

# THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

MAY 2005

Volume 17, Number 1

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**Did Someone  
Cry Wolf?**



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**Should You Have  
Red Wine or White?**

See The Cork & Bottle

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**Danville Teacher  
Finds Bounty of  
Letters from  
Civil War Soldier  
from West Barnet**

## ELISABETH CHASE WAS AN ENTREPRENEUR AHEAD OF HER TIME

HARRIET F. FISHER

In 1915 when Elisabeth Chase began making maple creams in her Lyndon Corner home it was not a commercial venture. Chase viewed the cutting of the maple orchards as a tragedy because maple sugar was one of the largest industries in Vermont. She and her assistants organized

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## There is Nothing Like Messing Around with Old Fire Engines



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Dave Brown wanted to join the fire department when he was 10 years old, but department regulations in his hometown of Marion, MA required that members be 18. Eight years later Brown was invited to join the Marion Volunteer Fire Department, and today, in St. Johnsbury, he is nearing the end of his six-year restoration of a Maxim M3 pumper, the same engine he rode in Marion in the 1950s.

TERRY HOFFER

Dave Brown has always loved fire engines. He tells about visiting the fire station in Marion, MA when he was 10 years old and looking forward to the 4th of July parade when the big engines rolled through the small town beside Buzzards Bay.

Marion was Brown's hometown, but fire department regulations required that members be at least 18, so Brown was a spectator until his birthday on February 23, 1954. On that very day Marion's fire chief came to visit and asked Brown if he'd like to join.

Marion was a town of 3,000. Staffed by volunteers the fire department had four engines: two forestry units (a Dodge and a GMC) and two pumpers (a 1937 Ford and a 1926 Maxim). Brown was a member, and for the first time he had a badge and a helmet of his own.

Shortly thereafter Brown went away to college, but he says, "I always came back." He remembers one fire call in particular. It was August 1956. "That morning there was a barn fire at a dairy farm in Rochester. That's the next town over. The air whistle woke me up at 6:30, and I met Bill MacDougall at the fire station. We climbed into the Maxim and took off for the fire."

Marion's Maxim was a pumper, the product of a high quality but low volume company in Middleboro, MA. Carlton Maxim started his business there as a woodworking shop in 1888. By 1905 Maxim was

buying and selling "auto-cars," and his expertise in woodworking, mechanical repairs and automobile painting was in great demand. According to Middleboro's Town History, in 1907 Maxim developed a "picnic" vehicle, sort of a motorized barge to carry a group of people on outings and excursions to places like Boston, and in 1914 the Maxim Motor Company produced its first firefighting equipment.

That first vehicle was a Maxim hose-car for the town of Middleboro. The company grew, and the name of the Maxim Motor Company became associated with pumpers and ladder trucks, made at the highest state of the art.

With Brown and MacDougall headed for the barn fire in Rochester the Model M3 Maxim was in its 30th year but still a beautiful vehicle, and as it arrived at the scene the first responders were trying to save the calf barn. Brown still quotes the farmer. "Bob Hiller said, 'When I saw the Maxim turn in I knew my calf barn was going to be okay.'"

The early morning blaze in August 1956 was brought under control and although the hay barn was lost, the calf barn was saved. Damage to the farm was minimized thanks to the Maxim pumper and the combined mutual aid from surrounding towns.

In 1960 Marion's Maxim was retired by the fire department, and its title was transferred to the local VFW post for the sum of one dollar. Members of the VFW relished the chance to keep the truck in the 4th of July parade, and Brown was often there on an annual pilgrim-

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**The farmer said,  
"When I saw the  
Maxim turn in I  
knew my calf barn  
was going to be  
okay."**

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## Could Vermont's Green-Up Last All Year?

When Governor Deane C. Davis proclaimed April 18, 1970 as Green Up Day, Vermont was the first state in the country to designate a full day to cleaning up the whole state. Davis was pleased at the response to his proclamation, and the data about trash collected is staggering. In a massive annual statewide effort volunteers gather more than 30,000 bags of our waste.

Thirty-five years later, the first Saturday in May is Vermont's Green Up Day when we are welcomed (make that urged) to rake-, pick- and clean-up the high water mark of winter litter. From Averill to Pownal, from North Alburg to South Vernon, beside dirt roads and state highways rakers and pickers weed out fallen trash and bring back the honest green to Vermont's fields and her mountains. The job they do is astounding. That's great news, and I commend them.

What I don't understand is that this is all seems to be taken for granted. Each year the winter tide seems to return and wash our landscape with the same stuff as before. But the winter tide is no natural event. It's the thoughtless (or at least careless) behavior of those who buy convenience- and fast-food and drinks and toss their empty containers from vehicles. It's the trash that they won't take the time to dispose of properly. It's disgusting.

I am sure Deane Davis envisioned his plan as one with two objectives. He imagined a spring clean up with bulging trash bags and spruced up town greens and, more importantly, a gradual decline in Vermont's roadside litter. The bad news is we have failed. Somewhere in our rush to convenience and speed the "Leave no Trace" ethic was lost. The assumption that no one will care or that someone else will pick it up is widespread. I wish it weren't so.

I'd like to see a bigger and better Green Up Day with schools playing a more significant role in their communities and new faces joining those who have done this before. I'd like to see Green Up lasting longer than one Saturday in May with more people adopting sections of roadways under the state Green-Up-a-Roadside program and a serious reduction in the accumulation of roadside litter. I'd like to see the green in Vermont last longer and stay freer from metal cans, glass bottles and paper cups with a more rigorous "bottle" redemption law. And I'd like to see a higher level of understanding that we are all victims of this mess on our landscape and more people saying, "I'm not going to take it anymore." Now that would be great news and (I like to think) satisfying for everyone.

Terry Hoffer

For further information on May 7 Green Up call Airie Lindsay in **Barnet** (748-8515) or Dennis Kauppila in **West Barnet** (633-4791), Markus Vogt in **Burke** (626-8317), Jim Jung in **Danville** (684-1019), Nancy Spencer in **Groton** (584-3717), Sara Behrsing in **Hardwick** (472-5028), Mary Kay Wood in **Kirby** (695-2216), Lisa Barrett in **Lyndon** (626-5785) or John Hurd in **Lyndonville** (626-3532), Trish Turner in **Newark** (467-3161), Jo Ann Post in **Peacham** (592-3221), Darryl Perkins in **Ryegate** (584-4710), Chris Benson in **Sheffield** (626-9755), Dennis and Dawn Goodhue (748-2108) or Mike Welch (748-3926) in **St. Johnsbury**, Evelyn & Michelle Rich in **Stannard** (533-2628), Stuart Smith in **Walden** (563-2630), Clarence Priest in **Waterford** (748-8870), Chris Benson in **Wheelock** (626-9255) or Doreen Devenger in **Sutton** (467-3377).

## Too Many Names

In a not-really-serious way, I sometimes wonder what it would be like to work at different jobs. Curiosity, rather than an earnest search for greener vocational grass, is the driving force. An advertising flyer for interior house paint is the stimulus of my most recent occupational meditations.

The multitude of paint colors astounds me. Subtle variations in hue and intensity create more than a rainbow of different colors. What intrigues me even more is the fact that the diverse tints all have names. Some names intuitively fit the color: "Ripe Oats" (a yellow-brown), "Lightening Bug" (a shade of yellow), "Scarlet Letter" (a deep red), "Sea to Shining Sea" (a rich blue). Other names, colorful as they may be, escape my associative capacity: "Sweet Surrender" (a rose-tinted white), "Etched Glass" (a light green), "Confetti" (a warm pink) and one of my favorites, "Grandma's Sweater"—I'll leave it up to you to match the name to the color. What great names, far better than my attempts above at describing the colors.

I think it would be fun to be a paint namer. In my ignorance, I wonder how the naming process works. Is there such a job as "color nomenclaturist?" If so, are there prerequisites for this line of work such as a college degree, certification or membership in a national association of color namers? If color naming is a full time occupation, does it pay by the hour or the piece? Are there productivity demands? If it is one of many duties, is it done during designated color naming sessions or spontaneously during, for instance, the daily commute, tedious conference calls, or pre-dawn episodes of insomnia? I suspect I will never learn the answer to these questions.

Equally mysterious to me is the process by which drugs are named. All drugs have a chemical designation that is established by internationally accepted conventions that describe the chemical composition of the agent. These names are logical, understood only by chemists and typically use all the letters of the English alphabet and a few from the Greek, as well as numbers, hyphens and other assorted bits of punctuation. No "Grandma's Sweater" here.

Thankfully, sometime during the development of a new drug, cognominal parsimony is applied and a shorter, so-called generic name is assigned. Given that the developers of drugs usually pride themselves as logical thinkers, I expect there is some rationale in the derivation of generic drug names. However, the logic escapes me. Generic names often are helpfully similar and link drugs that have similar properties. For example, the "statins" atorvastatin, fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, rosuvastatin and simvastatin are all drugs that lower cholesterol by the same mechanism. (I believe there is an inverse association between the ease of enunciating a drug's generic name and its cost. Can you say "abciximab?" You can't afford, without good insurance, this \$1,750/dose blood-thinning drug used during heart catheterization procedures.)

Unfortunately, two names apparently are not enough for drugs. Pharmaceutical companies designate a brand name to their patent-protected drugs. These names usually are shorter and easier to pronounce than the generic names. Brand names occasionally hint at the drugs function, such as Lopressor (LOWers blood PRESSure). I suspect that marketing strategies play a role in the derivation of brand names.

Interface the myriad drug names with human fallibility and medication errors will occur—and have. Changes in packaging, storage and labeling have been introduced to decrease name-related medication errors. I think it would help to eliminate brand names. Why not just a generic name, with the manufacturer's name appended, if desired, as either a suffix or prefix? This colossal (impossible?) change, which goes against a long history of proprietary naming, could further decrease the confusion from sound alike drug names such as Xanax and Zantac. If it decreases medication errors, I am willing to practice my diction so I can intelligibly pronounce generic names such as abciximab, oseltamivir, nitazoxanide, isotretinoin ...

Tim Tanner

# THE North Star MONTHLY

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## Write to Us

**LETTERS:** Write to *The North Star*, and let us know what's on your mind. Your point of view or observation is important to us. Letters must be signed.

**ARTICLES:** We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to you sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.

**PHOTOS:** We'd like to see your photos and welcome them with a story or without. They can be black-and-white or color, but they must be clear.

**PRESS RELEASES:** We prefer press releases that are unique to *The North Star*.

**DEADLINE:** 15th of the month prior to publication.

All materials will be considered on a space available basis.



## Letters to the Editor:

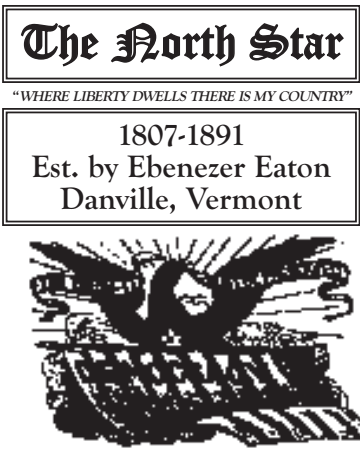
### Finger Splits

*Editor's Note:* The interest in Tim Tanner's search for the ultimate defense against finger splits

[*North Star*, February 2005] continues. Recently Janice Currier provided us with a sample of her favorite. It's called Crack Care, All Natural Tea Tree Lavender Salve for cracked fingers, lips, heels and burns. Ingredients include nut oils, olive oil, beeswax and essential oils of tea tree and

(See *Letters on Page 4*)

# Ice Going Out on Joe's Pond Biggest Log Drive Ever on Passumpsic River



American people, which is to subdue the continent.

A horse belonging to Mr. John Currier of this village fell in the road on Monday and in a few moments was dead. The horse appeared as well as usual and at the time of his death was on his way from Harveys Hollow to the village.

May 8, 1874

**Industrial Outlook** - The industrial outlook of this country is anything but cheering. The lumber interest in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota is depressed. First class carpenters are glad to work in Chicago for one dollar and fifty cents a day - not half the rates of two years ago. Within a few weeks a large number of the heavy iron mills of Pennsylvania have closed down and more are soon to follow. The coal business is nearly stagnant. And yet with all its depression the reports continue from Pittsburg that workmen are getting restive and preparing for a strike for higher wages to the rates before the panic. This is most unfortunate. Our industries are temporarily in a critical condition, and every workman should be willing to help tide over the present crisis.

Dr. James M. Ayer a native of Danville but for some years a resident of Buenos Aires, South America is expected to arrive soon at New York with his family. He has made arrangements to spend the summer in this village where his many friends will be pleased to welcome him home. The doctor

has enjoyed a large and lucrative practice at Buenos Aires, which together with some very fortunate real estate transactions have placed him in affluent circumstances.

May 15, 1874

**Centennial Bill** - The Centennial bill has been defeated in the National House of representatives. The majority against it was small and it may come up again in some other shape but probably not in this session. The bill proposed to appropriate \$3,000,000 to aid the Centennial celebration in Philadelphia in July 1876. Mr. Willard was the only member from Vermont that voted against it. By many the bill was thought to be only the first step toward asking for further appropriations and that the money would be squandered or misapplied.

Some of our farmers, especially in the south and east parts of the town, are sowing their grain, and the spring farm work is now fully inaugurated.

**Ice Out** - Last Tuesday the ice in Joe's Pond had just begun to break up around the margin of the pond. The day previous it was perfectly safe traveling on the ice either for man or beast. Some eight years since the ice did not break up until the 6th of May. For a long period of time the pond has not remained closed so late as this spring.

May 22, 1874

**An Awful Calamity** - The most terrible disaster in the annals of Massachusetts occurred last Saturday. The Williamsburg reser-

voir covering a tract of over one hundred acres, gave way early in the forenoon precipitating the vast mass of water it contained three miles down a steep and narrow valley into the thriving manufacturing village of Williamsburg and thence down the valley through the villages of Haydenville, Leeds and Florence into the Northampton meadows where the stream empties into the Connecticut River. The huge torrent swept away the manufacturing establishments and dwellings in Williamsburg causing enormous destruction of property and terrible loss of human life. It is now estimated that from one hundred and fifty to two hundred were all swept away in a moment comprising entire families and all ranks of life, men, women and children.

Mr. Robert Meader has fitted up a nice and commodious express wagon to convey freight, passengers and the mail to and from the depot in our village. Hope he will receive a full share of patronage as he is very competent and obliging in this line of business.

May 29, 1874

**Nellie Married** - The great social event at Washington last week was the marriage of Miss Nellie Grant (only daughter of the President) which was solemnized in the east room of the executive mansion on Thursday evening. Three hundred invitations were issued largely to persons outside Washington. The object on the part of the president's family

seems to have been to render the wedding as private as possible carefully avoiding everything that would give it an official character. The wedding pair sailed for England on Saturday on the steamer Baltic.

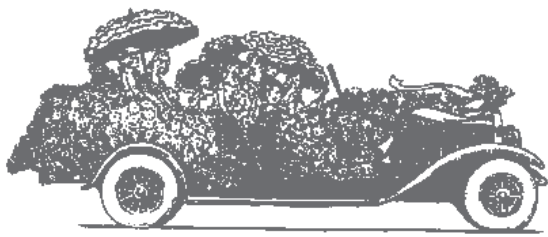
**Lumbering** - The biggest drive of logs ever made on the Passumpsic River was made last week by D.P. Hall and a gang of about twenty hands. About 2,000,000 logs were in different places in Newark and East Haven rolled into the river. Five thousand were driven from Newark and East Haven to East Burke where George Ide with about ten hands drove 3,000,000 to the new mill in the north part of Lyndon, 1,500,000 of which passed the slide there and were driven to the mills near Lyndonville.

Ceylon Dow and John McKenzie have purchased from John Bolton 300 acres of woodland on Walden Mountain for \$2,400. The property is known as the Walter Stone place. The new owners intend to cut the timber, of which there is a heavy growth, and fit it for market.

The new clothes pin shop for the manufacture of Mellish's patent clothes pin is now in full operation in Bellows Falls. The company makes from forty to fifty thousand a day.

Potatoes are just now scarce and high in price. They were pretty generally bought up for the Boston market last winter, and in some cases our people sold themselves short and now have to buy which is rather poor economy.

# THE North Star MONTHLY



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## Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 2)

lavender and is credited to N. Wittner, D.M.D. of Hanover, NH. Tim Tanner expects to give a report on his ponderings in a future issue.

