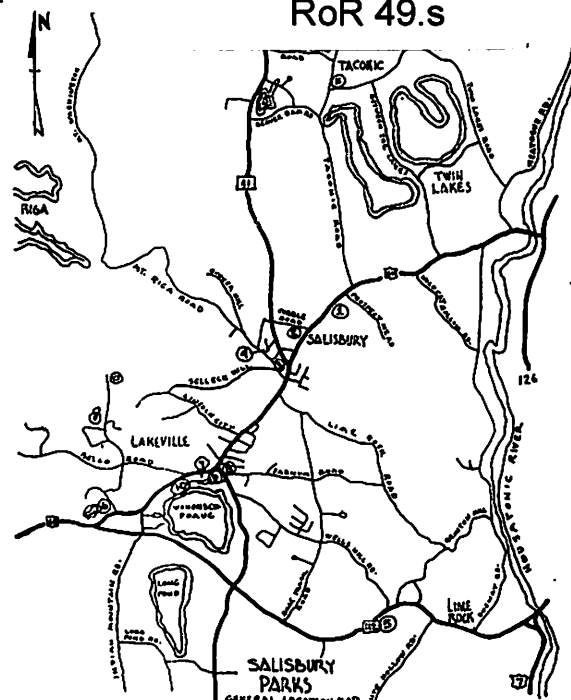


TAB E

Around the Corner

By Jim Haskins



Salisbury Parks: Eleven Green Gifts

By A. H. Many accidents in the Town of Salisbury (and even some of the old timers) may be surprised to learn that the Town now has 11 parks or park sites scattered throughout its 50.56 square miles of area. The map above shows their locations marked by numerical keys. These numbered parks do not include the Lakeville Green (Hose House Park) which is the property of the Lakeville Fire District rather than the Town as a whole, or the Triangle Green in Salisbury, which was originally established as a self-perpetuating trust of private individuals but currently seems to have run out of funds. Essentially, the parks have become the property of the Town through the generosity of individual residents or the acceptance of the Taconic Triangle, the full background of which is given below.

1. TACONIC The Town Park Commission formed last year and made up of Benjamin Belcher, chairman, George Kiefer and J. Norton Miner, has called a meeting for Monday, July 21st to discuss these Town parks, and explore the townspeople's wishes concerning them. Essentially, the Park Commission feels that present park lands belonging to the Town are not so well suited for existing requirements and should take care of the needs of local people for a great many years to come. The Commission also believes that the Town should find use for the existing parks before giving serious consideration to the acquisition of additional lands for park purposes. One of two exceptions to this position are indicated in the following review of the individual parks.

1. BARACK-MAJHEE FOREST This land is located on a wooded hillside adjacent to the right of the Taconic Triangle, a mile north of Salisbury Village. The Appalachian Trail winds through a part of the hillside and the site has located a few hundred years back from the forest.

The Commission members say they are not sure if the Forest is used to the extent today and the Commission, therefore, is planning to acquire the Forest. The Forest was established in the Town in 1903 by John H. Hill and George C. Warner.

2. OBBILL PARK This site is a very interesting rock outcropping located just to the north of Salisbury Village. The site is about 1/2 mile long and 1/4 mile wide. The total land area is about three acres of rock and water.

At the moment, the Commission at the moment has no plans to develop this site, but it could be used for a variety of purposes. It could be used as a picnic area, a playground, or a site for a small building. It could also be used as a site for a small building, or a site for a small building.

3. WASHINGTON PARK This park consists of about three acres lying along Washington Road just to the west of the old Salisbury Burial Ground. Since this land is adjacent to Hanging Rock Haven Park, the Commission sees no need for immediate development.

The land was given to the Town in 1913-1918 by George Coffing Warner, George W. Crowder and Lois Church Warner.

4. HANGING ROCK HAVEN PARK This park consists of some 2 1/2 acres further up Washington Road and is already identified by swings and picnic tables. The area immediately adjacent to Hanging Rock itself represents an ideal location for future picnic facilities when they become necessary.

This park was donated in 1936 and 1938 by Dorothy Haven and Elsie O. Reed.

5. THE WACK FOREST This consists of 50 beautiful forested acres lying about one mile west of Lime Rock Village and to the east of Route 112. The Wack Forest has been developed as a Scout camp facility and now contains a modern central lodge plus numerous tent sites, fireplaces and an adequate water system.

For the last several years, the Forest has not received a great deal of use by the Girl Scout Council and the Scout Council has developed a renewed interest, and the Park Commission expects greater use. Trees are being planted and the water line is being relocated for gravity flow.

The map indicates that the north and south boundaries of the Wack Forest are very irregular, but the Commission does hope that at some future date the Town will be able to obtain through gift or acquisition, from neighbors to the north and the south, sufficient land to square up this fine facility.

This land was donated to the Town by Henry Wollington in 1940.

