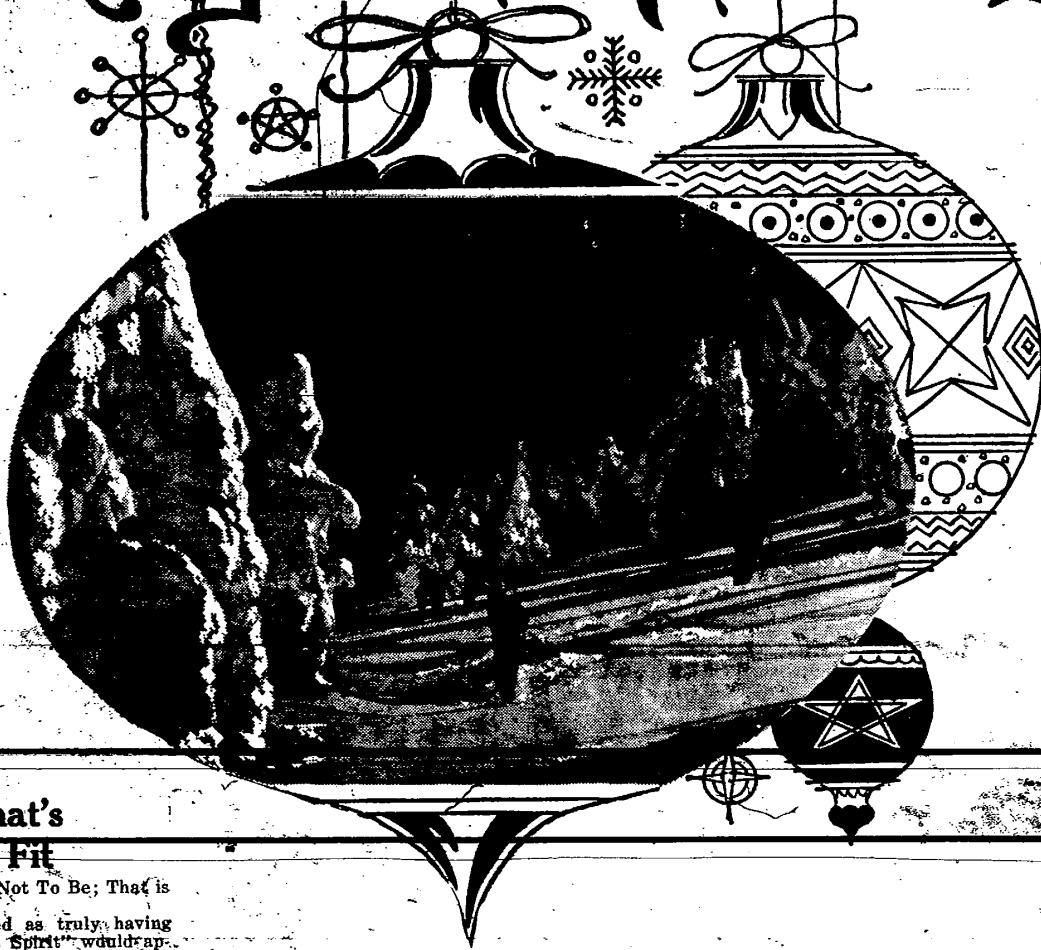


Merry Christmas to All



Leslie L. Middaugh Critically Injured In Plane Crash

Leslie L. Middaugh, Naval Reserve Commander and brother of Local Police Chief Fred Middaugh, was critically injured Monday evening around 5 P. M., when the U. S. Army Helicopter in which he was a passenger crashed in the Town of Lewisboro in upper Westchester County.

U. S. Army Major Robert Meinhold, age 38, from 81 Continental Ave., Brockport, N. Y., another passenger, was so critically injured that he died en route to the Northern Westchester Hospital at Mt. Cisco.

Robert Opitz, 54, of 1606 Nicholas Ave., Stratford, Conn., pilot of the Army Bell U-H1 Iroquois Helicopter was also seriously injured and is listed in critical condition according to hospital authorities.

According to Army Headquarters at Governors Island, the 10 place craft is the type that is being used in Viet-Nam and was returning to Bridgeport, Conn., after stopping at Stewart Air Force Base at Newburgh, N. Y.

The plane was reported as having engine trouble and crashed in a wooded area. According to State Police who led the rescue workers, the badly injured men had to be pulled from the wreckage with Mr. Middaugh being found laying on top of Major Meinhold in the crushed cabin.

According to a report from an eye witness, the engine of the ill-fated craft failed about 100 feet from the ground and it plummeted swiftly to the earth with twin plumes of smoke rising from the wreckage. The impact of the crash was so great that it tore the rear section of the craft from the fuselage scattering debris over a wide area.

According to the Editor of the "Mt. Cisco Patent Trader" who was kind enough to give us the detailed information of the crash, the plane was on a classified flight and as a result the entire area was sealed off by Military Police until an investigation is completed.

Chief Middaugh was called to his brother's bedside late last evening and according to the latest report received this morning, Leslie is still in critical condition suffering from severe scalp cuts, fractured left arm and internal injuries.

Candlelight Service

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held in the Presbyterian Church Thursday evening at 11:00 o'clock.

An organ recital of Christmas Music by organist Mrs. Douglas York.

Participating in the Service will be members of the United Presbyterian Youth Fellowship when candles will be lighted by worshippers.

The public is invited.

The entire committee commented on and wondered how Paul Childs got that red light way up on top of that huge evergreen tree that he has lighted up near his home, that would certainly win the title of "The Highest".