### Mount Washington

Dear North Star,

I enjoyed the feature article on Mt. Washington in winter [North Star April 2005]. As one of the "winter hikers who tag the summit marker and move on," it was interesting for me to read an account from somebody who ascended in winter (albeit in a heated tractor) but also for whom visibility was nearly unlimited - clear to the horizon. It certainly must have been a beautiful weekend indeed.

I have always been impressed by the vibrant community of scientists using the mountain and the public benefits derived from their research. Equally impressive are the recreational opportunities of the mountain presented by both the text and photos of the article; it is certainly an extraordinary place.

For the benefit of anyone attempting an ascent in winter or summer, note that there is little that you can discern at ground level to prepare you for the experience at the top. Steady winds as

low as 30 mph interfere with verbal communication (and at higher speeds will soon prevent it entirely, even with radios), and the typical low visibility can lead to unexpected and rapid onset of disorientation. A bright, sunny day in the 20's with light winds on the valley floor can turn into a hellish -10°F w/ 60 mph blowing snow. And that can happen even when there is no change in the weather, just the difference between valley floor and summit!

On my ascent this past February our group formed smaller groups of five, five and seven hikers (never hike Mount Washington alone). The first group started an hour earlier, but we caught up with them on the snowfields below the summit. They were slowed because they were breaking trail in fresh snow all the way up. They were only about 100 yards ahead of us when we first saw them, but we repeatedly lost them visually in the blowing snow.

Not only did they quickly disappear, but we couldn't see their tracks in the snow, even though the drifts on the snowfields were hip-deep and they were barely a minute ahead. We found we had to stick quite close together because our own tracks were filling in and completely obliterated in about 45 seconds. It's rather disconcerting when visibility is down to 30 feet and you lose the opportunity to follow your own tracks

(Continued on Next Page)

## Torts and Vermont Lawyers

Two months ago my editorial entitled "President Bush and Tort Reform" discussed the eventually successful crusade to modify laws on class actions. The editorial concluded with a *Washington Post* writer's prediction that it was "...the first part of a broader White House drive to limit what Bush sees as a glut of meritless lawsuits seeking billions of dollars..." He hasn't dropped the other shoe yet, but give him time.

How I wish there was a bully pulpit for columnists' use that would be as effective as the one that presidents use! They articulate their messages, factually true or not, before carefully selected audiences around the country. They know that the media gives their speeches coverage without judging the truth or falsity of their words. The rest of us have no opportunity to be heard or read beyond a limited geographical area. Our messages, such as this, are often more accurate and much less politically motivated than presidential remarks.

The relatively small number of knowledgeable lawyers specializing in tort cases object strenuously to President Bush's messages. He doesn't seem to know or care that plaintiffs' lawyers are very careful in deciding whether or not to accept a case. This is mainly because of the economic risks involved.

In preparing this editorial I talked at length with Bob Luce, a director and successful tort specialist practicing in Burlington with Downs Rachlin Martin, the firm I co-founded in 1950. I have not handled a tort case for over 30 years, so it was gratifying to learn that the basic considerations in effect when I practiced tort law are still valid. I expect lawyers in other states practice in much the same way as they do in Vermont.

When potential clients come to talk about their injuries, Bob has enough experience to make a judgment about the probable consequences of accepting their cases. If he decides not to take the case on the basis of the injuries, negligence and minimal economic potential, he gladly will give the client a list of lawyers who might take a different view of the case. If a case has the potential for a successful recovery, Bob tells the would-be client that he will decide whether to accept the case only after a thorough investigation of the underlying facts about injuries and negligence satisfies him that the claim has merit. He will usually tell the client at that time that two-thirds of the recovery will go to him and one-third to Bob. Expenses will be advanced by the firm and repaid from the recovery before the proceeds are divided. An agreement to this effect is executed. Bob will be available to provide general advice while the case is pending.

And then the real work begins. A meeting is set up with the client to explore and analyze the facts much more thoroughly. Decisions will be made about getting more information about liability, including reports, insurance company documents and interviews and depositions of potential witnesses and the defendant. It may be necessary to retain experts to investigate and testify about liability.

Medical aspects of the case are crucial. Doctors' and nurses' reports are scrutinized, and preparations made for interviews, possible depositions and retaining experts. All of this costs money, and it costs much more money if a trial results and these folks are called as witnesses. And while all of this plaintiff's activity is going on, of course the defendant's lawyer and the insurance company are busily developing the defense; money is no problem for them. The fact that no settlement has been negotiated suggests a hard fight ahead. They have the same right to demand depositions and copies of reports in the plaintiff's possession.

Now let's move ahead a few months. Negotiations between the lawyers failed to settle the case. A trial takes place. A 12-person jury returns a verdict for the plaintiff that is much higher than the lawyers or the judge had anticipated. The lawyers fought passionately for their clients as the legal canons of ethics mandate. The size of the verdict is not Bob's fault.

If the president has his way, this could not happen because an arbitrary maximum would be set on the amount of damages recoverable for pain, suffering and disability. He would allow recovery of out-of-pocket expenses and lost wages.

When 12 jurors return a verdict, the community has spoken. Its verdict must not be disturbed lightly. A much better solution in this unusual case would be for the judge to use his power to reduce the award. He can reduce the jury award, declare a mistrial or set aside the verdict and order a new trial. But after due deliberation, if the judge does not exercise his powers to reduce the verdict, then the verdict should stand. The defendant can appeal to a higher court.

The number of extremely high verdicts is relatively few. The majority of cases are settled before trial. Our tort system has worked well for many decades and should not be tampered with lightly. The verdict awarded to a plaintiff for a meritorious claim should be honored except under unusual circumstances, subject to an appeal.

When President Bush drops his next tort reform shoe, beware of the probable consequences for deserving plaintiffs in Vermont.

John Downs

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## Science and the Sexes

Recent statements made by Harvard University President, Lawrence Summers, have reopened discussion about women's ability in the scientific fields. He spoke at a conference on "Diversifying the Science and Engineering Workforce: Women, Under-represented Minorities and their Science and Engineering Careers." Many in the academic profession have taken issue with his ponderings about why the proportion of women is so low in some of the highly technical fields of physics, mathematics and engineering.

There are many theories afloat about why this is so. Some of them are related to social stereotyping at an early age, some to intelligence, and others to anatomical and structural differences in male and female brains, and their development before birth.

One interesting study at UCLA, using brain imaging of the top male and female scorers on the math section of the SAT, showed that, while solving math problems, men and women used different tissues of the cerebral cortex. This phenomenon has nothing to do with how smart they are. The average IQ is the same for men and women, but tests have shown that men and women do have differing skills. Men in general seem to do better with spatial tasks and mathematical reasoning. Women in general do better with verbal memory and distinguishing likeness or dissimilarity of objects. These skills seem to balance one another, so that intelligence between the sexes is equal.

There are other things that can affect the results of testing and ultimately the choice of field of interest and career. These factors are important in that some can be changed with careful attention. One is the teaching and testing environment.

According to Joshua Aronson, NYU professor of applied psychology, when students walk into a classroom or an exam room, and see few others like themselves, they are often intimidated. Preconceived ideas about differing abilities based on gender or race among fellow students or test takers can change the outcomes of testing in negative ways. Reassuring students that testing will not detect such differences has been shown to alter test scores in a positive fashion.

I attended an all-girls' high school in England. All of the science teachers were women, highly educated graduates of prestigious universities, all capable of research in their own specialties. It was through their encouragement and professionalism that I chose a career in science. I do not remember ever being told that women could not succeed in a scientific career. After that type of preparation, studying at a co-ed university was intimidating at first. The super-confident attitude of the male students towards academic work was a new experience, but the results of first year exams demonstrated that women were well able to hold their own. My experience in teaching high school science also showed this to be true. "Tell me what I can be, not what I cannot be," should be the philosophy of parents and educators towards both boys and girls.

So why are we so hung up on looking for academic differences between men and women and making negative judgments based on our findings? Why should a few poorly expressed comments by the Harvard president stir up such a furor? Why don't we celebrate the differences we find, rather than denigrate them?

Does it really matter whether women and men are equally represented in all academic fields? In my opinion it does not matter.

In 2004 more than 50% of medical students in American universities were women, yet no one seems to be telling men that they are inferior because they are not going into the medical profession! The important issue is that equal educational and career opportunities must exist, and all students must be encouraged to succeed wherever their talents and interests lead them.

We should be affirming and celebrating the incredible differences, that we are now discovering, between men and women in brain form and function. These complementary differences have been, and still are, integral to the survival of the human species.

Isobel P. Swartz

## Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 4)

back home. In fact, aside from the obvious physical demands of a big hike, all winter hikers will

tell you that the psychological stress can be worse.

As gusts began exceeding 50 mph, my group - just 1/2 a mile shy of the summit and out of communication with the first group - decided to turn back. We soon met up with the third batch just leaving treeline and heading out

across the unprotected flank of the summit we had just traversed. We re-assembled and re-divided into two groups again: those that decided to tag the summit and those that turned back. All of us had been to the summit in winter, but the combination of frostbite on two hikers, low visibility and a

route that traversed alongside extremely high-probability avalanche terrain were all factors in that decision.

The fact that opinion among 10 adults experienced in winter mountain hiking was split evenly shows how difficult decision-making can be for individuals or small groups at the moment of having to decide "go or no-go." All of us returned safely. The first group, it turned out, also addressed the "go, no-go" decision on the snowfields - but were unanimous in the "go" decision.

I've turned back just shy of the summit almost as many times as I've summited and like most experienced hikers count those turn-back decisions themselves as huge accomplishments. Certainly there's an element of disappointment, but it's short-lived - as compared to the consequences of recklessness for surviving friends and family. Even in mid-summer it is important to pack for any weather conditions and to leave your ego at home.

My advice to anyone heading to the summit in summer or winter is (to quote and expand on the words of the tractor driver in the article): If you don't know where you're going, don't go. If you don't know what to pack, don't go. If you get a late start, don't go. If you don't have food and water, don't go. If you haven't checked the forecast from the observatory (including the subjective comments from the meteorologist in charge), don't go. If you don't understand why this advice is important, don't go. If you go and you find conditions near the

top to be an unexpected psychological and/or physical stress, turn back. Evaluate your situation frequently, check on your buddies frequently and come back safe.

The mountain will be around for a while. Thanks for the great article. I can't wait for my next ascent.

Dan Zucker  
Danville

Dear North Star,

Received the April edition of the *North Star*. Great article and great photos from the Mount Washington trip. I enjoyed reading about the adventure as well as all the other wonderful stuff going on in your neck of the woods. You have a terrific cadre of contributing writers and topics. Thanks again.

Larry Garland cartographer  
Appalachian Mountain Club

### Thanks

Dear North Star,

I read this paper from front to back as soon as I get my hands on it. Keep 'em coming.

Jean Temple  
Concord, VT

Dear North Star,

I really look forward to all the news in your paper. Knowing the people who write for you makes it very enjoyable. Keep up the good work. It's a great little paper.

Arlene Desrochers  
Bridgton, ME

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## Remembrance - We Called Him Henry

*JAMES & VERNA VARNUM*

It was 1929 - the year of the stock market crash — and the beginning of the Great Depression. Twenty million people were unemployed when Franklin Roosevelt was elected president. Soup lines formed for the hungry in the big cities.

The man named Henry had been building props for the silent movie industry in Massachusetts before it moved to Hollywood. He was making props for the movie, "Down to the Sea in Ships," when he first met Clara Bow, who played leading roles in silent movies. Henry liked to reminisce about those days and how Clara Bow dumped a bucket of water over his head and how he locked her in a stateroom all one day.

Following those days in Massachusetts, Henry and his family moved to Washington, D.C. where he built houses for four years. As the Depression

continued he found himself without a job. As he said, "He couldn't build what he couldn't sell." Unable to find work in Washington and with the responsibility of a wife and two sons, he thought of East Hill in Peacham where he had grown up.

He and his family put their belongings in the Chevrolet and with ten dollars in his pocket arrived at his parents home on what is called East Hill Road today.

Over the next few years Henry worked as a farmer and carpenter, and his wife worked as a bookkeeper for several businesses and for the Town of Peacham. She was an efficient and well liked employee.

In 1936 Henry went to the Passumpsic Savings Bank in St. Johnsbury and on the strength of his good name only was loaned money to buy a farm on East Hill. Twenty some years later he drove in the dooryard of his neighbor. The family was eating

dinner when Henry produced a piece of paper. The neighbor looked at it, stood up, held out his hand and congratulated him. It was a warranty deed showing the farm loan had been paid in full. Not only had Henry paid off the loan, but he did it without missing a payment.

Henry respected his animals. One was Tweetee, a little hound dog, and another one was Sidney, a raccoon, which he had raised. Sidney always had a bowl of water to wash his food before he ate it. Henry also had a favorite horse, Buddy. When Buddy grew too old to work, Henry did not put her away as was the custom but continued to care for her because he appreciated the horse for all the work she had done.

If someone listened carefully to the stories Henry told, he could learn interesting examples of human behavior. One such story was about the time an individual had fallen on hard times and was on town help. Henry furnished him with milk from his cows. The person wishing to show his appreciation gave Henry a used shovel. When Henry got home he looked care-

fully at the shovel. On its handle was stamped "This is the Property of the Town of Peacham."

When the one room school house on East Hill was no longer used, Henry's son, Neil, bought it with the intention of converting it into a house. About the same time Henry bought land on Ticklenaked Pond. Upon examination of the schoolhouse, Henry advised Neil that it was not feasible to convert the old school as planned. Henry suggested they go into partnership, dismantle the school house and use the lumber to build a cabin on the pond. With much help from others, Henry rebuilt the schoolhouse into a comfortable cottage.

Henry knew what it was like to be without work and employed people when he could to help him. He hired one person in East Peacham who knew how to sew to make curtains for the cottage windows. Henry had many friends and considered her as one of them.

Henry had attended the same school in his youth as did his two sons. The writer of this narrative also experienced the joy of learn-

ing to read and write under its roof.

When Henry sold his farm he began to travel to such places as Virginia, Florida, Texas and California. When he visited us, we took him to the old time theater on Grand Avenue in San Francisco. A Wurlitzer organ was being played, and there on the screen was Clara Bow. As we walked out of the theater after the show, Henry told the manager that he had once held Clara Bow in his arms. She had fallen on the stage and he had gone over and picked her up. This was another one of Henry's stories.

Henry was eligible to use the Veterans Hospitals having served in the army during World War I. When he became seriously ill, while visiting his son, Neil, in Louisiana he died of congestive heart failure in that Veterans Hospital.

It was a privilege to know the man named Henry and his good wife and an equal privilege to read the well deserved letters of warm expressions of support from his family in the *North Star*.



## Pumpkin Hill Singers Present Spring Concerts

*PAM PARKER*

The Pumpkin Hill Singers will present two spring concerts, "Songs of Here and There" in May. The first will be in St. Johnsbury at the North Church on Thursday, at 7:30 on May 5, and the second will be at the Danville Congregational Church on the following evening, May 6 at 7:30.

Fresh from their debut at the invitation-only New England Folk Festival in Massachusetts, the Pumpkin Hill Singers will present several songs composed by their own Steve Parker and Susanne Terry, including The

Rowan Tree, In the Woods and Walkin' on the Mountain, which will be new to Northeast Kingdom listeners.


Soloists Andrea Machell Turner of Pumpkin Hill, Danville, Stan Busby of Brownington and David Truslow of St. Johnsbury will enrich the performances with their voices. Jeff and Ellen Gold as well as David Hare will accompany the group.

"We're lucky to have such wonderful musicians in our midst. We have a lot of fun together," says Beth Williams of Danville.

The group has been perform-

ing for many years and now numbers 18 singers, including sopranos Lisa Hantman, Julie Roslund, Deb Fontes, Jocelyn Burrell, Susan Terry and Andrea Turner, altos Cathy Hinchey, Denise Briggs, Sandy Hopkins, Pam Parker and Beth Williams, tenors Gerry Zickler, Steve Parker and David Truslow and basses Toby Balivet, Tom Ziobrowski, Stan Busby and Jay Sprout.

In addition to songs composed by Parker and Terry, the group will sing melodies from Spain, the Balkans, France, South Africa and Quebec. Admission will be by donation, and all are welcome.



