Who stole Melissa?

Artist's sculptured Holstein cow swiped from yard

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

That haunting sound echoing through Milton may not have anything to do with Halloween.

Instead, it could be the mournful keening of Cliffe Bill, an area barber and cow sculptor who has lost his latest creation.

Until recently, Mr. Bill had been busying himself preparing for Thanksgiving by carving a black and white Holstein cow out of lightweight wood.

But Mr. Bill's unfinished work was rustled from the yard of his Commercial Street home in the wee hours of Friday, Oct. 15.

"Melissa was last seen munching outside the Bill residence," reported Frank Wilson of the Optimist Club. "He had it outside with the side that was finished facing the road."

The theft is eerily reminiscent of a similar incident that occurred last December, The Champion has learned.

Then, a 300-plus pound cement cow was snatched from the Sixth Line property of Bert and Hazel Stewart.

> **"I guess people don't have enough to do."**
>
> **HAZEL STEWART**

Or at least part of it was, since only a back hoe could have effectively carted off the whole cow.

But the enterprising thieves must have come equipped with a sledgehammer, guessed Ms Stewart, in order to simply snap the head off.

And though the Stewarts had hoped to find the discarded head sometime after the spring run-off, it wasn't to be.

"They must have made plans to do it," said Ms Stewart. "I guess people don't have enough to do."

The December incident wasn't the first time swindlers tried to make off with the hefty heifer,

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