Editor's Uneasy Chair

We take pleasure in announcing here the winners of medallions in the first Vermont Life photographic contest, held last summer in conjunction with the Southern Vermont Art Center's annual Photographers Exhibition.

The winning photographs, which will be reproduced in our Spring issue, were:

Black & White

*After the Storm,* Robert Bourdon, Stowe.
*Country Winter,* Newell Green, Ascutney.
*The Singers,* Burton Wolcott, Claremont.

Honorable mention went to Neil Priestman, Wilmington (horse series) and to Judith Hall, Putney, *Icy Corner.*

Color Winners were:

*Time out for Lunch,* Alouise Boker, Dorset.
*Londonderry Artistry,* Cecile Briggs, Brattleboro.
*Green Valley,* Dolly Magnaghi, Brattleboro. Honorable mention for Burton Wolcott's *Last Row.*

**SEASONAL ADDRESSES, A NOTICE**

We are now accepting split subscriptions from readers with permanent seasonal homes. Send with your subscription the address where you'll be living from November 15 to March 15 (to receive Winter & Spring) issues. Tell us also what your Vermont address will be between May 15 & Sept. 15 (to receive Summer & Fall issues). If you winter in Vermont and wander off summers, we can fix that, too—provided you wander in a fixed pattern. If it turns out you won't be at the designated address on time (for instance—not back in Vermont until June) arrange with your postmaster to hold or forward your copy. Issues are mailed about Dec. 1, Mar. 1, June 1 & Sept. 1.

This service is an experiment designed for those who reside at the same places each year. We hope it will prevent many from missing certain issues and void the need to carry two subscriptions.

**THE COVER**—The Herbert Randall place outside Bradford, Ed Palmer, his horse and sleigh, Marjorie Heilman the passenger. The scene was taken by her husband, Grant.
THEY STILL CUT ICE

An early sun silhouettes the motor-powered saw, scoring the thick ice in big blocks.

Sawing key blocks by hand to open a channel.

They tamp snow in saw cuts to halt re-freezing.
Chances are that the next generation will look on the science of ice cutting as an antique, forgotten art. Fifty years ago heavily dressed crews worked in zero weather to put up ice at ponds near almost every town in the northern United States.

But nowadays most of us get our ice much more simply, by opening the freezing compartments of our electric refrigerators. In all probability the last of the ice cutters will disappear from ponds within a few years.

Even today there are few youngsters who have ever had the thrill of watching a circular saw score a pond of ice, tossing a powdery film high into the air in front of it. Nor have many of today's youngsters ever watched an ice cutter leap nimbly from one floating block of dazzling white ice to another.

Most of the major ice cutters have already disappeared. But up in Lyndonville the third generation of the Handy family still puts up about four thousand tons of ice each year. It's hard work, but they enjoy it, for it takes a skill which few people any longer have.

In fact, one of the major problems of the Handys is to find enough helpers to do a good job. Lately they've relied on high school boys because most of the old timers in the ice cutting business are too old to work any longer.

First job in ice cutting is to score the pond surface into 22 by 44 inch blocks. The Handys use a gasoline-powered
Floating ice rafts are broken into cakes at the chute's mouth.

circular saw which cuts about nine inches deep. They like to put up the ice when it's about fifteen inches thick, so the saw will cut deep enough to allow the ice to be broken apart with a single blow from the heavy “breaking chisel.”

While the ice is being scored, other members of the cutting crew are working with long, big toothed hand saws, cutting a curved channel to the loading chute.

Key blocks of ice must also be cut with the hand saw. Then, using breaking chisels, the crew can split off thirty or forty blocks in a solid row, and float the raft of ice down to the loading chute. There, again using chisels, they break the raft into individual blocks and put the blocks onto the chute.

Powered by a truck, a cable, with heavy steel hooks attached, pulls the five hundred pound blocks up the chute to the top, where they slide onto another ramp which slopes slightly downward, into the ice house. As they slip down the ramp the blocks gather speed.

Inside the ice house the crew digs into the fast moving blocks with pike poles, and buckles them into place. The house is filled a layer at a time.

The temperature of the ice prevents the formation of freezing between adjacent layers.
Inside the ice house blocks are built up in layers. The top is covered with straw.

It's always been wet cold work. This is an 1898 view at No. 10 Pond in Calais.