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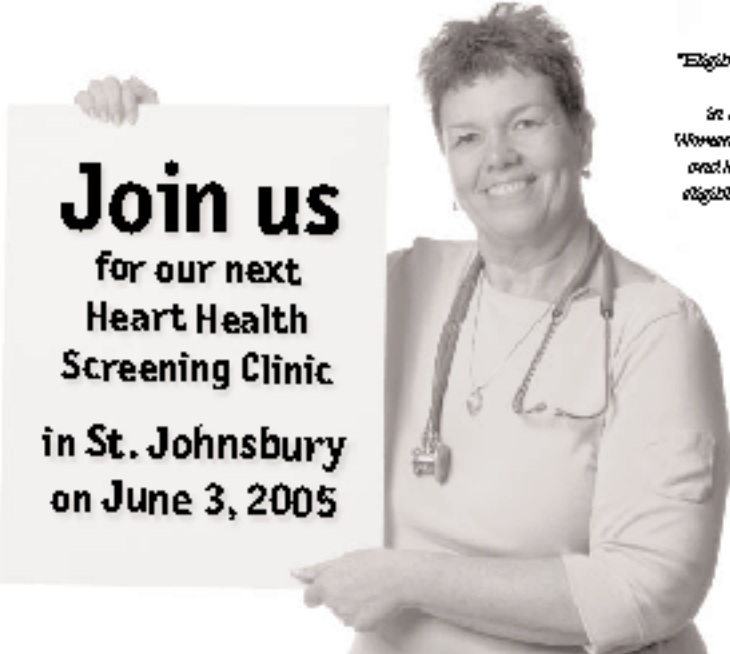
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## Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



The Vermont Country Store in Weston carries Tangee© lipstick in their catalog. I thought Tangee© went out with penny loafers, 20-cent-a-gallon gas and bobby socks. But there it is. The ad says, among other things, that “Tangee©, The Original Formula Natural Lipstick, ... changes color to accentuate a woman’s natural skin tone, and the color becomes uniquely and becomingly her own. It’s ideal for women who want to enhance their appearance without an artificial made-up look.”

Nothing is changed – except the price. The 0.13 ounce tube now costs \$12.95.

Tangee was the first lipstick Mother allowed me to use. She didn’t want me to have “an artificial made-up look!”

When I recall creeping into the Big Girls’ room and sampling their lipstick and rouge, I wonder if Mother’s strictness was the result of battles lost earlier. At the time I had forgotten my earlier transgression. I felt all grown up as I carefully outlined my lips. I wanted to look the same as the movie stars in the magazines Deedee bought.

I was graduating from eighth grade and had had my first permanent at Bernier’s Beauty Parlor in St. Johnsbury. A mass of tight curls clustered over my head. Deedee introduced me to the delights of sleeping with my hair put up in pin curls every night. We smoothed Pond’s Cold Cream or Pond’s Cleansing Cream over our faces. We thought – and the ads assured us we were correct – that our skin would look like the flawless faces of the movie stars in their air-brushed photographs. In vain we tried everything advertised to clear our complexions of those

nasty eruptions that broke out overnight.

We bought the Tangee© and the Cold Cream and Cleanser at the cosmetic section in Woolworth’s. I didn’t linger over the nail polish. It was understood that my fingers and nails did not merit nail polish – and Mother would not approve.

When we were in seventh and eighth grades, Teenie Petrie wore dark red nail polish on her nails, but that was not an argument that carried much weight with Mother. I really did not want my nails to look like Teenie’s because she bit her nails and started peeling off the polish as soon as she’d finished putting it on. It occurs to me now that Teenie’s mother probably encouraged the use of nail polish to stop the nail-biting.

For graduation I wore a white rayon sharkskin suit. Sharkskin was a stiff, rustling material. It was supposed to shed dirt. A good feature, if it had lived up to its billing, for rayon had to be dry cleaned. Rayon wasn’t washable and was, therefore, the most impractical of fabrics. Nonetheless, graduation pictures of those years feature most of the girls wearing white suits made of sharkskin.

My shoes had higher heels than I’d worn before – but not really high and only what we called Cuban heels. My stockings were rayon and had seams up the back. We made sure our seams were straight. Rayon stockings “ran” if you looked at them or if your fingernail caught in them. Stockings had to be held up and that meant a garter belt at the very least. We usually wore a girdle “to hold your stomach in” and our stockings were suspended on garters from the

girdle.

Mother took a photo of me, standing in front of the lilac bush, as she did of all her girls’ graduation. I don’t remember the event at all – most of my clearest memories date before my teens. I’m sure Mrs. Mackay was there, I probably spoke a “piece,” and Mr. Holden would have given our diplomas, rolled and tied with a ribbon, to Teenie and me and all the other graduates from the one-room schools. People congratulated us and shook our hands.

**It’s ideal for women who want to enhance their appearance without an artificial made-up look.**

Graded school was over. Next fall I would be starting at the Academy (“the Academy” meant “Peacham Academy.”)

We drove home in the old Plymouth. I went upstairs and took off my suit, my shoes and stockings and the garter belt. I put on a t-shirt and dungarees, slid my feet into sneakers and went to get the cows. That was life on the farm – no matter how much fun you might have on a picnic or how dressed up you got for an event, unless it was in an evening after Dad got through milking, at the end of the day you got into your work clothes and saw to your chores. But I still had on my Tangee© lipstick – and I expect its color was uniquely my own. ★

## Art Exhibit Features Work from Italy and Nepal

An exhibition of paintings by Cynthia Steil features oil paintings of Italy and Nepal. The exhibition will be at the Back Room Gallery in the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild in St. Johnsbury through May 17, from 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Steil is a landscape painter whose life has taken her to Italy and Nepal as well as to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, China, Russia and New Zealand. In her travels, she observes and responds to the land, to the seasons, and to time - to transient moments of light, color and water.

Steil’s response to the physical world is affected by what she has seen in her travels: the ravages of overpopulation, the destruction of the environment, as well as the beauty of those cultures which focus on the life of the spirit rather than on commerce and profit.

Steil has exhibited widely in Vermont and Massachusetts. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and at the DeCordova Museum, after graduating from Wheaton College with a bachelor’s degree in Art History.



Painting By: Cynthia Steil



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# Did Someone Cry Wolf?

JON MARGOLIS

Is the wolf near our doors?  
And if so, should it be?

In January a federal judge in Portland, OR ruled against the government's plan to take the wolf off the endangered species list in the Rocky Mountain West, inspiring some wolf advocates to speculate that the next stop for the wolf revival movement might be the Northeast.

Maybe even right here in Vermont, where wolves have been gone for more than a hundred years.

Whether there ought to be wolves in Vermont, whether people ought to undertake the effort to bring them back here is a matter of some controversy. As with most controversies, I take no position. I try never to have opinions. Any fool can have opinions. If you doubt that, listen to talk radio.

Wolves do tend to bring out the beast in human beings. Whether or not it occupies our forests, the wolf occupies our psyche. It is part of our folklore, where it is always a menace. We all know what wolves are. They are big and bad, and while those little pigs may have boldly sung, "Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?" the answer to their question was obvious. They were. We are. That was no moose

stalking Little Red Riding Hood through the woods. For centuries if not millennia, the wolf has been the symbol of danger.

But there is no case on record of a wolf - *canis lupus* is the scientific name - doing harm to a human being in the United States of America. They're wild animals who want no truck with us. They stay as far from human habitation as possible. They need land, lots of land, 'neath the starry sky above. Even before Europeans came to America, before people started their 300-year-long campaign to wipe them out, there were probably no more than 400,000 wolves in the continental United States. That's sparsely populated.

What we do know is that the government wolf recovery in Yellowstone Park, which began ten years ago, is an unqualified success. At last count there were 301 wolves in the Park, 368 in Central Idaho and 92 in northwestern Montana.

As predicted, the Yellowstone wolves have restored the ecological balance of the Park and its surroundings. There are fewer coyotes. More importantly, there are fewer elk. This has displeased some big game hunters, but the fact is that there used to be too many elk. Too many for what? For the veg-

etation. Yellowstone was over-browsed. Now it is not, to the benefit of many species of birds, hence of animals that prey on those birds.

And the wolves have been great for business. Thousands of tourists come to the park primarily to try to catch a glimpse of one of the park wolves. It is a thrilling sight. They are beautiful animals, and I will not forget the one I saw running along the top of a ridge line early one morning. These tourists of course stay at the local hotels, eat in the restaurants, buy trinkets in the local shops and refuel at the gas stations of West Yellowstone, Gardiner, Cody and other towns near the park.

Now, there ain't no free lunch, and for all the good the Yellowstone wolves have done, they have also done some harm. No one feels this harm more than the area's ranchers. Well, let's amend that; no one feels it more than the cows and sheep of the ranchers. There are no ranches in the park. Alas, wolves can not read the park boundary signs. They roam about. Over this last decade, Yellowstone wolves killed 486 calves and steers and 1,339 sheep.

The ranchers have not lost money from this predation. A privately financed fund established by Defenders of Wildlife pays ranchers for every con-

firmed wolf kill. So far, the organization has paid \$472,773. How much each animal is worth varies slightly according to circumstances, but it comes out to about \$400 a calf. Considering that all these ranchers graze their cattle and sheep on public land at below-market rates, they probably shouldn't complain.

Wolves thrive outside the West. They were never extirpated in Minnesota, which still has the largest wolf population - almost 2,500 animals. They, too, have wandered across borders, and there are now 360 wolves in northern Michigan and about the same number in Wisconsin.

Does that mean we ought to try to bring them back to the Northeast, to Maine, New Hampshire, the Adirondacks and northern Vermont? Well, they were here once, but our ancestors employed both the public and private sectors to get rid of them. State-financed bounties encouraged hunting and deforestation destroyed habitat. Whole packs were shot, trapped, poisoned and burned. By 1900, we had done them in.

Which does not necessarily mean we should bring them back. Vermont is not Wyoming. Here, most of the land is private, and we are more densely populated.

But a funny - and little-noticed - thing has been happening to the Northeast on our way to the future: Much of it has gotten wilder. As farms have failed, forests have reclaimed old pas-

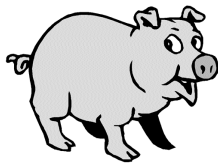
tures. A few decades ago, moose and beaver were scarce in the Northeast. Now moose are a traffic hazards on some roads, and beaver are plentiful enough to be an annoyance. There may be enough remote habitat, with lots of prey, few people and low road density to support wolves, mostly in the North Woods of Maine and in the Adirondacks but perhaps also in New Hampshire and Vermont.

**In 20 years or less we might not have to go much farther than the farthest reaches of Essex County to hear the howl of a wolf. It's quite a sound.**

Attitudes have changed, too. Perhaps because even as some land becomes wilder, more people live in the very - excessively? - planned and pruned metropolitan areas, many Americans like the idea of preserving and indeed restoring the wild. According to almost all the polling on this subject, a substantial majority of people favor wolf re-introduction, at least as a general principle.

To be sure, a substantial majority does not mean everybody, and many people, especially in the rural areas closest to the proposed new wolf habitat, are fiercely opposed. Hunters, for instance, complain that wolves will decimate the deer population. With Vermont's deer herd already in decline, bringing wolves back could destroy deer hunting in the state.

Or so say some hunters. They are almost surely wrong. First, no one really knows

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Photo Provided By: USDA Forest Service

are far from the dense woodlands wolves prefer. Unlike the situation out west, most of the cattle and sheep around here graze in pastures close to lighted houses and barns. Wolves don't like such places. Again, as wolves reduced the population of the somewhat more gregarious coyotes, net predation might not rise at all. And under all the wolf reintroduction plans, farmers would be allowed to shoot any animal threatening their livestock.

But farmers need another thing to worry about like they need a five-year drought. Farmers have enough to worry about - fluctuating prices, unpredictable weather, even more unpredictable presidents and congressmen, various blights and breakdowns. It's hard not to sympathize with a farmer who reads about the possibility of wolf neighbors and sighs that he has yet another disturber of his night's sleep.

On the other hand, we might consider whether we might be better off with more wolves and fewer farms. After all, almost everything our local farms produce is in surplus. One of the problems is that there is too much milk and grain. Is there enough wildness?

There are, however, a couple of other reasons why wolf reintroduction might not be advisable here. One is that the coyote may have obviated the argument that wolves are needed to restore ecological integrity. Our eastern

coyotes are larger than their western cousins. They may be adequately filling the "top predator" niche in our ecology. Since wolves would reduce the coyote population, the net effect on the rest of the natural world could turn out to be negligible.

Besides, we've survived these last hundred years without wolves. The natural world has, as it always will, found a new equilibrium. It may not be the most optimal equilibrium, or the most interesting, but it seems to work. If there are too many deer or moose because the coyote is not as efficient a predator as the wolf would be, there are other ways to deal with that.

In the end, the desire to bring back the wolf stems as much from an aesthetic as from a scientific impulse. Not that there would be no ecological benefit to having wolves closer to our doors. But what motivates the wolf advocates is more emotional, psychological, even spiritual. And what motivates their opponents is, first that they do not share that emotional, psychological, spiritual mindset; indeed, they seem to be offended by it, and second, they are offended by the wolf advocates themselves. And some of the wolf advocates return the favor. Like so many of our emotional political controversies, tribal antipathies end up being more potent than mere facts.

Right now the federal Fish

and Wildlife Service seems to be siding with the opposition. It has proposed downgrading the eastern wolf's status from endangered to threatened, and it wants to treat the entire northeast quadrant of the country - from Maine to Minnesota - as one region, which would effectively preclude any government wolf reintroduction program in our area.

But this fight is far from over; if anything, the pro-wolf faction is the side with long-term momentum. And in what would be a pleasant irony, the human debate over wolves might be made irrelevant by ... wolves.

With or without a government program, some wolves do seem to be crossing the St. Lawrence into the wilder regions of southern Quebec. If so, it's only a matter of time until they get here. If our border guards can't really control the inflow of humans bearing unwanted commodities, how are they going to stop the far cleverer canis lupus?

If I had to predict, I'd say that in 20 years or less we might not have to go much farther than the farthest reaches of Essex County to hear the howl of a wolf. It's quite a sound.

*Jon Margolis is former national political correspondent for the Chicago Tribune and author of three books, including The Last Innocent Year: America in 1964. ★*

whether Vermont's deer population is shrinking. All over the Northeast, there are more deer, and there is no apparent reason why Vermont should be an exception. The deer kill is down. But there are fewer hunters. And one big reason there are fewer hunters is that fewer young people hunt. So the hunters are not just fewer, they are older. They don't walk as far. They don't see as well. They may not shoot as straight.

Besides, though wolves do kill deer, they also kill coyotes, making it doubtful that the net predator population would rise. And like the rest of us, wolves don't like to work any harder than necessary. They mostly kill

the lame, sick and feeble deer. Wolves might make the deer herd healthier.

The objections of farmers are somewhat more understandable, though it is unlikely that wolf predation of livestock would be significant. Most of our farms

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## String Worth Saving

Bill Christiansen

Spring is finally here in all of its glory. The seasons progress in order according to an ancient progression. This progression reinforces our notion of "an arrow" of time. Now becomes the past and is replaced by the future. As far as time is concerned we can never go back - we must always go forward. If we look at this concept in a little more depth, it may be more complex than it first appears. Consider two simultaneous lightning strikes, one in the Northeast Kingdom and one in

Australia. In each place, someone records the time and date of the event. If they use the Universal Time system (in the old days, Greenwich Mean Time), both times will be recorded as the same. With the Universal Time system, it is the same time all over the world, regardless of time zones. Eleven o'clock is eleven o'clock for everyone. But, using the civil time system, the days will be different since they are on opposite sides of the international date line, as well as the hours. From the historical point of view, the events will have taken place

on different days. If we consult the calendar, we find the events on two different dates. While this gives us some pause for thought on how to resolve the problem, the water gets even muddier.

Go out in the morning and watch the sun rise. What you will be observing is the sun as it was eight and one-half minutes ago. It takes that long for the light to reach the Earth from the sun. You are actually looking back into time. The "past" and "now" have become blurred.

If you look at the stars in the night sky, the problem become even more mind boggling. If you were to look at the star Alpha Centauri, (Alpha meaning the first or brightest star in the constellation the Centaur) you would be seeing the star as it was 2.5 million years ago. It takes light that long to reach the Earth. One might argue that what we see is our "now" but it is their "past." Suddenly, the arrow of time is less well defined. With a radio telescope, we can look all the way back to the "big bang" and see the microwave radiation created at the start of the universe, some 11 to 15 billion light-years out.

Last month, I gave a short description of perfect numbers. The first perfect number is 6, and I asked the reader to find the second. It is 28,  $1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14$ . When the need for a time measure between a day and a year was apparent, this number becomes very significant. It appeared to be about the length of a complete cycle of the moon's phases. Thus, the creation of the month. The word is derived from Old

English and High German words for "moon." As with everything else associated with time, this turned out to be a bit of a stretch. While 28 is a great number for numerologists, the actual number of days for the moon to go through a complete cycle is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, and 2.78 seconds. This is called a "synodic month."