There were also many, many more, in fact too numerous to mention that were very nicely decorated and the Chamber of Commerce wishes to express their thanks and gratitude to all of these residents who made that extra effort to have things "better than previous years."

It is felt that the entire Village of Andover can be truly proud of their "Best Decorated Little Village in America" and judging from all of the favorable comments of students and grown-ups coming back to "Ye Olde Home Town" for the Holidays—it is really worth the effort!

News That's Print To Fit

To Be — or Not To Be; That is the Question!

To be judged as truly having "The Christmas Spirit" would appropriately fit the majority of the children and grown-ups in Andover after viewing and reading about the beautiful Christmas Decorations all over town.

To be judged as the "best" of "mental deviate", or just plain "lower than a snake's belly", would come close to fitting the delinquent or delinquents, whether adjudged juvenile or not, that stole bulbs out of the gaily decorated trees along the business section of Main St., last night.

This wasn't the work of a small child, because so poor that they didn't have money to buy a few bulbs for their own home and helped himself to the lights in the night! Of the bulbs that were stolen most of them were the white and dear red ones that can't possibly fit into the outdoor sockets that are on the strings of lights.

This appears to be the work of a large young man (?) with such a twisted sense of humor that he (if they) want to "destroy" something beautiful that can be enjoyed by many.

It isn't so much the value of the bulbs—it's the meanness involved that creates hard feelings in grown-ups' minds, against school children and "been there, done that" whole.

In the last two years we have had Christmas Trees up in front of the News Office that were so large that we had 55 lights on them. We didn't have any bulbs taken either year which gave us enough confidence in the youth in Andover that we helped promote this year's plan.

The students in Andover Central School went to a lot of work to help decorate these trees on Main St., and deserve a lot of credit for their efforts as well as the Businessmen that went along

with the scheme. The School Teachers that helped these groups also put in considerable time in executing and co-operating with the students.

Now it looks as if the School Children as well as interested grown-ups are going to have to turn detective and put a stop to this bulb stealing as well as try and catch the responsible person or persons who are trying to ruin the "Christmas Spirit" in the future.

We at the Andover News here and now are posting a \$5 reward for information leading to the arrest of the culprit (s) who have stolen these bulbs. We will also publicly announce the names of anyone that we personally catch molesting or intentionally damaging any of these public decorations. Now all we need is the support of you people that were interested enough in the beginning to carry out your end of the program to make Andover "The Best Little Village in America".

Let's not let a few devils ruin something beautiful for everyone!

In looking over the window decorations along Main St., we almost overlooked the "Three French Hens" in the Vars Pharmacy Store. We didn't notice any sign saying the "3rd Day of Christmas" so on casual observation thought that these works of art were something in the line of fancy toys for sale at Wendell's. After going to all that work on these hens—it's too bad you all didn't carry the theme on out to the tree outside—and you would surely have ended up with some prize money!

C of C Christmas Decoration Winners Named

According to Elmo Barden, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Judging Committee, it was a rather difficult problem to select the winners since there were so many beautiful selections to choose from.

It was unanimously decided that all of the residents in this immediate area were the real winners since every one could bask in the glory of having the "Prettiest Decorated Village" anywhere around.

In judging the 12 business places it was found that the field was narrowed down to 10, for although trees were put up with lights on them, the "Ten Pipers Piping", the "Three French Hens", and "Two Turtle Doves" were not in appearance. Then too, three of the others were not correct according to authoritative sources which took away points from the overall score.

As a result of the judging the Eighth Grade and Library Council ended up in a dead tie for first place. The Eighth Grade decorated The Citizens Bank tree and window for the 12th Day of Christmas, but ended up with 12 Drummers Drumming instead of 12 Lords-a-Leaping. The Library Council decorated The Andover News office as the 5th Day of Christmas with 5 Geese-a-Laying.

The VFA did a nice job at Baker's Hardware with the 8th Day of Christmas and the theme of the 8 Maids-a-Milking to win the second prize.

The Seventh Grade, not to be outdone by their slightly older

contemporaries, put a lot of work on their Christmas Decorations for the tree and in the window of Ordiway's Restaurant with their 7 Swans-a-Swimming for the 7th Day of Christmas to win third prize.

Receiving Honorable Mention for the 4th Day of Christmas were the ACS Cheer Leaders with the "4 Colly Birds" (sometimes called 4 calling birds) at Ford & Peckham's. Also receiving Mention was the display at the Market Basket with the 9th Day of Christmas with Nine Ladies Dancing—but according to the story should have been 9 Drummers Drumming; and the 10th Day of Christmas at the Sugar Bowl and Paul's Barber Shop with 10 Lords-a-Leaping that should have been 10 Pipers Piping.

It is realized that there are several versions of the story and song, but an official interpretation was in two different places in last week's Andover News so perhaps that cleared up—or maybe deepened the confusion.

As far as the judging of the Residential Section is concerned, it took several trips around the Village of Andover to come up with the following designations: The Clyde Yorton Home was named "The Most"; with other outstanding homes of Mr. and Mrs. William Joyce; the Kenneth Tidd Residence; and "Fran" Horan's Home.

The "Best Decorated Street" was Barney St., with Herb Leonard's and The Carmody's "The Gayest".

John Howland had "The First", closely followed by "The Posts" which made that the First Lighted Corner.

The "Fay" Brown Residence was the most elaborate on Main St., and certainly is very pretty.