6. O'BRIEN HILL PARK This piece consisting of 41 acres lying just to the north of the town of Salisbury, has some 100 acres of hillside. It has been developed as a park for park purposes and the Commission has plans for the future.

This land was donated to the Town in 1940 by Robert O'Brien and George H. Mine.

7. TERRACE VILLAGE PARK This small "vest pocket" park has been developed on the site of the former O'Brien Hill. Basic maintenance work and landscaping have been completed. A plan for the future development of the park has been developed and the Commission hopes that the local garden club will undertake responsibility for the maintenance of the Terrace Village Park.

The land was donated to the Town in 1947 by the family of Mrs. Ward L. Belcher. Mrs. Belcher had been given the land in 1947 about the Town's request for Town-owned access to Lake Wagonwheel. The land was then owned by Mrs. Frances de Sabia and the beach concession had long been operated

Three Red Cross Chapters in Northwest Connecticut were cheered this morning by an announcement from Washington extending the age limit for blood donors from the previous 61 to the day they reach 68.

The relaxation of the strict age limit should prove to be a boon to the donors in Canaan-Norfolk and Salisbury Blood Programs because of the long list of donors who have had to quit giving because they had reached the previous age limit of their first birthday. The action by the National Red Cross comes at a time when demands for free blood in Connecticut had been increasing rapidly as shortages have been reported at various times of the year in the past three years.

It has also been the experience of the Salisbury Red Cross Chapter program which, with many of its donors losing the age limit, dropped to the new low of 137 pints against a 150-pint quota during the Chapter's last visit of the Bloodmobile. It was the time the Chapter lost its Blood Program chairman too, but Chapter chairman Windward Bancroft found an excellent replacement in the person of John W. Harris of Sharon.

Mr. Harris, a lawyer by training, quickly came to the conclusion that some new approaches were needed to find donors to replace the timers who had been giving blood since World War II but were reaching the age limit. He also recognized that the Blood Program he headed served not only the needs of the people within the Salisbury Chapter's regular area of service (Canaan, Fall Village, Salisbury and Sharon) but also the New York communities of Dover Plains, Chenega, and Millbrook in the Plattsburgh area and other towns served by Sharon Hospital.

Mr. Harris' first task was to inherit a remarkable team of veteran Blood Program volunteers, who immediately began to plan a "first-time donor" day only in the Connecticut area but also in New York State. At the organizational meeting in early April, the goal was set. Mr. Harris surprised some of the experienced volunteer leaders when he politely but firmly stated that the goal for the April visit of the Bloodmobile would be to collect 235 pints.

The operation of this vital blood program in Northwest Connecticut has to be a well-organized team effort. It takes a minimum of 75 volunteers of every kind (doctors, nurses, 4th & 5th Scouts, nurses, Red Cross workers, etc.) to make the operation. On the day of the last Bloodmobile visit here it took 235 men hours to collect the 235 pints.

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Editorials

In The Dumps

We were a bit puzzled about the special Salisbury hearing of the Board of Finance called last Friday. As more than one person mentioned, a meeting for the identical purpose (to solve the town dump problem) was called some two or more years ago. A lot of people thought it was solved then. And they thought it was under control when they voted each year since, as part of the budget, ever-increasing funds to take care of it.

Increases were to be expected, but now we are told the same thing as before; the dump does not live up to State requirements. It is not a real (sanitary) land-fill. And we are told by the owner of the dump that it would take about \$1,000 extra to make it so (under present conditions); a figure which Dr. Gott, health officer, questioned as too high and which a couple of others said was too low as heavy equipment would be needed.

We remained confused. A movie was presented showing a "good" land-fill. It obviously concerned a great city and all the heavy equipment used there was way out of proportion to our needs. And we were told that the only difference between our operation and that was that trenches should be dug and rubbish covered each day. And even though making the present dump live up to State requirements seems to be primarily a matter of money (amount in question), the direct implication was made that for various reasons the present dump site never would live up to State requirements.

To us, this is a matter for the Selectmen, not the Town. Normally, it should have been a matter of a simple contract, with failure of the loss of the contract, and with escalation clauses provided for increased volume if necessary. But then the rub comes, and it was stated openly... there is no other place in town for a dump.

So why call a meeting, especially as no new data was forthcoming, no figures on what other towns have to pay; no suggestion about this or that property, or the possibility that the town might be faced with having land preempted for this purpose willy-nilly? That, at least would have been something to talk about, especially if two or three possible sites had been mentioned.

But to say, literally, the present dump can't go on; that there is no way to force compliance (even mention of more money gave no assurance); and that there was nothing else to do... this made the whole meeting futile. And, to us, the crowning irony was that the meeting was also called to consider an extra appropriation apparently for conducting an illegal dump.

Frankly, we think there have been too many special meetings, for too many extra appropriations, (among other things) in the past year. Maybe it's an unusual year, but the result is that only a few faithful meetings goers make many decisions, and the budget looks the way the moon used to look... unreal. —S.H.