Just when it looks like we have this under control, the time it takes for the moon to complete one orbit of the earth is 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes, and 11.47 seconds. This is called a "sidereal month." So, 28 days looks like a good average. It was a good average until we discovered that the 360 day year and a 28 day month did not agree, 12.9 month per year. So we added a few days here and there to get the numbers to come out even, 12 months per year.

Time brings order to an otherwise chaotic world. Mankind is always looking for order in the things that affect its life. The orderly progression of years, seasons, months, weeks and days gives life to this order. The fact that the systems do not match any real natural order is not important. A little adjustment now and then brings the system back into order.

We can construct the system any way we want. I recently bought a new watch with a radio receiver built into it. The watch picks up time signals transmitted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Fort Collins, CO. This time signal is transmitted over AM radio, 24 hours a day, in

Universal Time. My watch is in sync with the atomic clock, less the time it takes the signal to reach East St. Johnsbury, traveling at 186,000 miles per second, give or take a few. The question is, am I better off knowing the correct time to a

**As far as time is concerned we can never go back - we must always go forward.**

few nanoseconds? We sometimes do things because we can, not because it improves the quality of life.

If you believe we are not obsessed with time, count the number of clocks, watches and calendars around the house. In my own house I counted 11 clocks, six watches and I gave up on the calendars.

Some of the clocks are "free standing," clocks that are themselves. Some of the clocks are part of something else - the VCR, the stove or the microwave oven. These are clocks that have a function other than telling time. They are also the ones that blink to tell you there has been a power interruption and demand to be reset.

In any event, winter has passed and we can enjoy a couple of months of warm, benign weather. It gives us time to prepare for next winter. As we enjoy the long summer days, we begin to worry about what the coming winter will bring. We can consult the Old Farmers Almanac to see the prediction for the coming seasons.

Here we ★ with the arrow of

### Black Tie

A crow gang parties in the locust trees that overhang our shoreline jetty stones and tethered boat, on which they drop the lees of corvid life - shit splats, beer caps, fish bones.

Aloft, these crows play tag on gusty days, surf the wind in unisex farmer johns, wedel down moguled skies, delve into haze on autopilot; skim treetops, wave-curls, lawns.

One pair, elegant as a waltz in flight, trudge about afoot like bouncers, dons, thugs - their black arrival scatters beasts in fright. Then they promenaded our garden, sampling slugs.

No stilled Zen haiku props, our bright-eyed crows take charge, burn darkly, even in repose.

William Biddle

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# There's More Than Meets the Eye

VAN PARKER

During the winter and part of the spring we live near a family that consists of a mother, a father and two girls. It's always fun to walk by their house.

On March 27 I noticed the words "Happy Easter" written in chalk on their driveway. Three days before that our part of Connecticut was covered with nearly six inches of wet, heavy snow, what we hoped was the last significant snowfall of the season. Not long after the snow stopped I walked by our neighbor's home and saw the girls had made four "snow people."

That's not so unusual. What was different about the scene was that the snow figures were at the beach! They were covered with an umbrella and hats, surrounded by trucks and shovels for playing in the sand, a life preserver, an inflated sea horse you could ride in the water, a cooler and a couple of other items I'm sure I've forgotten.

Toward the end of an unusually persistent winter, these young visionaries saw summer!

Signs of spring unfold slowly in the northeastern part of our country. No need to tell Vermonters that! These signs are sort of hidden for a while. You have to look hard to see them. A crocus appears, only to be snowed on the next day. Goldfinches start to change their color and begin to look

golden again. Other migratory birds, absent for several months, begin to show up. You wonder if they made a mistake in coming so early.

Later on the evidence begins to pile up, too obvious to ignore. We get some warm days. The grass turns green. So do the early leafing willow trees with others following suit. Finally, the dandelions

show up all over the place. After a while spring just refuses to be ignored.

But there is something about these early, almost undetectable signs of a change of season. You have to look for them. You need to see beyond that which is readily apparent. You've got to look underneath the surface. Then you discover that things are happening that will only

become clear later on.

When we go up to Danville in April one of the things I like to do is to rake up the old leaves around the side of the house. It always amazes me how much life is underneath those dead leaves - green shoots, insects, bulbs, all sorts of things just beginning to form.

But it's hard for me to think of a better, more dramatic example of looking beneath the surface than the snow people we saw, surrounded by all the trappings of a summer day at the beach. There it was right in front of you, a kind of testimony.

Summer really is on its way. And, if you look beneath the surface, there's a lot more happening than meets the eye.

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# The Cork & Bottle

Gerd Hirschmann

Dinner used to be simple, the wine choice used to be simple. The simple wisdom was: White meat with white wine, red meats with red wines. Wine choices were made even easier, basically there used to be red wine, commonly labeled as "burgundy," and white known as "chablis."

The same principle was applied in restaurants, it was as obvious: Italian wine in Italian restaurants, French wine with French cuisine, the same for Spain or Germany, sake with Japanese and beer or something else for the rest since all these other counties didn't make wine. That was before there was something like an American wine and cuisine, before Julia Childs and Emeril; iron chefs and naked chefs. Now that we have fusion cuisine, where is the fusion wine? What we have is a lot of con-fusion with all these different wines and choices for food.

To make it simple again, the new thought is that any wine goes with any meal, just drink what you like. While I subscribe to that idea to some extent, there are some things that just don't go well together.

I wouldn't put ketchup on ice cream or salt and pepper on creme brulee. A delicate white

wine remains a mismatch with a hearty meat dish, as does a big powerful red ruin a filet of sole. And there are such perfect combinations, that can't be given up: Sauternes with Foie Gras, Port with Stilton cheese, Sauvignon Blanc with goat cheese, Chianti with spaghetti and meatballs, California Zinfandel with barbecued red meats, Argentinian Malbec with open fire grilled steak.

Now we need to make choices of acidic wines with tomato based sauces, tannic wines with hearty beef, low alcohol wines with spicy dishes, even sweeter wines with sweet food. To make a good choice we need to know something about the wine. It becomes intimidating when we need to suggest something that goes with everything on the table, it almost seems impossible. In a restaurant the best choice is probably to ask and hope there is someone that knows the wines on the list. If that is not an option, here are some suggestions that might help:

Seafood with butter sauce, chicken, pasta with cream sauce, veal, turkey, ham – try a Chardonnay.

Mild cheese, clams, mussels, Asian dishes, sashimi, ham,

pork, lobster Newberg, Tandoori chicken or spicy Indian food – try a Riesling.

Oysters, grilled or poached salmon, seafood salad, Irish stew, ham, goat cheese and strongly flavored cheeses – try a Sauvignon Blanc.

Spicy dishes, Thai food, curry, smoked salmon, pork and sauerkraut, spiced or peppered cheeses – try a Gewürztraminer.

Duck, spicy beef, grilled meat, pate, rabbit, roasts, spicy poultry, cheddar, sausage – try a Cabernet Sauvignon.

Braised chicken, cold duck, rabbit, quail, partridge, roasted turkey, roasted beef, lamb, veal, truffles – try a Pinot Noir.

Chicken, turkey, roasted beef, lamb, veal, stew, liver, venison, meat casseroles – try a Merlot.

Chicken, chili, goose, meat stew, peppercorn steak, meat with barbeque sauce, spicy meats, garlic – try a Shiraz.

If you're looking at different foods on the table, look at a Riesling or Chenin Blanc for a white, Pinot Noir or Barbera for a red. While these suggestions may help, there is room to experiment. After all, this does not need to be a science, it is a matter of taste. If you really want ketchup on your ice cream, go ahead – enjoy it, and don't blame me.

*Gerd Hirschmann is a wine distributor of the VT Wine Merchants Co. ★*



# Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,  
Library Director

Thanks to all who were involved, our annual Novel dinner was a great success. We had many volunteers as well as our trustees waiting on tables, washing dishes, working in the kitchen and selling raffle tickets. The table hosts/hostesses outdid themselves this year with creative book themes and decorations.

Reeve Lindbergh generously donated five signed books for a silent auction during the dinner: *No More Words* and *Our Nest* and *The Visit* by Reeve, *Gift of the Sea* (the 50th anniversary edition) by Anne Morrow Lindbergh and *The Worry Week* by Anne Lindbergh. We are very grateful to Reeve and many others for supporting our library.

On to the next fundraiser! We will be calling on our local gardeners to donate perennials for our Memorial Day sale. The Plant, Bake and Book sale takes place on Monday, May 30 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. This is a great way to choose from a huge variety of perennials for reasonable prices.

Master Gardeners Barb Irwin and Susannah Morlock will be on hand to answer questions and help with the sale. This is one-stop shopping: plants, delicious baked goods from Danville's best cooks and hundreds of books! If you would like to donate books for the sale (in good condition – no text books, please) we will accept donations from May 23-28. Please do not bring books before then as we have no place to store them.

If you haven't already, please stop in and see the six board blanket chest we will raffle off at the Danville Fair. The chest was handcrafted by Sally Fishburn and Susannah Morlock and has a beautiful vinegar-grained finish. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and can be purchased at the library or from any of our trustees.

Some of our latest book acquisitions are: *Vanishing Acts* by Picoult, *The Mermaid Chair* by Kidd, *No Place Like Home* by Clark, *Before You Know Kindness* by Bohjalian, *Saturday* by McEwan, *Kiss Me Like a Stranger* by Wilder, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* by Mogel, *The 36 Hour Day* by Mace and *Gifts from the Broken Jar* by Long.

Come in and check them out! ★

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*From left: Cindy White, Donna Percy, John Blackmore, Joan Field, George Coppentrath, Betsy McKay, Sam Kempton, Darlene Pilbin, Sue Coppentrath and Cindy Hastings.*

# DANVILLE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

# UPDATE

**Many of you are probably wondering: Any news on the *Danville Project*?  
The short answer is: *Yes! We've got good news ... and even better news!***

The Danville Project has been the subject of a lot of attention over the past several months. The Vermont Arts Council continues to vigorously promote the Project both in Vermont and nationally.

We worked closely with Senator Patrick Leahy's office to help secure \$2 million in federal funds for the Project last December. This money will NOT advance the schedule of the Project but it ensures that

- **the Agency of Transportation work will not be delayed due to funding.**

VTrans must still follow the same project development process and obtain the same permits. But now we know the funds are in place, and we are awaiting approval from the Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] in Washington to begin the Construction Phase. This means

- **the 'Design Phase' of the Project is completed.**

The conceptual plans that artists David Raphael and Andrea Wasserman developed with your input and guidance from members of the Local Review Committee [LRC] were delivered to VTrans last summer. David, Andy and the engineers then produced Preliminary Design Plans, which are being revised based on comments received from the reviewing parties, and now

- **the next step, preparation of project permits, is underway.**

After they are completed, the Agency will begin its own Right-of-Way [ROW] process. ROW on similar projects typically takes between 12-24 months, so the estimated time frame for construction start-up could easily be pushed back, but we're hopeful

- **actual road construction on Route 2 may begin in Spring 2007.**

If we can't maintain that schedule, VTrans will update it and notify everyone. In the meantime, the LRC will meet sometime in the next few months, and the Arts Council will continue to create and bring

- **more arts-based community programs delivered through the school.**

Building on the success of the "Acorn Project" in 2003 and "Danville: A Show of Hands" in the fall of 2004, we'll continue to work with the Danville School and use art to help find new ways to keep people thinking about what's important to them about Danville.

**So, hang in there with us:** We're working on it even though you might not see us out there surveying, installing enhancements or moving earth. If you have any questions, please feel free to share your thoughts with your representative on the Local Review Committee, or call John Zwick at the Vermont Arts Council at 802.828.0152.

## Inn at Shelburne Farms Hosts Open House on Mother's Day

Once a year visitors are invited to tour The Inn at Shelburne Farms before it opens to overnight guests for the season.

This year on Mother's Day, May 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the Inn will encourage guests to explore its elegant public rooms on the first floor and all of the second and third floor guest rooms. Interpreters will provide information about the architecture, furnishings, restoration and history of the founding family.

Designed by architect Robert Henderson Robertson for the William Seward Webb family, Shelburne House was enlarged between 1887 and 1900. This year several of the architect's recently conserved renderings

chronicling these dramatic renovations will be on display for the first time. In addition, archival photographs and family heirlooms will be displayed. And, to complement the historic collections, early black and white film footage from the 1920's and 1930's of the Webb family's activities at Shelburne Farms and at their Adirondack estate will be shown throughout the day.

Advance tickets are recommended and may be purchased from Shelburne Farms, daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by calling (802) 985-8442. The ticket price is \$8/adults; \$7/seniors and \$6/members of Shelburne Farms.

On Friday, May 13, the Inn at Shelburne Farms will open for

accommodations and for breakfast, dinner and Sunday brunch featuring its renowned hospitality of another era, fine cuisine with the freshest local ingredients and spectacular lake and mountain views from the property. For Inn reservations, call (802) 985-8498.

Shelburne Farms is a 1,400-acre working farm and National Historic Landmark and nonprofit environmental education organization whose mission is to cultivate a conservation ethic by teaching and demonstrating the stewardship of natural and agricultural resources.



The Inn at Shelburne Farms will host an open house on Mother's Day for visitors to tour the property before it is open for the summer season.



Photos Courtesy of the Inn at Shelburne Farms

The Colonial Room is one of the guest rooms on the upper floors of the National Historic Landmark Inn at Shelburne Farms.

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## the ARTS around



### May

- 1 Ryan Adams with Rachel Yamagata, Spectrum, Montreal.
- 1 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 5 Sting with Phantom Planet, Agganis Arena, Boston.
- 6 Eric Taylor, Middle Earth Music Hall, Bradford.
- 6 Native Voices: R. Carlos Nakai and Keola Beamer, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH. (603) 646-2422.
- 6 Natalie MacMaster, Flynn Theater, Burlington.
- 6 Dartmouth Dance Ensemble, Morse Center for the Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 6-8 *Nothing Like Dreaming* (2005, U.S.) [NR] Director: Nora Jacobson. Set against the backdrop of Vermont's state capital at the turn of the 21st century, the story follows the friendship between a young, middle-class, college-bound woman and a reclusive fire artist. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 7 Barrymore, One man show about legend Lionel Barrymore. Barre Opera House, (802) 476-8188.
- 7 Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, Middle Earth Music Hall, Bradford.
- 7 Phantom Planet, Verizon Arena, Manchester, NH.
- 8 Angelique Kidjo, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 9-12 *Born into Brothels* (2004, U.S.) [R] Directors: Zana Briski & Ross Kauffman. Photojournalist Zana Briski overcame barriers of language, culture and ethnicity when she immersed herself into an impoverished and illegal neighborhood in Calcutta, India. Briski befriended children of the city's red light district, starting a photography workshop for them and equipping them each with their own camera. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 12 New Gypsy Swing Quartet, Middle Earth Music Hall, Bradford.
- 13 Sting, Verizon Arena, Manchester, NH.
- 13 Tanglefoot, Middle Earth Music Hall, Bradford.
- 13-19 *Travelers and Magicians* (2003, Bhutan) [R] Director: Khyentse Norbu. In the Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan, deep in the Himalayas, two men seek to escape their mundane lives. One, an educated university graduate, decides that he will be better off picking grapes in the U.S. than working as a government officer in a remote rural village. The other, a restless farm youth studying magic, cannot bear the thought of a life in his village. "A magical story about travel and dreams." Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 15 Willy Porter, Valley Players Theater, Waitsfield.
- 20-26 *Off the Map* (2003, U.S.) [PG-13] Director: Campbell Scott. In the ancient high desert landscape of northern New Mexico, an extraordinary family embarks on a lyrical journey of self-discovery and a hapless IRS agent with demons of his own finds himself drawn inexorably into the lives of the family. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 21 Barbary Coast, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 21 Sarah McLachlan, Verizon Arena, Manchester, NH.
- 24 U2, Fleet Center, Boston.
- 26 U2, Fleet Center, Boston.
- 28 U2, Fleet Center, Boston.
- 27 Green Mountain Chorus, Men's barbershop chorus. Barre Opera House, (802) 476-8188.
- 27 - June 2 *Downfall* (2004, Germany) [R] Director: Oliver Hirschbiegel. The horrifying epic of Hitler and his people during his 12 years in power are concentrated and clear into the last 12 days in his bunker. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 27&28 Bill Shannon and Sketchy: A Dance Reality Show, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 27&28 The Benders, Middle Earth Music Hall, Bradford.
- 29 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 31 Sally Pinkas, piano, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.

