us as far as Reading, Pennsylvania, where she is visiting her daughter, Kay. (Mrs. Ronald Rider). Her health and her eyesight are improving gradually, and at the present time, she expects to stay in Reading until spring.

We are sorry to report the illness of Rita Colcord and son, Robert. One of those wicked viruses seems to be the cause, and even the doctor is puzzled. We all hope that a change for the better will soon make its appearance, and send our very best wishes.

Since every town around here was holding a church supper and Christmas sale last Saturday night, the attendance at the Town Hall was much lighter than usual. The supper was good as always, and we hear that the Philathea Class sale netted around \$125.

When one is just returned from a month in the Sunny South. Christmas seems to be arriving much too early. The first Christmas cards arriving this week were really a shock. But we shall get reoriented to the North Country soon, and Cliff and I are really very happy to be back home again, even if the weather is not so salubrious.

Dec. 15

"Let us Keep Christmas, holding it close to our hearts...
For its meaning never ends,
And its spirit is the warmth and joy
Of remembering friends."

The custom of sending Christmas cards and notes is surely a gracious way of Keeping in touch with old friends whom distance prevents us from seeing but rarely. Armenell Manley wrote from Carmel, California, to say that she is spending the big day with her son, John, and his family. She said, "All will be there," so probably Fred's family will be there also. Malcolm and Mary Bail make their home in Sun City, Florida, now, and Mary says "We keep busy with church, Kiwanis, Garden Club, and lawn bowling ~ good for body, mind and soul!!" A note from Virginia Hatton in Tampa says her daughter, Betsy Woods, is working for her master's degree at the University of Southern Florida, and that granddaughter, Elizabeth, is happily settled in to what she calls a "walking neighborhood," as she can walk to school, church, her music lesson and even her orthodontist! For herself, she is enjoying being a "resident grandmother." The annual breezy letter from Pearle (Granville) Spooner arrived with all the news of their family affairs during the past year. Ed and Pearle retired a year ago and bought a new house in Park Forest, Illinois. They "just love every inch of the house and yard." Ed has done so many things to the place, that the yard looks as if they had a full-time gardener, and Pearle is enjoying reviving some old crafts and taking on some new ones. Their young grandson, Douglas, is with them, so Pearle took over the leadership of a Cub Scouts Den, Which she seems to find as rewarding as Doug does. Their daughter, Joan, and her family live in Texas, and the Spooners are planning to spend Christmas there.

Now for some news about town residents and events past and future.

The Christmas fair for the benefit of the Pooh Corner Kindergarten December 14th was very successful. Santa Claus was in residence and had his picture taken with many of the little tots, each of whom received a tiny toy. The Pooh Corner Kindergarten will be closed for the Christmas vacation, from December 20th for the duration of the school vacation.

Malcolm McNair was away for the last week in November. His trip took him to Washington, Charlottesville, Virginia, and Philadelphia. In Washington he visited his cousin, Mrs. Grant McColley, who has been a visitor in Madison several times. Mac says that Robert and Edie McNair will be with him for Christmas Eve and the holiday. All four of Bob's boys and girls will be in Colorado for the vacation. Skiing, perhaps?

A few of our townspeople have been ill or have suffered mishaps. We hope that by the time this report reaches you they will all be on their way to recovery. Mr. Perley Evans who lives in the Silver Shores development has recently returned from the hospital. Arthur Gilman has been laid low with a virus, and Lou had a fall which injured her foot, so that she has been on crutches. Frank Philbrick, who really lives in Conway but is related to Madison by marriage so to speak, had a fall while taking his morning constitutional and broke his right arm. He is home from the hospital and as comfortable as possible under the circumstances.

A candlelight Christmas service will be held at the Madison Church Sunday evening, December 22nd at 7:30. There will be music by the choir. It is hoped that everybody will attend this very lovely service.

Our grandson, Douglas, and I have birthdays only two days apart. So there have been two birthday parties in our family this week, greatly enjoyed by both guests and recipients.

If anybody has received notes from former Madisonians, why not let me know so that they may be shared by old neighbors during the Christmas season.

Dec.19

"Dreaming of a White Christmas" will surely be superfluous in this part of the country this year. All of Madison looks like the Christmas cards that have been occupying my every waking moment since our return from Florida.

The Madison Historical Society met Wednesday evening at the Historical building. The meeting room was beautifully decorated with a lighted Christmas tree and sprays of greenery. Ernest Meader gave us a very interesting talk on some of the many gifts which have been presented to our museum, and there were more members present than at some previous December meetings. The refreshment table was gay with poinsettias and the coffee and cookies delectable.