OPEN FORUM: What Our Readers Think

Remarks on Parks

To the Editor:

After reading the fine letter written by Mrs. Pope in recent issue of the Journal about the parks in the town, I thought the Salisbury Park Commission would know what should be done. But seeing they do not, I thought I would add a few remarks. In this important parking is the most important issue we have to contend with and should be treated as such. Benches are included in the plan. I think Baurer Park should allow as much parking as possible to take care of the overflow from Holly Grove which is bound to come in a few years as this community grows. I checked the parking at Holly Grove twice this year when the crowds were largest. I estimate the parking space was 90% full and benches in park were not 50% filled in fact were in fact empty. I think the Holly Grove park is absurd. It shuts off view of the route. Cars coming up from old Railroad Station.

This park should have been turned into all possible parking to all business in the neighborhood especially the Salisbury Bank and Trust Company who are unable to find a suitable place to move to as they were advised to do thirty years ago when a suitable place could have been found.

It is lack of foresight that main traffic arteries are as they were 45 years ago when built for model T Fords.

Here's hoping for some brightly low to bring the various factions together in town for the good of all.

Sincerely,
Milo G. Martin

Beats To Difter

To the Editor:

I beg to differ with the statement by the Belcher-Kiefer-Miner team about Hanging Rock Park. It is used every day not only by town people but out of town as well.

Hazel Brasse

Differences in Doctoring

To the Editor,

As a practicing newcomer to the area I would like to say I was reassured and enjoyed Ann Haskins' story on the recent case of a patient who was characterized by Dr. Harry J. Weller. It has not been my privilege thus far to meet him. What I am sure the community is losing is the care of a doctor from active practice but, with lessening of his activity after the outdoor season, perhaps he can be persuaded to devote a bit of his time to patients of the town. We would all benefit, and he might enjoy it too.

By coincidence a study in the New England Journal of Medicine column in the same issue of the Journal. This one holds medical views in a different plane. The plan is for a Medicare-Medicaid, the Gold or Era for those physicians who are showing an aptitude for continuing according to the plan. This column enumerates Ten "Commandments" for patients, using this device as a carrier for the two he really wants to push.

(1) He nervously exhorts us in Commandment No. 3 to confine our illness to office hours. This is unnecessary disturb the serenity of his home and family. Personal "obligations" be cited as a reason. Weller never erect such a barrier?

(2) "Commandment" No. 10 covers "prompt payment of fees" which touches the raw nerve in us all. He clearly implies that the payment of skyrocketing doctor fees rate priority over all other obligations, soaring.

(3) "Commandment" No. 11 covers "prompt payment of fees" which touches the raw nerve in us all. He clearly implies that the payment of skyrocketing doctor fees rate priority over all other obligations, soaring.

Help Wanted

This is the spring. Sharon Hospital completed its first training course for air ambulance attendants. This has been a start in the right direction in upgrading our immediate care of accident victims and for patients who become acutely ill. The hospital plans to start this summer. It is so that each town that now provides ambulance service will have a nucleus of 10-15 trained attendants to man their ambulances.

Equally important are proper equipment and good communication between the doctors at Sharon Hospital installing two-way radio equipment which will provide communication between Sharon and other Connecticut and New York hospitals, and between Sharon Hospital and the various New York and Connecticut ambulance companies operating in the hospital service area. The local use of this two-way radio will serve the dual purpose of allowing the doctors to talk directly with the ambulance attendants at the scene of the accident and it will give the hospital a 15-minute warning in the event of a multiple car accident.

A number of new and expensive items were introduced during the recent 35 hour Hospital Course. These included new types of splints, stretchers and other items. We have strongly recommended.

(Continued on Page 10)

Affairs of State

Remembering past experiences, it is difficult to be optimistic about the success of the task force which is supposed to be set up by the General Assembly to deal with the problems which almost completely baffled the 1969 session. With a deficit already by David Timmins as all surrounding lake shore property in private hands and subsequent deeds, we can assure that there will never be commercialization beyond present levels in the Grove and that the facilities will always be available without charge to the young people of the town.

Regulations governing the use of the Grove are formulated by a special council appointed by and working with the Board of Selectmen.

11. TACONIC PARK

The triangular one-half acre in Taconic (near O'Neill's store) is the former site of the Taconic Triangle. John Belcher, John Holmes, John Brinsmade, Samuel C. Scoville and Harry Grant of Salisbury, and the late Dr. Sheffield, all Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Salisbury, decided this piece of land to be given to the town. It came the stipulation that a "house or place of worship" should be erected on it for use of the church. In 1953, there were no heirs of Dr. Belcher surviving, and as Salisbury held tax liens on the land to the church, the one-half acre was foreclosed. On the request of 43 residents of Taconic, who believed that the site should be put to commercial use, it was taken as a Town Park and made into a little park, centered by a memorial rock.

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