**"We Get The Point! Do You?"**

**95.7**

# Sign Up for Green Up Day in Danville

JIM JUNG

Saturday, May 7 is the 35th anniversary of Green Up Day in Vermont - that one day each year when volunteers are out gathering accumulated trash from along the highways and byways throughout every community in our state.

In Danville newcomers, who would like to participate this year but did not register their intention at the March town meeting, are invited to contact Jim Jung (802) 684-1019.

Green Up collection bags are available for pick up at the Danville Town Office. They also will be distributed at the bandstand on the town green any time after 9:00 a.m. on Green Up Day.

From then until Noon (or any portion thereof) is the usual duration for the Green Up Day pick up, clean up and spruce up effort. Volunteers who wish to take part in this annual, collective community-service experience, but are not able to do so on May 7, are welcome to obtain bags and route assignments to do their thing either before or after that date.

As in the past, bags containing roadside trash should be taken to the Town Wood/Stump Dump on the Bruce Badger Memorial Highway (that's the North Danville Road) before Noon on Green Up Day.

Bulky waste of various types also may be dropped off at the same location on the same day from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. Bulky waste includes unpainted wood and scrap metal as well as furniture and old kitchen appliances (both large and small). Donations in varying amounts may be requested for certain categories or items, such as televisions and other electronic equipment, propane gas tanks and tires. Motor oil and batteries also are accepted but no paints or pesticides. Questions about what constitutes acceptable bulky waste may be addressed to Jim Ashley (802) 684-3491.

A traditional part of Danville Green Up Day also includes a picnic lunch buffet prepared and offered without charge around 11:30 a.m., thanks to the efforts of many generous women within the community. Everyone is welcome.

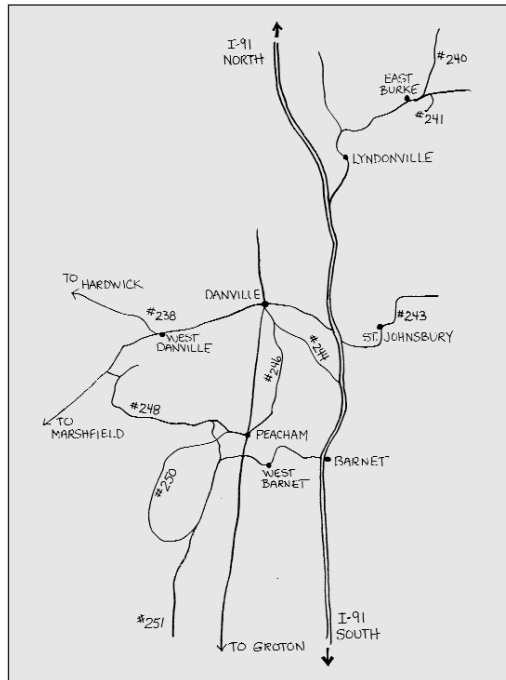
Should the weather not be hospitable on May 7, lunch in Danville will be served at the town hall.



## Vermont's 13th annual Open Studio Weekend

Saturday & Sunday

May 28 & 29 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



One of Vermont's Top Ten Summer Events is the Open Studio Weekend, a statewide celebration of visual arts and the creative process. Vermont artists and craftspeople push open their studio doors and welcome the public on Memorial Day Weekend. These are places of inspiration and production. Wherever their location they are exciting places to visit as they reflect the dynamic yet thoughtful process that is used to create a finished work of art.

Maps of studio locations are available at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans' Guild in St. Johnsbury, Joe's Pond Craft Shop in West Danville, participating studios or from the Vermont Crafts Council website at [www.vermontcrafts.com](http://www.vermontcrafts.com).

★ 238. Joe's Pond Craft Shop - Deborah Stresing. Showing the work of local artisans. 2748 RT 2, West Danville, VT 05873. (802) 684-2192. Travel on US 2 to the junction of US 2 and VT 15 in West Danville. The shop is located at that junction in the barn attached to Hastings Store.

STUDIO 240. Sanderson's Custom Sawing - Sam and Weeza Sanderson. Bowl turning. 2902 VT RT 114, East Burke, VT 05832. (802) 626-9622. On I-91 take Exit 23 and head north on US 5 through village of Lyndonville. At the northern end of town, bear right onto VT 114 and go north to the village of East Burke. Continue past the village on VT 114 for about 2.5 miles. Look for a white farmhouse on the right with log piles, donkeys and a Sanderson's sign in front.

STUDIO 241. Clarner Woodworks - Doug Clarner. Handmade fine furniture. 170 Maple Lane, East Burke, VT 05832. (802) 626-8935. From Lyndonville, follow RT 114 north to East Burke. Continue through the village, and take a right onto Mountain Road as if you were traveling toward Burke Mountain Ski Area. Take an immediate right onto Kirby Road and another right onto Maple Lane and go for less than a quarter mile. Turn right onto Belden Hill Road and find the studio in the red barn on your right.

★ 243. Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild. Artisan demonstrations during Open Studio weekend of May 28 & 29. 430 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802) 748-0158. From I-91, take Exit 20. Follow US 5/US 2E through the center of town, which is Railroad Street. We are located on right side at lower end of the street just before US 5 and US 2E split.

STUDIO 244. Barnet Wooden Things - Stewart Hoyt. Cooking utensils from Vermont hardwoods. 1561 Joe's Brook Road, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802) 633-3639. Located off US 5 between Passumpsic and East Barnet. One mile north of East Barnet, turn onto Joe's Brook Road and go 1 3/4 miles. From US 2 in Danville, traveling east on US 2, pass Peacham Road and take the next right. Go diagonally across the green (Brainard Street). After the railroad tracks, take the next left, which is Joe's Brook Road, and travel 6 miles.

STUDIO 246. Locked Horns Designs - Jeff Scott. Lodge-pole style furniture, antler lamps. 1493 Thaddeus Stevens Road, Barnet, VT 05821. (802) 592-3236. From US 2 in Danville, turn south onto Brainard Street at the center of town near the park. Travel .9 mile and turn right onto Greenbanks Hollow Road (gravel). Go 1.9 miles to a covered bridge. Thaddeus Stevens Road begins after the bridge. Follow straight up hill and continue for 2.7 miles. Going down steep hill, studio is in a dark brown log cabin on right with a driveway marked with a red 2 rail fence and a gate with an elk head. From I-91 take exit 18 and go west toward Peacham. Travel 2.9 miles to junction of East Peacham Road. Follow about 3 miles to East Peacham Village. At mailboxes turn right onto Thaddeus Stevens Road, and go 1.4 miles. Studio is on left.

STUDIO 248. Songbird Pottery - Harley Strader. See stoneware pottery being made. 3764 Mack Mountain Road, West Danville, VT 05873. (802) 563-2330. From Danville, travel 6 miles west on US 2 to Mack Mountain Road. Bear right at the fork. Turn left onto Mack Mountain Road and travel .3 mile to fork in road. Turn right, travel 2.6 miles to the studio, located in a small white building on left. From the center of Peacham, take road leading up by church, turn right past firehouse. This is Mack Mountain Road. Follow it 4 miles out of town. Studio is on the right.

STUDIO 250. The Barn Studio - Omri B. Parsons. Jewelry Studio. 1483 Green Bay Loop, Groton, VT 05046. (802) 592-3281. The design and creation of jewelry. From Peacham Village go up the hill past the church. At the top of the hill, bear left and go past the cemetery and down Cemetery Hill to the four corners. Go straight through on Green Bay Loop towards Martin's Pond. Just before the access to Martin's Pond is an old brick house with big barn across the road. This is our studio.

STUDIO 251. Snowshoe Farm - Ron & Terry Miller. Alpaca fiber, spinning, knitting and weaving. PO Box 280, Peacham, VT 05862. (802) 592-3153. From I-91 take exit 18 and head west towards Peacham. Continue about 6 miles to the stop sign in South Peacham opposite Bayley Hazen Country Store (closed). Go straight, to the left of the store, onto Governor Mattocks Road and follow to the end about 3/4 mile. Turn left onto County Road. Travel about 2 miles to Snowshoe Farm staying left at fork in the road. The white house is on the right with barns across the road.

[www.vermontcrafts.com](http://www.vermontcrafts.com)



**The Riverside School  
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# You'll Find Great Fishing in Vermont

According to the State Fish & Wildlife Department Vermont has the greatest variety of high quality freshwater fishing in the Northeast.

"Vermont's lakes and streams are home to species that you just won't find anywhere else in the region," says Vermont Fish & Wildlife's John Hall. "And, anglers from other states as well as new Vermont residents are discovering just how good Vermont fishing really is."

"Vermont is fortunate in being located within the St. Lawrence, Connecticut and Hudson River drainages," Hall says. "We have St. Lawrence drainage fish in Lake Champlain that are typically found in the Great Lakes region. Champlain also has fantastic coldwater fishing, more typical of northern New England."

Lake Champlain on the state's western boundary has a surface area of 435 square miles. Landlocked salmon, lake trout and steelhead rainbow trout offer spectacular action. For outstand-

ing shallow water excitement, try the big lake's northern pike, which range up to 25 pounds.

High quality bass fishing, for both largemouth and smallmouth, is one of the lake's best-kept secrets being discovered by bass enthusiasts.

Interior Vermont waters offer classic New England lake and stream fishing with 808 lakes and ponds, 284 of which are larger than 20 acres and over 7,000 miles of rivers and brooks. Those lakes and streams are home to more than 20 popular species of game and panfish offering fishing for anglers of all tastes and levels of experience.

Vermont is known for its "cold-water" trout and landlocked salmon fishing. Any number of icy brooks splash down off the Green Mountains into beaver ponds and streams, providing superb fishing for native brook trout, as well as larger rainbow and brown trout. Lakes Willoughby, Caspian and Seymour, among others, are renowned for their lake trout and

landlocked salmon.

Yet, Vermont also has excellent "warm-water" fishing as well. It is home to fish that tolerate warmer water than trout and salmon.




They include largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, channel catfish, chain pickerel, American shad, yellow perch, white perch, black crappie, rock bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed and bullhead, as well as bowfin, long-nosed gar, freshwater drum, burbot, cisco, whitefish and sauger.

To learn more about Vermont's fishing opportunities and to plan your next fishing trip in Vermont, contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, 103 South Main Street, in Waterbury, VT 05671-0501 and ask for a *Vermont Fishing Kit*. You also can reach the department by telephone at (802) 241-3700 or via its Web Site at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



Photo By: John Hall


Spring is a great time to discover Vermont's fishing opportunities on scenic streams and lakes throughout the state.


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## CREATIVE GARDENING

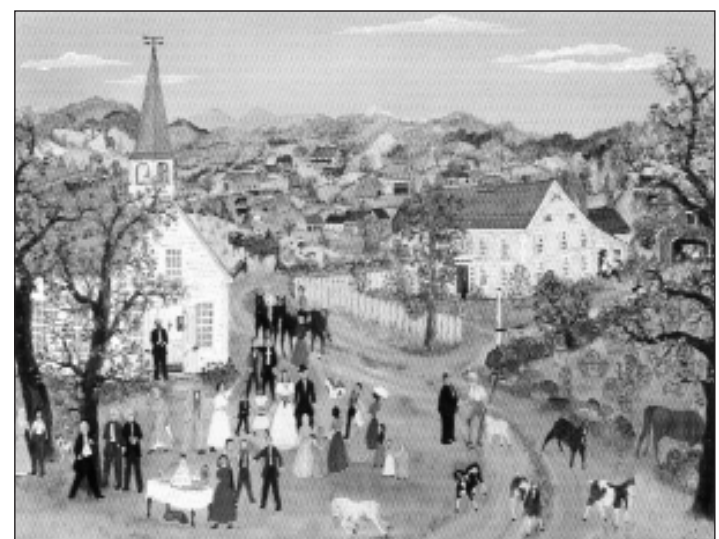
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Photo: Courtesy of Jenks Studio of Photography, Robert C. Jenks

*Vermont is a beautiful place, and the Northeast Kingdom is rich with its share of Vermont. We invite you to come stay with us, take your time and get to know this part of New England. Reeve Lindbergh, a North Star contributor and author of books for children and adults, describes the area like this: "It is very beautiful, whether or not our words are adequate to its beauty, in any century. It is absolutely real, however we choose to describe it, at any point in our lives. And best of all, however it may surprise us, after twenty five years or two hundred, it is still here."*

## Come Stay With Us - It Is Absolutely Real

### **Broadview Farm Bed & Breakfast, Molly Newell**

2627 McDowell Road, Danville, VT 05828. (802) 748-9902.

Four rooms with private and shared baths in an historic 1800's country manor listed in National Register of Historic Places. Located on 200+ acres, offering biking, country walks and wood trails, pond for swimming and fishing. Enjoy large continental breakfast. Open Memorial Day through October. [BROADVU@webtv.net](mailto:BROADVU@webtv.net)

### **Hamilton House Bed & Breakfast, Nancy Hogue & Shirley LaPorte**

101 Park Street, Danville VT 05828. (802) 684-9800 (866) 684-9800.

Elegant and historic 1880's colonial offers 5 beautifully appointed guest rooms all with private baths. Some rooms have fireplaces. Exquisitely furnished with early and late Victorian period antiques. Each room offers luxurious down pillows and duvets, comfortable beds and warm surroundings. Full gourmet breakfast and afternoon teas. Located on the picturesque Danville Green. Walk to shopping, restaurants and pub, churches and more. [www.thehamiltonhouse.com](http://www.thehamiltonhouse.com)

### **The Gardeners Rest Bed & Breakfast, Margaret & Keith Rowlett**

682 Daniels Farm Road, Lower Waterford, VT 05848. (802) 748-9657.

Our 1854 farmhouse located on 16 acres offers our guests comfort and relaxation. We have three well appointed rooms, providing charming, comfortable accommodations with private baths. After an elegant breakfast, complemented by Vermont products, you might choose to stroll around the meadow, read a book by the pond or wander through our extensive English country gardens, experiencing their beauty and tranquility.

### **B&B at Moose Crossing, Norb and Jane Kuk**

PO Box 117, East Burke VT 05832. (802) 626-0989.

Restored 1890 Vermont farmhouse with a new annex on 15 acres located in East Burke - home of Kingdom Trails and Burke Mountain and gateway to the Nulhegan Wilderness Area. Biking, hiking and water activities abound. All rooms with private baths. Full breakfasts. Rates: \$60-85/night. Special rates for longer stays. Non-smoking. Visa/MC. [www.mooscrossingbb.com](http://www.mooscrossingbb.com)

### **The Inn at Mountain View Farm, Marilyn & John Pastore**

Darling Hill Road, East Burke, VT 05832. (802) 626-9924 or (800) 572-4509.

Historic 440 acre farm estate offering lodging and fine dining/cocktails. Public dining Wednesday - Sunday 5 - 9 p.m. featuring organic farm fresh vegetables and herbs. Fourteen air conditioned guest rooms and luxury suites each with a private bath. Beautiful perennial gardens overlooking Burke Mountain provide a wonderful venue for weddings, parties, family reunions and corporate retreats. Inn has been featured in *Vermont Vows*, *La Vie Claire*, *Country Living* and *Yankee* magazines. [www.innmtview.com](http://www.innmtview.com)

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# Elisabeth Chase: She Believed in Power to Women

(Continued from Page 1)

the Boys and Girls Maple Sugar Club, she said, "to help check the cutting of these orchards," and "to aid the boys and girls who want to live at home by making the home life attractive and profitable."

**"And all sorts of sweets sizzled in the big copper kettles."**

Elisabeth Mary Jones, born June 11, 1877 in Claremont, NH, was married in 1903 to John Bryant Chase of Lyndon. The groom was publisher of the *Vermont Union*, a weekly newspaper started by his father, Charles M. Chase in 1865. In 1905 John bought out the *Lyndonville Journal* and combined the two papers as the *Vermont Union-Journal*.

In 1907, before the era of 4-H clubs, Elisabeth Chase organized one of the earliest Boys and Girls Home and Garden Clubs in the country. She spent years working with the youth of her community. Through her clubs she encouraged and helped boys and girls to garden and preserve what they grew by canning. She taught them the benefits of hard work and to sell any surplus for money for college.

Then in 1914 the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service.

Garden clubs became Boys and Girls Home Projects Clubs because the work encompassed much more than just gardening and canning.

Mrs. Chase put out her "shingle" advertising the maple creams, making sure, at first, to take it in before her husband came home from his newspaper office, but she was too busy to bother with this bit of nonsense for long and simply left it hanging outside. John enjoyed the visitors.