Jack Alexander arrived late at the Historical meeting because he had attended the Christmas pageant put on by the Elementary School the same evening. The Town Hall was will filled with parents and friends, Jack said, and the nativity pageant was well done by the children. The Three Kings were very stern, but other members of the cast were more relaxed, and one little angel had trouble with her halo. It kept slipping. It takes a lot of experience to learn to wear a halo gracefully.

The Madison Town and School Library will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th and also on Tuesday, December 27th from 1:00 to 3:30P.M. and likewise on Friday, January 3rd.

Mr. and Mrs. William Eglit are sponsoring a prize contest in the fifth and sixth grade for the best essay on the life of President James Madison. This will not be completed until next month. Announcements of the winner and runners-up will be forthcoming in a later issue.

Merry Christmas to all!

Dec. 26

Where and how does one begin to enumerate all the festivities that have taken place this Christmas week? Perhaps the Candle light service at the Church Sunday evening is a good starting point, as it was rather a high light of the week. So many attended that the church was full right up to the front pews, and everyone seemed to enjoy singing the old familiar carols. A Christmas anthem by the Senior Choir, and a solo, "O Holy Night," were lovely additions to the musical part of the evening followed by the reverent and beautiful service of "spreading the Light." Just as the benediction was about to be pronounced there was a sudden flurry of activity. The robe of one of the choir members had brushed against a candle, but the flame was seen immediately and extinguished. So nothing but the sleeve of the robe was singed ~ not the wearer!

Three different groups of carol singers have serenaded various parts of the town during the week. The Grange started up on High Street last Friday night, the Couples Club was out on Saturday, and Monday night a group from the Youth Fellowship sang at various houses around Madison Corner.

Terry Ward was involved in a two-car accident in South Portland last week. Her car was "totaled," but fortunately no physical injuries resulted to either driver. Terry had a black eye and some bruises, but thanks to eye make-up, even the black eye was not noticeable at church Sunday.

Charlotte Hamilton made another trip north this past week so that she could spend some of the holidays with her aunt, Ruth Meserve, who is ill in Huggins Hospital. Charlotte is staying with a cousin in Wolfeboro, but spent Christmas Eve and Day with the Mayhews in Freedom.

Probably almost every house in the town had a celebration either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. But it snowed quite persistently that day, and holiday or not, the snowplows have to be out. So I think it was only the feminine side of Jesse Shackford's family who could be at home to celebrate in the traditional way.

Carlos and Doris Parker had a family party at their house Christmas Eve. Everett and Bernice Grames and their son, John and Minnie Gilman and their daughter; Donald and Shirley Colcord with three of their children were all there for a happy evening of gifts and fun. Carlos and Dot had Christmas dinner next day with Everett and Bernice at their house.

Don and Shirley Colcord entertained all the Madison branch of the Colcord family at dinner Christmas Day. Don's father, Harold Colcord, was there, and his sister, Lucille from Boston. Bob and Rita Colcord, with daughter Karen, home from the University, and their two boys, were also among the guests. It was good to hear that Rita was well enough to join the party after her long bout with a virus.

A telephone call from Kay Rider in Reading Pennsylvania, brought the news that her mother Edith Kennett, had just had another eye examination, and that the results were satisfactory. Edith general health seems to be improving, too and all there were looking forward to a happy holiday.

Clifford Ward, Jr. and May, Gerald Ward and Priscilla and her mother, Myrtle Drown, were our guests at the family dinner party Christmas Eve. Since that is also the date of Cliff Jr's birthday, we always have a dual celebration at that time. Christmas morning, Cliff and I make the rounds of the other families' to see the youngest generation have their gifts. The grandchildren are growing up now, so this part of the festivities is slightly more sedate, although still fun, but time was when one had to wade knee deep in tissue paper to get into the house!

Kay and Richard Hocking and Penny also spread their celebrations over two days, as they went to Vermont for Christmas Eve and morning with Calvin and Jill Farwell. Then Christmas night, Miriam and Ward Madison invited them and Leon Gerry and Cliff and me to Christmas dinner at their house. It was a delicious dinner and very festive, with candle light and clever place cards, and lots of good conversation. We heard next day that the hill roads up to Hocking's were so slippery that Kay and Richard and Penny stayed overnight with the Madisons. So their holiday was stretched another twelve hours!

Happy New Year, everyone!!

