

Major landscape changes are taking place on the Lower Cape as work on the extension of Route 6 out to New Beach goes into high gear. Huge scars are appearing in the hills along Pilgrim Heights, and crews of men are busily engaged in clearing brush near Snail Road and through towards the Town Dump. Bulldozers are making

life miserable for the wildlife as the unaccustomed noise sends them looking for new homes. We may not like the changes in the landscape, but we suppose that's progress. It won't be long before automobiles will be hurtling along, over land that for eons had been traveled only by animals, and an occasional human.

were as busy as the proverbial bees last week as the mercury took a sudden drop, and Cape Tip motorists clamored at their doors for the precious antifreeze . . . Now after everyone got their car winterized the mercury climbed back up into the 50's. Still it pays to be on the safe side.

October 8, 1953

Most of us who drive along the Cape have seen the various signs "Children Crossing", "Deer Crossing" and "Cattle Crossing." Last week Dody Captiva in her North Truro column came up with another, "Turtles Crossing". But Provincetown will outdo all of these when the new route cuts across one of our important lanes to the Back Shore and we will have "Snails Crossing". Why was Snail Road, or Snails Road as some call it, so named? Possibly because one must slog through heavy loose sand and the going for the uninitiated is hard and slow

January 20, 1955

NOW THAT THE Provincetown Board of Zoning Appeals has approved the application to build an animal hospital, residence for the attendant and garage off Snail Road between the old and new Routes 6, Horace F. Hallett, president of the First National Bank and administrator of the will of the late Martha J. Atkins who left funds for the project, is awaiting word from Carlton S. Buttrick, president of the Animal Rescue League which will operate the institution, as to the next move in the project. Mattie Atkins, as she was known to all in Provincetown devoted her later years to helping humane societies and to carrying on her own, personal campaign of caring for stray cats and dogs and to feeding wildlife in the Winter. She left practically her entire estate to animal rescue leagues in this country and England. It was her plan to have her property opposite the Provincetown Post Office used for an animal hospital but town officials refused to issue a permit for such a project in the center of the town. However, there was no opposition on the part of any member of the Board of Appeals to have it out on the west side of Snail Road, south of the Old Colony tracks and north of old Route 6. In fact, it should be a unique addition to the town's facilities as sufficient funds have been provided to create a really modern animal shelter.

December 8, 1955

Work Starts On Animal Rescue Shelter Made Possible By Martha Atkins Gift

Work was started early this week on preparations for the construction of a dog and cat shelter and home for a resident veterinarian on land along Snail Road between the former Route 6 and the railroad tracks, facilities which will be owned and operated by the Animal Rescue League of Boston and were made possible by bequests by the late Martha Atkins, of Provincetown, who devoted much of her time during her later years to the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Plans for the new structures have been drawn up by F. Cliff Pearce, Orleans architect and the contract for the erection of the buildings has been awarded to Carl A. Benson of Truro. The latter on Saturday began clearing the site which lies near the railroad tracks off Snail Road. Workmen are digging a well to supply water for the concrete work. It is expected that the cost of the project, including the two buildings will be in the neighborhood of \$32,000.

Shelter First

The shelter, which will be built first, will be a modern, one-story building with flat roof, 30 by 54 feet, with an operating room, clinic, dog and cat quarters with runs for dogs, and a kitchen where meals for the animals will be prepared. The building will be of frame construction, concrete floor with radiant heat, plaster walls, acoustical ceiling, tar and gravel roof with red cedar siding.

The residence will be built along the lines of a Cape Cod three-quarter style cottage, 28 feet by 32 feet, with living room and fireplace, kitchen and dining alcove, two bedrooms and bath on the first floor. There will be an expansion attic to allow for the addition of two more bedrooms and a bath. The outside of the building will be finished in gray weathered shingles, shingle roof with white chimney. The residence will be attached to a garage by a screened porch and there will be room for a passenger car and the Animal Rescue League truck.

Ample Room

Entrance to the shelter and residence will be by means of a black top road from Snail Road and it will end in a turn-around of 60 feet diameter so that a large number of cars may be accommodated.

It is expected that the project will be completed and ready for

use in the Spring.

The late Martha Atkins left her home and large piece of valuable land, on Commercial Street, opposite the Provincetown Post Office to the Animal Rescue League, for the shelter and residence now being built off Snail Road. The shift to this location was made necessary because of the refusal by local officials to grant a permit for the animal project in the central business section. In the meantime this property was bought, after years of idleness, by James Matenos and the old Atkins home has been completely demolished.

The new location is well removed from all other homes and buildings and while it will enjoy this isolation, the shelter is but a few feet from the new Route 6. The land between the site and the old Route 6 is almost completely covered with scrub pine; however, the shelter and residence will be built on a slight rise so that both will be visible from this highway and will have a fine view of the harbor.



The Animal Rescue League - Snail Rd
- October 1956 -

- March 4, 1960 -

DURING THE STORM, Don Westover, local agent of the Animal Rescue League, brought all his animals into his living room. His Noah's Ark included eight or ten parakeets, one guinea pig, five or six dogs and three cats, who all behaved very well together. The pet donkey remained in his own house . . . Mrs. Annie Mae Lewis of Conway Street, during the height of the storm, brought to Mrs. Harriet Adams, who is confined to her all electric home on Kendall Lane in a wheel chair, a pot of hot Portuguese soup, a thermos of hot tea and two hard-boiled eggs . . . John Mendes, who is working on the new motel of Maline Costa's in the West End, was seen shoveling snow out of bath tubs the day after the storm.