It wasn't long before the Chase kitchen produced more than maple creams, and all sorts of sweets sizzled in the big copper kettles. There were sugar cakes, lollipops, fudge, maple caramels, granulated maple and soft maple cream to use as a spread. The candies were packed in attractive boxes, birch bark baskets and little wooden pails. Today those little boxes showing a picture of the house and saying, "Home of Lyndon Maple Candies, Elisabeth Chase, LYNDON, VT" on the cover are collectors' items.

Mrs. Chase was emphatic in her objectives that her work was not a business but a means to help the needy of the community. She asked for and was granted an exemption by both Vermont and the federal government from the rulings of regular business. Both recognized her activities, saying their rulings were not created for work like hers in a private home.

Tourists stopped for maple candies, and before she hardly realized it, Mrs. Chase was offer-

ing a slice of homemade bread or a cookie and a glass of milk. The pleasant house on the main road, Chapel Street (today's US Route 5) was so comfortable with its spacious rooms and delightful interior furnished with antiques that tourists were quick to ask for accommodations.

Chase quickly saw this as a way to provide more work for community people by adding a tearoom and accommodations. In a brochure she described it as "an ideal place to stop for a few days' rest, to get your bearings, and see the real Vermont, which you do not get to know when just driving thru."

Chase provided work for young girls to earn money for college or work for a widow who wanted to save her home by earning money for taxes. At times it was income for a young mother whose husband was out of work.

Later, the name was reversed and "Elisabeth Chase Maple Candies, Lyndon, Vermont" was the name on her price lists. Ads suggesting "A Gift From Home," appeared in John's newspapers and elsewhere. One box for fancy assortments appearing first in 1925, displayed a handsome picture of the covered bridge near her home (Lyndon's Schoolhouse Bridge).

Eventually the name "Elisabeth Chase Maple Candies" was recognized all over the country. She had booths at flower shows in Boston, Chicago and Providence. One year, while in Boston, Chase became quite



Photo Courtesy: Harriet Fisher collection.

Elisabeth Chase ran a business and a service in Lyndon where jobs were available and the products were popular. Elisabeth Chase Lyndon Maple Candies were shipped all over the country.

ill and was taken to the hospital. Told she needed an operation, she would have none of it. Chase demanded her clothes and got her helper friend to take her back to their hotel. She never did have that operation.

In a scrapbook by Frances

Dustin, who worked for Mrs. Chase and accompanied her to many of the flower shows, we find a picture of the Chase Maple Candies booth in Boston in the 1930s. Dustin wrote, "Pearl Moore used to drive the Chase

(See *Elisabeth* on next page)



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# They Lined Up in the Streets When the Circus Came to Town

BETTY HATCH

How many remember when the circus came to town? I can remember one coming to Montpelier when I was a youngster. The railroad was active in that time and the cars would pull off at the Junction.

A parade of the animals was something to see, and the streets were lined with adults and children. The "big top" was set up and bleachers were arranged so you could watch the activity in all of the rings. It was amazing what the animals would do. The

## Elisabeth Chase Maple Candies were recognized all over the country

(Continued from Page 18)

truck to Boston, Mass. It was fun!" It was Pearl Moore who later told me about the hospital incident.

One of my Lyndon Institute classmates, who worked part time for Mrs. Chase, told me that she ran a tight ship. Sometimes in the kitchen Chase would plant her hands on her hips and announce in exasperation, "I bring the profit in the front door and you girls shovel it out the back door." She always hired local people and never had to advertise for workers, not even in her husband's newspaper, the *Vermont Union-Journal*. Nevertheless, the Chase Maple Candies were often advertised in the paper.

In 1948 Chase was forced to sell her business because of a severe stroke, which left her incapacitated for any kind of work. The new owners, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lyster, moved the business to the building that is now the American Legion Hall on RT 5.

Among the last pleasures of Mrs. Chase's life was when her husband took her out for rides, making "dooryard" calls on friends and former workers who would hold up their children for her to admire. Elisabeth Chase died in 1948. She was 71.

The Elisabeth Chase Maple Candies continued for quite some time under subsequent owners, but now they are a maple memory. Often workers could bring home broken or misshapen candies. My mother, Emma Fletcher, who worked part time for Mrs. Chase and later the Lysters, sometimes came to see us with a paper bag of some of those treats, much to my children's delight. Through three generations the Fletchers and Chases were friends, and ours was one of the homes where John would bring his wife for a "dooryard" visit so she could see "Emma's grandchildren." ★

clowns always had some silly tricks and they kept everyone laughing. I liked the aerial acts but held my breath for fear the high flying acrobats would lose their grip.

The circus used to come to St. Johnsbury and my mother-in-law, Ethel Hatch, told of a youngster watching the parade, wanting a closer look and got into the street. An elephant came along and picked the child up in his trunk and set him back on the sidewalk. After that Ethel decided she would stay where she was supposed to be.

Circus performances used to air on television, and that was fun to sit at home and see what

new acts were on. Today you never hear much about circus performances.

Greensboro has Vermont's own "Circus Smirkus" and they set up two or three week-long residencies with schools under the sponsorship of the Vermont Arts Council. Walden School just completed a two week residency, and Matthew Duncan

worked with every class from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Duncan had fun with the school kids, and the kids had a "ball," learning to juggle, balance on balls or boards, ride unicycles and play with devil sticks. On a Friday afternoon in

February they demonstrated what they had learned, for their parents, grandparents and friends from the community.

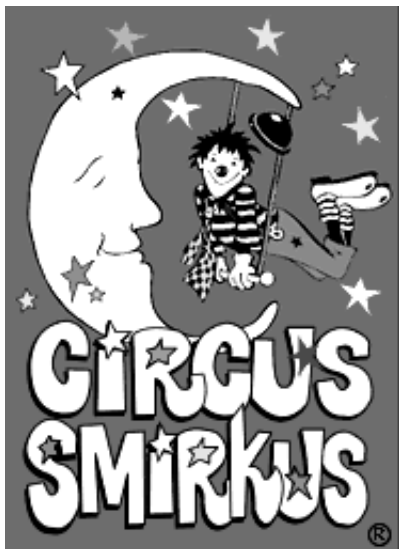
Duncan was a good ring master and kept the acts moving right along. Young people from all grades performed.

Circus Smirkus was founded in Greensboro in 1987 by Rob Mermin, to give kids a chance to learn about life through the traditions and adventures of a circus life. Mermin ran away and joined the circus himself when he was 19. He learned many jobs to prepare him for ownership of his own circus. Circus Smirkus with many young budding circus stars has traveled throughout Vermont, the United States and beyond to win awards at circus

festivals in Russia, Sweden and France. Circus Smirkus has performed in 25 countries.

**An elephant came along and picked the child up in his trunk and set him back on the sidewalk.**

Watch for a performance by Circus Smirkus in a school near you next year or look for the touring schedule this summer and see what the young people have learned.



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# “Nobody Made Fire Trucks Better than Maxim” - John Haskins



The Maxim radiator cap included a thermometer visible to the driver as a means to monitoring the temperature of the engine under the hood panels.

(Continued from Page 1)

age to his family reunion and a chance, again, to see the old pumper roll through town.

In 1995 Brown watched the flags and the 4th of July marchers disappear out of sight, and he realized the Maxim was

missing. He learned that Eddie Briggs, the VFW custodian of the fire truck, had agreed to restore it and was looking for help in the form of labor and cash.

Brown lived in St. Johnsbury at the time and was recently retired himself. Three years

passed, and hearing nothing about progress in the restoration, Brown went looking for Briggs. The engine was under a plastic tarp next to the VFW post. Briggs had started the project but changed his mind.

As Brown describes finding the Maxim in pieces under the tarp you can imagine his despair.

“I’d been a member of volunteer fire departments in Marion and Brooktondale, NY. And I’ve been a member of the Fire Department here in St. Johnsbury for 36 years, and I’ve just always had a soft spot for that Maxim.”

In October 1998 Brown persuaded the VFW to sell him the truck, and he moved it by flatbed trailer to his oversized garage in St. Johnsbury. “I was trained as a civil engineer,” he says. “I’ve got a mechanical aptitude, and despite all the advice I got to the contrary I figured I could restore it myself.”

Today, Brown estimates, the project is ninety percent complete, and if Carlton Maxim could see the result he, too, would be pleased. Brown says, “Someone told me in 1998 that if you start a project like this and succeed, you’ll have something



Dave Brown has been restoring this Maxim fire engine for six and half years. He has replaced everything that is but a few rivets. This is the same truck that Brown rode to his family reunion and as he says, “There are a ton of great memories here.” According to Brown, the truck was purchased from the Marion Fire Department on March 30, 1926 and delivered as agreed “within 7 days for a Ford Model T sold for less than \$400.”

worth half what you put into it and nothing for your time.” Brown walks along the side of the gleaming, repainted and gold leafed 1926 Maxim pumper and dusts off a fender. He looks up and says softly, “That was optimistic. The last time I counted I had 1,300 hours into this, and the dollars ... they’re classified.”

Brown has nearly finished what is called a “frame-up restoration.” He disassembled everything - everything, that is, but a few riveted parts. He removed the heavy six cylinder engine and transmission, sandblasted, cleaned and had repaint-

ed or replaced the entire vehicle and all of its component parts. He replaced bearings and repacked the 750 gallon-per-minute rotary gear pump and gradually reassembled the pieces. As he says, “I just kept plugging away.”

Brown has a journal of the dates and details, and as he leafs through its pages and those of two photograph albums, he says, “There are a ton of great memories here.”

Brown tells of his associations and personal friendships with painters and restorers who have provided time and wisdom

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Photos By: North Star Monthly

He calls it a "frame-up" restoration in which everything was disassembled - wearing this helmet No. 13, in his home town of Marion, MA in 1954, his records from Marion the The Maxim M3 pumper was ordered by the "10 working days" on June 26. The purchase price was \$12,500. At the time,

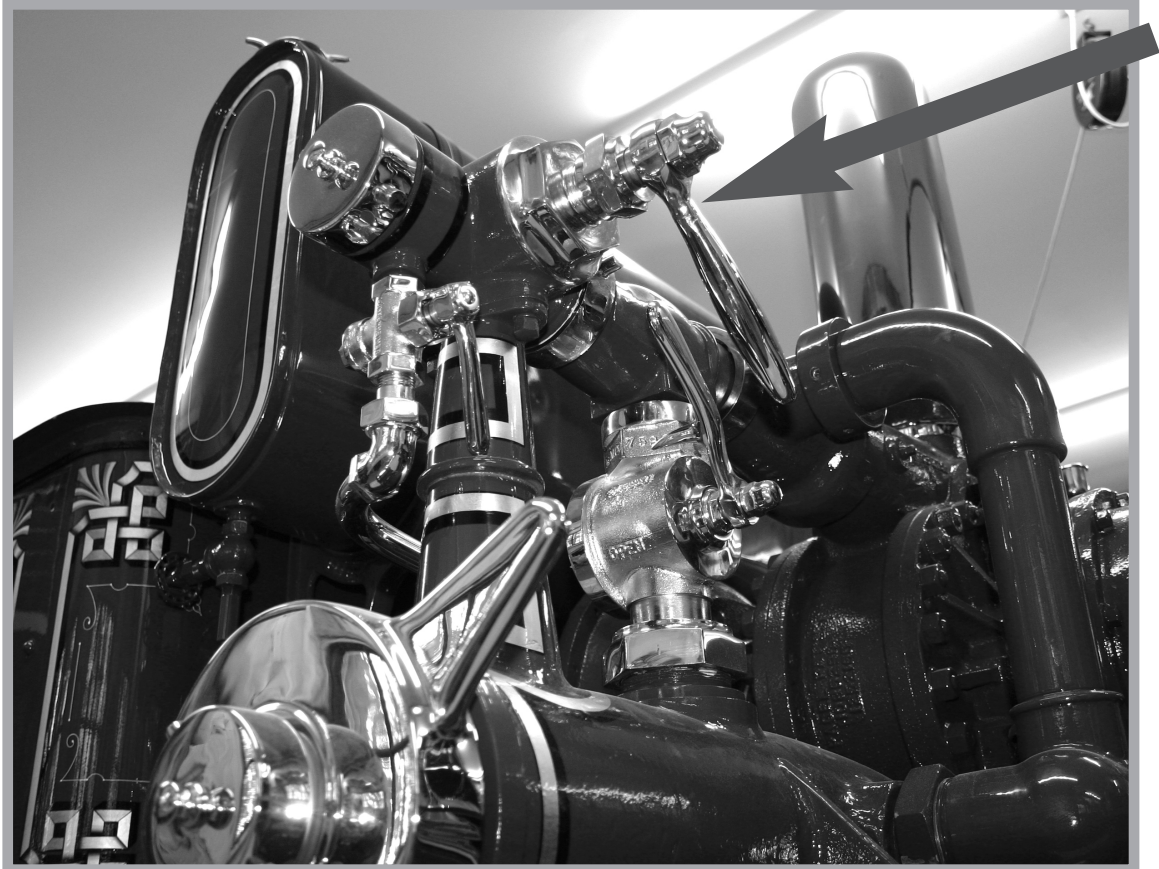
from their own experience. "The thing that I really enjoyed was chasing down parts that would have been on this truck when it was new - when it was delivered to the Marion Fire Department in 1926. The fire extinguishers, axes, lanterns, siren, crow bars, ladders, nozzles and hoses were all gone. But if you're persistent you can find people interested in this stuff, and you can find them."

I ask Brown if there was a single discovery, a part or maybe a moment that somehow symbolized the success of the project.

He shows me the repaired

radiator cap complete with a thermometer visible from the driver's seat, and he tenderly unwraps one of the hood panels repainted and lettered spelling out in gold leaf: "MARION."

He points to the dashboard and the interior of the cockpit. He shows me the nickel-plated brass handle to the discharge gate on the water pump - the same handle that broke in his hand at the Rochester barn fire in 1956. (That handle was repaired long ago, but Brown made certain that in his restoration and the process of replating that single historic detail, the brazed repair,



The nickel-plated brass handle to the discharge gate on the water pump is the same handle that Brown broke at the Rochester, MA barn fire in August 1956. (The handle was repaired long ago, but Brown made certain that in his restoration and the process of replating, that single historic detail, the brazed repair, remained visible.)

remained visible.)

He slides an original Maxim nickel-plated fire extinguisher from a padded shelf. "These are hard to find," he says. He looks along the broad fender and points to the dark maroon paint and the gold leaf details applied by Mike Brooks and Peter Acorn from Maine.

Finally he stops, and he says, "I don't like to rank things. The whole project was wonderful. The journey is the best part ... even more fun than getting to the end."

Brown agrees when I ask if he feels like a rich man. He smiles and he says, "I'm rich with experience and the pride in knowing that this was done right. It's hard to measure the extent of the satisfaction I've found, but the human component - the people I've met, the enthusiasm I've heard and the help they've provided is beyond description."

On July 9, 2005 the Marion Fire Department will celebrate its 100th anniversary. "I've told them I'll be there," Brown says. "That's my deadline."

I bet he will be there - with the like new Marion M3 Maxim and the badge and the helmet he first wore in 1954. ★

### Maxim Motor Company

John Haskins worked for the Maxim Motor Company for 30 years and for a total of 56 years in the fire equipment industry. He was the Maxim service manager delivering trucks and making service calls for the company. Haskin says, "American LaFrance, Seagrave and Ahrens Fox were all good names in the business, but nobody - nobody - made fire trucks better than Maxim." Maxim was bought by Seagrave Corp. in 1956 and resold six more times until December 1989 when the company closed, and the remaining assets of Maxim, Inc. were sold at auction. Dave Brown credits John Haskins with saving the 1926 M3 restoration project several times when it seemed to be facing dead ends.



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# Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

“Some measure of protection’: Perspectives on Social Security, Part II”

In 1795 Thomas Paine first proposed social insurance, funded by an inheritance tax, for the United States in his book “Agrarian Justice.” One hundred and forty years later, in 1935, the Social Security Act was passed, and the United States did indeed have social insurance.

**The California “Ham and Eggs” plan proposed that the state should issue \$30 every Thursday to anyone unemployed and over the age of 50.**

The modern idea of social insurance, of insurance against lack of income due to unemployment, disability, illness or old age, evolved in the last half of the 19th century. By then industrialization and urbanization had changed the idea of labor and of community in the industrial economies of western Europe, and the United States. Labor became one of many possible

inputs in the production process and as such could be replaced or displaced by changes in the process. Urbanization brought changes to social and family structures. Lengthening life expectancies increased the possibility of outliving employment opportunities.

During the last half of the 19th century, many local governments established public health initiatives, pensions, disability and workmen’s compensation programs. Then in 1889, Germany established the first national old age insurance, designed by Otto von Bismarck. Great Britain followed in 1908 with its Old-Age Pension Act, and in 1909 the first federal Old Age Pension bill was introduced in the Congress of the U.S.

Theodore Roosevelt included “protection of home life against the hazards of ... old age through the adoption of a system of social insurance” as a plank in the Progressive Party platform of 1912. Not until the Great Depression, and another Roosevelt, would social insurance become law in the United States. In the meantime, many solutions were proposed as the antidote for the radical and unprecedented economic failure that was the Depression.

Most solutions called for the federal government to provide a monthly payment to the poor and unemployed over the age of 60-65. The plans were to be

financed by a sales tax or a real estate tax or an income tax, and many had no provision for financing at all.

Some had more radical political agendas than others. “Share Our Wealth” was a program created by Huey Long, Governor of Louisiana and then U.S. Senator. Long actually proposed limiting individual incomes and wealth, while calling upon the federal government to guarantee each family an annual income of \$5,000.

The Townsend Plan had an interesting fiscal agenda. Created by Dr. Francis E. Townsend of Long Beach, CA, the plan was that the federal government would provide \$200 per month to every citizen over the age of 60, provided that the recipient was retired, had no criminal record and would spend the money within 30 days, thus keeping the money flowing through the economy.

These proposals were popular. By 1935, “Share Our Wealth” claimed 27,000 local clubs in each of the 48 states, with a total membership of 7.7 million. At the same time, there were more than 7,000 Townsend clubs with 2.2 million members.

Novelist and avowed Socialist Upton Sinclair dubbed his plan “End Poverty in California” or EPIC Plan. One tenet of the plan was an old age pension, giving \$50 per month to all needy Californians over age 60. Sinclair ran as the Democratic candidate for governor of California in 1934, receiving 37% of the vote.

Perhaps the most eclectic was “Ham and Eggs,” created in California in the 1930s by Robert

Noble. This plan proposed that the state should issue \$30 every Thursday to anyone unemployed and over the age of 50. In 1938, the (ultimately successful) Democratic candidate for governor supported the plan, and a “Ham and Eggs” Proposition was on the ballot. It failed by a margin of only about 10%.

Desperate times call for desperate measures? By 1930, most states (28) had old age assistance programs, but the benefits were small and the qualifications were such that most elderly couldn’t qualify. Unemployment had reached 25% nationally (more in many areas), so the 5.4% of the population over age 65 could hardly rely on successive generations for care or even charity.

In this context, the Social Security Act passed in 1935 seems rather tame. It guaranteed an income to those over 65, which was based on compulsory income tax contributions. In that way, the benefit was more directly related to an individual’s own

labor than the inheritance, sales or real estate taxes proposed earlier. It was designed to be more of an earned benefit than an outright transfer of wealth, falling far short of the more radical goals of many other plans.

According to the 2000 census, almost 12% of our population is now over the age of 65, and although unemployment is certainly much less severe than it was in 1930, the social fissures created by industrialization and urbanization have never reversed. Social insurance has proved a worthy idea. How do we sustain it? Well, if times get desperate enough, so may our measures.

*Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy and on accounting and tax dilemmas. She has an MBA from Yale; she is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College. ★*

## Layne Higgs Will Lead Summer Basketball Camp

Layne Higgs, director of the St. Johnsbury Summer Basketball School and St. Johnsbury Academy basketball coach, has announced dates for the 2005 summer basketball school.

The school has one session only this year, from Monday, June 27 to Friday, July 1. Instruction begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m., daily, with lunch provided. The basketball camp is open to boys and girls ages 10-17. This will be the 21st consecutive summer Higgs has led the basketball program. The school will be held at the St. Johnsbury School on Western Avenue.

In addition to the summer camp, Higgs offers lessons on an individual basis. The lessons may follow any format agreed upon by the school and the individual. For further information, call Layne Higgs at (802) 748-2584. ★

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## What's Happening at the Town Hall?

### Barnet

Town Clerk: William Hoar  
Selectboard: Ted Faris, Stanley Robinson and Gary Bunnell

March 28, 2005

**Harvey's Lake Wash Station** – After discussion with David & Sydney Frechette of Harvey's Lake Association and town attorney's review of state's agreement, Board agreed to boat wash station at Harvey's Lake Beach.

**Barnet Village Store** – Board approved liquor license for Barnet Village Store.

**Overweight Permits** – Board approved overweight permits for W. D. Fearon, Barrett Trucking Co., Cardinal Freight Carriers Inc., Sidney Smith Trucking and Calkins.

**Transfer Station** – Gary Bunnell reported on plans for trash compactor at town transfer station.

April 11, 2005

**Road Matters** – Board discussed grader repairs and renting a sweeper for road cleanup. Road Foreman Maurice Gingue would like to get crushed gravel as soon as possible because supply is low.

**Underground Utility Request** – Board approved request from Green Mountain Power for underground service to Garand residence on Warden Road.

**Road Repairs** – Board discussed request from David Kristoff for payment for his work on Tower Road during mud season, which helped prevent water from running onto Valley View Road. Board denied request.

**Liquor License** – Board approved

liquor license for West Barnet General Store.

**Overweight Permits** – Board approved overweight permits for Kirk Fenoff & Sons, Green Mountain Power, Gilman LaCourse, Larry Flood and Camp Precast Concrete Products.

**All Terrain Vehicles** – Gary Bunnell indicated he had been asked about opening certain Class 3 and Class 4 roads to all terrain vehicles. Board has no interest in this.

April 25, 2005

**Road Matters** – On recommendation of Maurice Gingue, Board agreed to hire contractor from southern New Hampshire to sweep town roads, hire Mathews Construction for ditch work on Roy Mountain Road and hire J.A. MacDonald for rock crushing this year.

**Lawn Mowing** – After review of bids for mowing Stevens and Parker Cemeteries, Library lot and Soldiers Monument area from Clayton Evans, Spruce Mountain Lawns and Landscaping and J&B Property Maintenance and following discussion of Evans' history with the work and closeness of bids, Board voted to accept Evans' bid of \$1,400 based on principal rather than price.

**Liquor License** – Board approved liquor license for Aunt Dee's Country Store & Deli.

**Overweight Permits** – Board approved overweight permits for Chief Logging & Construction; Donald Moore Jr.; Blue Mountain Trucking; Gould Well Drilling and Ron Fenoff Excavating.

**Highway Access** – Board approved highway access permit for Darrell Mathews on Old Silo Road.

**Special Town Meeting** – Board discussed having material ready for special town meeting to vote on funding for new fire station.

### Cabot

Town Clerk: Chris Kaldor  
Selectboard: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and William Walters

April 6, 2005

**Stormwater Runoff** – Erma Perry and Ron Carroll described a problem with excessive runoff on their Danville Hill Road properties. Larry Gochey will inspect the area and try to reduce the problem.

**Audit** – Board voted to hire Fothergill Segale & Valley CPAs for 2004 audit.

**Revolving Loan Fund** – Board voted to support VT Community Land Trust grant application for a regional revolving loan fund.

**Property Tax Adjustment** – After presentation by Chris Kaldor Board agreed to charge no interest or penalty on revised 2004 property tax for Molly Brook Farm Partnership.

**Sheriff Patrol** – Board approved Washington County Sheriff's Department agreement for April 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006.

**Town Meeting Participation** – Board voted to establish a Cabot Democracy Committee to develop ways to increase participation at annual town meeting. Board appointed Lee Blackwell, Roman Kokodyniak, Willem vanHees, Chris Riddle and Bonnie Dannenberg to committee.

**Stream Bank Stabilization** – After discussion and recommendation by Gary Gulka Board voted to amend Agency of Natural Resources stream bank stabilization grant.

**Real Estate Transaction** – Following executive session to discuss real estate transaction no action was taken.

### Danville

Town Clerk: Virginia Morse  
Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Larry Gadapee, Rick Sevigny, Gary Turner and Michael Walsh.

April 7, 2005

**Road Crew** – Kevin Gadapee reported road crew has been working on road maintenance following rain storms.

**Green Up** – Green Up and Bulky Day is scheduled for May 7 with special focus on Water Andric Road.

**Fire Department** – Town has submitted two applications for Homeland Security grant funds for fire department.

**Signs on Green** – Board asked Merton Leonard to inform Peacham residents that signs on Danville Green require Board permission.

**Town Hall Renovations** – Allenwood Construction will start work shortly on enclosure for chairlift to second floor of town hall.

**Town Plan** – Board discussed draft town plan and agreed that it is rather progressive and will need some further discussion prior to approval. Board agreed final approval should come from the people on a town wide vote.

**Liquor License** – Board approved liquor licenses for The Creamery and Good Fellows Restaurant.

**State Highway Funding** – Board voted to apply for bridge and structure and road grant from VTrans.

**Town Green** – Board approved request from Danville School freshman class to hold a yard sale on the Green by post office on May 7.

**Curb Cut** – Board approved request for curb cut from John King and Laurel Stanley.

### Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett  
Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Bruce James and Rob Elmes

March 21, 2005

**Walk-a-thon** – Board approved request from Darling Inn Meal site for May 21 walk-a-thon.

**Excess Weight Permits** – Board approved excess weight permits for A&S, Inc., Cardinal Freight Carriers, W. D. Fearon, Feed Commodities International, Gingue Construction, Adam Kennedy, Kingdom Crane, Bruce G. Thompson, Winterset and Whitcomb Bickford Trucking.

**Liquor License** – Board approved liquor license for American Legion Post #30, ARAMARK, Asia Restaurant, Blissrite Pizza, Tom Breslin Community Center, Broad Street Discount Beverage, Centerstage Management Group, Foster & Foster Food, GLN, Lyndonville House of Pizza, Nichols Group, Phat Kats Tavern, S&H Sandwiches, Trout River Brewing, VFW Post, Vinny's Hospitality and Wildflower Inn.

**Tractor** – Art Sanborn reported the old tractor has been repaired and town has received quotes on its trade-in value.

**Fireworks** – Board approved fireworks display at Fairgrounds on July 3.

**Contract** – After executive session to discuss a contract no action was taken.

**Legal Matter** – After executive session to discuss a legal matter no action was taken.

April 4, 2005

**Highway Report** – Board reviewed highway report. At 23% through year, budget is 13% expended. Correcting for weighted average of payroll in first quarter suggests payroll budget is 11%

over expended.

**Fire Truck** – Board approved grant anticipation note and current expense loans from Community National Bank at 3.01% for new fire truck. Financing the \$273,240 truck is from town savings (\$47,000), fire department savings (\$3,000), grant funds (\$121,500), cash on hand (\$8,800) and current expense loan (\$92,940).

**Lease of Town Land** – Board discussed draft lease for town property as requested by Marcel Dionne.

**Merger Committee** – Board agreed to have Martha Feltus meet with Village Trustee Tom Loomis to discuss possible merger of village and town.

**Fence Viewer** – Board appointed Craig Weston as fence viewer.

**Excess Weight Permit** – Board approved excess weight permits for Don Beattie, Calkins Sand & Gravel, Gil Lacourse, Limlaw Pulpwood, Ulric Norris and George Wagner Jr.

**Mobil Home Park License** – Board approve mobile home park licenses for Mark Bean's Northeast Kingdom Mobile Home Park, Hill Street Park and Woodland Heights Park.

**Liquor Licenses** – Board approved liquor licenses for Jelena & Gregory Gervais, Lyndon Freighthouse Restaurant, Delise Robarts and Marcel Dionne.

**Tractor Bids** – After executive session to discuss tractor bids no action was taken.

April 14, 2005

**Excess Weight Permits** – Board approved excess weight permits for Camp Precast Concrete Products, John Colgrove, Ron Fenoff Excavating, Larry Flood, Gould Well Drilling and Warren Hill Trucking.

**Lease of Town Land** – Board approved lease as previously discussed for property at intersection of Charles Street, Tute Hill and US 5.

### Peacham

Town Clerk: Patrick Downes  
Selectmen: Gary Swenson, Richard Browne and Tim McKay

April 6, 2005

**Green Up Day** – Jo Anne Green introduced David Stauffer as co-coordinator of Green Up Day. Phil Jejer agreed to have a dump truck at the elementary school lot for convenient disposal of trash.

**Sale of Town Right of Way** – Matthew Kempton requested the town sell a right of way adjacent to fire department in connection with a planned subdivision of the "Village Farm." Kempton has been unable to secure access to the property from any of other abutters. Board suggested Kempton inquire of Fire Chief Jeff Berwick and planning commission.

**Zoning Application Fees** – Cher Smith Monteith reported zoning appli-

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**Excerpts from Selectboard Minutes from Area Towns**  
*See your Town Clerk for complete minutes of the meetings*

ation fees are lower than those at neighboring towns.

**Zoning Board** – Board accepted with regret Dru Powden’s resignation from zoning board of adjustment.

**Board Appointments** – Board appointed Rob Ide as lister and Arthur Green to zoning board of adjustment.

**Cemetery Matters** – Board discussed cemetery matters including book- and record-keeping and Friends of the Peacham Cemeteries.

**Road Work** – Phil Jejer reported road work in progress and town acquired a small trailer with two generators to aid in thawing frozen culverts. Board voted to approve two applications for funding for summer road work and annual road financial plan. On Jejer’s recommendation Board voted to accept bid from Pike Industries for paving part of Peacham Danville Road.

**Board Work Plan** – Board discussed objectives for the year including transfer station costs, bookkeeping modernization, fees, personnel manual revision as well as road maintenance.

**Recycling Shed** – Neil Gombas volunteered to plan and build recycling shed. Board will discuss suggestion further.

April 20, 2005

**Legal Trail** – Robert Bent met with Board and offered Nan Wood’s request that the legal trail through her property be closed but not with locked gates. Bent also proposed new public trail. Board voted to accept request to “pent” the trail as proposed.

**Appointments** – Board appointed Neal Gombas to recreation committee and Ron Miller and Fred Fortin to conservation committee.

**Tax Maps** – Board reviewed bids for updating tax maps and agreed to wait for recommendation from listers.

**Culvert Policy** – Board discussed policy for installing road culverts and agreed to wait for additional public comment.

**Road Work** – Phil Jejer reported repair work is necessary on various culverts.

**Bookkeeping System** – On recommendation of town treasurer Board voted to authorize transfer of \$6,510.60 from health insurance budget to town treasurer’s budget for purpose of modernizing town’s bookkeeping system.

**Town Plan** – Board voted to have a public hearing at 6 p.m. on June 1 in town hall for comments on revised town plan.

**St. Johnsbury**

Town Manager: Michael Welch  
 Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier  
 Selectboard: Bryon Quatrini, Dale Urie, Reg Wakeham, Jerry Rowe and Gary Reis

March 14, 2005

**Water Filter Plant** – Board met with Red Dufresne of Dufresne Associates

and Danny Scott and Dan Gray of town water department and discussed alum spill incident at water filter plant on February 8. Spill from holding lagoons into Stiles Brook was caused by freezing and thawing at the outlet, which created flood conditions, and an excessive amount of alum spilled into the brook. Water filter plant is approximately 15 years old. State Wastewater Division reviewed spill and ordered corrective action. It will take at least until 2006 to formulate a plan and approve bond funding. Overall construction costs could be around \$300,000. Board voted to apply for \$46,100 for a grant to study solutions to the problem.

**Finance Committee** – Mike Welch suggested Board set up a volunteer finance group to assist in coming up with budget items.

**Municipal Building Space Needs** – Board discussed space needs for fire and police departments and other municipal offices.

**Committee Appointments** – Board discussed open positions on town committees and voted to reappoint all incumbents and advertise for other interested candidates.

**Service Officer** – Board appointed Mike Welch as town service officer.

**Town Plan Summary** – Gary Reis reported that he and Bernier Mayo met with the committee chairs and reviewed objectives of town plan.

**Water Appeals Committee** – Board appointed Gary Reis and Bryon Quatrini as water appeals committee.

**Personnel** – After executive session to discuss labor relations agreement and possible civil action, no action was taken.

March 28, 2005

**Wastewater Treatment Facility** – Wayne Graham reported St. Johnsbury Wastewater Treatment Plant and Earth Tech have been designated as the first star site in Vermont by VOSHA.

**Historic Collaborative** – Jeannette Farmer described progress of Historic Archives Collaborative project including sorting and cataloguing town materials and installation of vault sensor equipment to keep track of humidity and temperature. Farmer suggested an antique clock found in downstairs vault be repaired and displayed. Board agreed with proposal.

**Bridge Report** – Larry Gadapee reviewed bridge report and conditions of town bridges including various plans for engineering and repairs.

**South Main Street Repair** – Board discussed engineering report for section of South Main Street between St. Johnsbury Academy and US 5 South where road bank and wall structure need to be rebuilt to protect road.

**Highway Equipment Request** – On recommendation of Larry Gadapee Board voted to purchase its rented side-

walk plow. Board will seek bids before agreeing to purchase loader.

**Appointments** – Board appointed Tracy Verge to recreation committee, Martha Hanson to planning commission and Ross Hart to zoning board. Elwin Cross and David Redmond were reappointed to NVDA Board.

**Offender Re-entry** – Mike Welch reviewed state program to bring various offenders back into community.

**Meeting Dates** – Board voted to schedule one monthly meeting in July and August and have the meetings on Tuesday instead of Monday.

**Labor Agreements** – Board signed labor agreements with public works and police department.

**Building Size Limit** – After discussing proposed senate bill to limit maximum size of retail establishments Board voted to authorize Mike Welch to draft a letter to all local senators and representatives asking them to vote against the bill.

**Coin Drops** – Board decided to make no change in its coin drop policy as they are dangerous, a nuisance and very difficult to control.

April 11, 2005

**Canterbury Inn** – On request of Northern Community Care Corporation and recommendation of Joel Schwartz, Board voted to subordinate existing \$343,500 in municipal loans to the Canterbury Inn to approximately \$425,000 in financing provided by VT Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of repairing a retaining wall behind Canterbury Inn.

**Fit and Healthy Coalition Presentation** – Laural Ruggles and Darlene Ahrens described plans of the Fit and Healthy Coalition to promote exercise and fight obesity in the community.

**Community Baseball Property** – Town manager reviewed status of property belonging to town and to St. Johnsbury Baseball along Almshouse Road. The Manager said that except for a small parcel most of the property south of Almshouse Road was transferred to St. Johnsbury Baseball by St. Johnsbury Development Fund. Town attorney indicated Board can authorize transfer of remaining .34 acre parcel without another vote by the town. Following discussion of relocating road closer to Moose River and construction of a picnic pavilion by the Rotary Club Board voted to prepare documents for transfer of the property to St. Johnsbury Baseball. Board voted to investigate improvements to Almshouse Road and Concord Avenue

**Hilltopper Restaurant** – Board dis-

cussed request from Dale Wells to have town forces run sprinkler connection from Main Street to Hilltopper Restaurant and abutting properties. Board agreed to get more information on proposal costs and benefits.

**Thaddeus Lane** – Fire Chief Troy Ruggles described deteriorated condition and fire hazard of property owned by Eric Hudson on Thaddeus Lane

**Filming** – Mike Welch informed Board of filming schedule for scenes of *Disappearances* near Main Street.

**Community Development Awards** – Mike Welch announced that town will receive recognitions for the community development projects: Microdata and the Daniels Block.

**Liquor Licenses** – Board approved liquor licenses for Porter & Craige, Piccolo’s Restaurant and the Moose Club.

**Catering Permits** – Board approved catering permits for Sodexo at St. Johnsbury Academy on April 16, April 24, June 3 and June 4 and on June 11 at the Athenaeum.

**Walden**

Town Clerk: Lina Smith  
 Selectboard: Randolph Wilson, Daniel Lamont and Douglas Luther

April 4, 2005

**Constable** – Bill Huntoon reported several more break-ins and a dog complaint. Board agreed to have constable fine dog’s owner the maximum amount allowed by law.

**Garbage at Residence** – Health Officer Chance Griffin received a report on garbage at a residence. Constable and health officer will follow up on complaint.

**Road Standards** – Bill Hammond pre-

sented first draft of road standards.

**Board of Listers** – Board is seeking candidates for board of listers.

**Personnel** – Bill Huntoon requested an increase in his yearly pay. No action taken.

April 18, 2005

**Equipment Repairs** – Hose break in road grader was repaired by road crew for \$500. Similar repair cost \$2,000 in the past.

**Private Road Closed Sign** – Board discussed private citizens installing road closed signs on town road. Constable will remove sign and speak to person who installed it.

**Road Crew** – Board approved request from road crew to attend field day expo in May in Barre. New state law requires that anyone working in the road must wear a reflective vest. Board will order five vests for road crew and constable. Road crew pay increase will be discussed at next meeting.

**Constable** – Bill Huntoon reported that he apprehended someone attempting to steal a load of steel from railroad bed. He is investigating vandalism at a camp and at the church on Noyestar Road. There have been lots of dog complaints. Board discussed possibility of having a second constable. The dog that attacked a chicken coop and a rabbit cage has disappeared. Board discussed constable’s annual stipend and agreed to raise the amount from \$350 to \$450 per year.

**Road Standards** – Board reviewed draft of proposed road standards.

**Listers** – Board discussed pay raise for board of listers and approved a raise to \$9 per hour.

**Mileage** – Board agreed to raise mileage reimbursement to 40.5 cents per mile.

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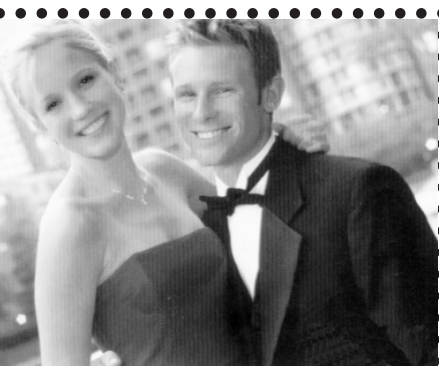
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# “Does This Town Know What it Has?”

## Katherine Bingham’s Studio of Photography in St. Johnsbury

TERRY HOFFER

Charles R. Cummings was the son of a journalist and printer and a successful publisher and an editor himself at the time he acquired the monthly *Vermont*. The sale took place in December 1905, and Cummings had plans for his first

issue to be dated January 1906. Published in White River Junction, *The Vermonter* was ten years old and filled a niche celebrating the beauty of the state and the “intelligence, thrift and accomplishments of its people.” Cummings had every intention of continuing the tradition by offering

well written feature stories and high quality photographs, and he knew just where to start. The lead article in his first issue was about the photographer Katherine Bingham and her remarkable studio on Church Street in St. Johnsbury. Bingham graduated from St.

Johnsbury Academy in 1904 and studied photography in Providence, RI and Fall River, MA. She also apparently traveled in Europe with a particular interest in its art and architecture. With obvious creative skill and considerable recognition from her peers she returned to St. Johnsbury to open a studio of her own. In November 1905 *The Caledonian* noted that her studio was open and seven of her prints had been accepted by the Second American Photographers’ Salon in New York. Judges for the exhibition admitted 550 out of 1,800 entries. Bingham was the only photographer from Vermont in the group.

Bingham’s interest and specialty were portrait and nature photography, and her distinctive portraits and tinting led to a successful career that extended to 1925, yet even her earliest work captured the attention of editor Cummings.

Cummings came to St. Johnsbury and met Bingham at her studio between the Colonial Theater Music Hall on Main Street and the Bingham family home on Church Street. Set back from the street, the studio faced the North Congregational Church completed in 1881.

As was the custom at the time, Cummings’ article is quite wordy, but he gushes with amazement at her photography and the design of the studio. “Are you sensitive?” he

wrote for his readers. “Do you yearn for nature? Are you awed by the solitude of the mountain top? Does organ music from a master hand move you to unbidden prayer? Do you realize the presence of your maker in the perfection of man’s best work? The Bingham Shoppe is the realization of another ideal. It is the glistening drop upon the pudding which courts your appetite.”

**There was interest in demolishing the building to make way for off-street parking.**

Cummings describes the European influence of the fireplace, latticed windows and cabinetwork and furnishings. After a tour of the darkroom and studio he compares Bingham’s photography and her state-of-the-art camera to the best that he’d ever seen - anywhere. “I never saw so much of keen interest to me in so small a house,” he says. “I’m glad there are such people living. One doesn’t need to go back a thousand years to find real art.”

Despite at least two devastating fires, which threatened her property (The Second Methodist Church on Central Street was destroyed by fire in January 1915 and the Colonial Theater on Main Street burned in May 1924), Bingham continued her work as a



Photo By: North Star Monthly

The Katherine Bingham studio, set back from Church Street and behind the Colonial Apartments in St. Johnsbury, is a private home. It is an unusual architectural design reminiscent of European traditions and Midwestern influences from the turn of the 20th century.

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photographer in her Church Street studio and seems to have enjoyed the opportunity to continue her travels. She retired in 1925, the same year that her father died in the family home next door, and she converted her studio to a residence.

In the mid 1930's Bingham moved out of the studio and into the family place next door, and she rented her five room cottage. Thereby continues a string of the studio's occupants all with more than a passing interest in the arts.

Bingham's first tenants were Donald and Audrey Gage, music teachers. Under the studio's unusual coffered ceiling they played a grand and a spinet piano. As well as directing the choir at the South Congregational Church Donald gave lessons in the house.

From 1941 to 1943 the studio was occupied by Louis Fink and his family. Fink was a violinist. He was an instructor at St. Johnsbury Academy and gave private lessons in stringed instruments at the house.

The property was sold to Ronald Burrows in November 1945 and again to Ray and Mina Bailey in 1946. In 1950 the studio was rented to Edith Schinnerer.

Schinnerer was a widow who had spent many summers at their home on Harvey's Lake with her husband, Otto. She had traveled widely and studied acting and voice in Berlin, London and Paris. She provided early training in diction, voice and body movement to a group of talented youngsters

from St. Johnsbury some of whom later found considerable success in careers in the performing arts.

In 1960, the studio was sold to Herbert and Gloria Bailey and again in 1977 to Bertha Koury. Koury was a popular art teacher at Lyndon Institute, and, like Katherine Bingham before her, she was an enthusiastic and accomplished photographer of the natural landscape of the Northeast Kingdom.

Following Koury's death in 2001, the studio's future was uncertain. According to Bob Chapman, a student of Edith Schinnerer in the early 1950's and a longtime admirer of the studio, there was interest in demolishing the building to make way for off-street parking. Chapman learned of the studio's plight through Koury's family.

After more than 40 years as a performer, instructor and director Chapman and retired English teacher Jack Fisher purchased the building described by Charles Cummings as an artistic masterpiece.

Chapman and Fisher have traced the remarkable chain of the studio's occupants and to the extent that is possible preserved the property in its original condition. Today the European influence at the turn of the 20th century is still appealing. Leaded glass windows; the interior ceiling, cabinet-work and fixtures; and the black timbers on white background are distinctive of the Tudor style.

One architectural historian

identified the design as an unusually fine example of the Arts & Crafts style reminiscent of the work of Frank Lloyd Wright or designs of the Mission period in the first decade of the 20th century.

According to Chapman, Michael McQuillan, an architectural historian from Wisconsin, came to see the studio last year. "He planned to be here for 15 minutes, and he stayed for three hours." Chapman says, "McQuillan's question was does this town know what it has?"

We will likely never know what exactly inspired the distinctive photographic work of Katherine Bingham or the design of her studio now shadowed by the Colonial Apartments on the site of the old Colonial Music Hall. But owners Chapman and Fisher hope to secure the property as an important part of the history of St. Johnsbury. They are seeking placement of the property on the National Register of Historic Places and finding great pleasure in understanding the attraction of this little place to Bingham and its occupant-appreciators who followed. ★



Katherine Bingham Photograph

Katherine Bingham's photography was distinctive for its creative poses and her printing techniques. This Christmas scene is from the collection of her glass plate negatives owned now by the Jenks Studio of Photography in St. Johnsbury. The setting of the photograph is in front of the fireplace in her Church Street studio.

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# Danville Teacher Finds Bounty of Letters from West Barnet Civil War Soldier

TERRY HOFFER

Peter Abbott was born on the West Barnet family farm in 1843. The third of four children, he was raised with simple means and basic education, but as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic in the Civil War he wrote frequent letters and sent them from the battle lines back to his family in Vermont.

**Warren says that what Abbott described is his life being saved by a button on his uniform. He says, "My hands were shaking."**

Until recently many of those letters were packed away and effectively undisturbed in the collection of the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. Dave Warren, a Danville School history teacher and master's degree candidate at Plymouth University, recently found what he describes as a "veritable gold mine" of information about Vermont in the Civil War.

Warren is a member of the Vermont Civil War Hemlocks, a group of "living historians" who portray members of the 3rd Vermont Infantry Company and the 1st Vermont Artillery Battery. The Hemlocks are students of the Civil War and its soldiers. They participate in reenactments and demonstrations throughout the northeast. Above and beyond the "living histories," Warren was taking a graduate level course in heritage studies when in January 2004 he opened a folder in the Historical Society archives and found 115 of Peter Abbott's letters.

Warren discovered, too, that of the total only four had been transcribed and published. To Warren the rest were an untapped source of historical detail describing the adventures and horror of a soldier's life in the 3rd Vermont Regiment from 1862 to 1865. The collection is remarkable, as Warren says, for Abbott's perspective. "Most letters you see were written by people who were highly educated. What makes these letters different is that the guy was not well educated at all. His handwriting is poor. His writing lacks paragraph and sentence structure, but Abbott was bright. He writes with incredible detail, and over time the content and style of his

writing improved."

Abbott joined the 3rd Vermont Regiment not in the first wave of Vermont enlistments but as a replacement in the fall of 1862. According to Warren, Abbott joined with five others from Barnet including his best friend, Walter Harvey Jr. They went from Barnet to Danville and on to Burlington and, Warren says, "Everywhere the 3rd Vermont went they went." It was a mission of patriotic duty, but Warren says, "I imagine Abbott joined for the adventure and the pay. In addition to a bounty [or enlistment bonus] of \$25, he received \$13 per month from the federal government and \$9.55 from the state."

In his letters Abbott writes about battling Lee's Army as they followed it from Fredericksburg, VA to Marye's Heights, VA, Gettysburg, PA, Funkstown, MD, Wilderness, VA, Spotsylvania, VA, Cold Harbor, VA, Petersburg, VA, Cedar Creek, VA and the final assault on Petersburg in 1865.

"Where most letters avoid details of the War," Warren says, "Abbott's descriptions addressed to his sister, his father or simply 'friends at home' is full of details. He hated Abraham Lincoln and admired General

George McLellan. He didn't care about the South's Secession, and he wanted the War to get over. He uses occasional racial slurs, but by the end of the War he refers to the 'colored troops' as a positive thing."

Written in pencil and ink the letters range from a few sentences to eight pages, and to Warren it appears that a chaplain is mentioned frequently enough that he may have tutored Abbott in writing.

Over the course of the War one in three were wounded or killed, and Abbott was surround-

ed by injury, sickness and death. Nevertheless he serves without harm until the June 3, 1864 battle at Cold Harbor. A letter about that day describes his being struck by something in the chest. Abbott is knocked from his feet onto his back, and he goes on to say that whatever it was (be it shrapnel or bullet) struck a button on his uniform and was amazingly - deflected. Not seriously injured Abbott, recovered from the incident.

According to Warren what Abbott described is his life being saved by a button on his uniform.



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Dave Warren is a member of the Vermont Civil War Hemlocks, a group of "living historians" who portray members of the 3rd Vermont Infantry Company and the 1st Vermont Artillery Battery.

Warren has discovered a unique and apparently complete collection of letters written by Peter Abbott from the Civil War battle lines back to his family in West Barnet. Among the letters and artifacts was a brass button (foreground), the same button, Warren believes, that may have saved Peter Abbott's life.

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Warren says, "My hands were shaking."

Warren read on and copied the letters, and he was understandably fascinated by his discovery, but there were gaps in the sequence where seemingly some of the letters were missing.

In April of this year Warren met the widow of Abbott's grandson, Clarence Paige. Paige was a former principal of the Concord High School, and his widow, Violette, still lives in Concord. On a recent Sunday afternoon Warren introduced himself to the only living relative (by marriage) of Peter Abbott's daughter and explained his interest and discovery.

Warren says, "I have worked hard and devoted a great deal of time to this, but sometimes you just wonder about fate or some kind of divine intervention. Violette Paige had said she had nothing from Peter Abbott's experience, but on that day she produced a cardboard box. I lifted the cover from the box on her kitchen table and there I saw 40 more letters (filling the gaps from the earlier collection), a photograph of Peter in uniform, pictures of his brother and father, an 1864 pocket diary and ... a button obviously damaged and apparently the same button that saved Peter's life at Cold Harbor."

Warren was speechless.

Since then he has accepted the additional letters, photographs and artifacts on loan and is weaving the full story together as he read it in the handwriting of its main character, Peter Abbott.

With the additional letters, Warren believes the Abbott account is complete. "He was a prankster, and the only emotion he shows is anger at such things as somebody stealing a shirt. But as the War wound down and the 3rd Vermont engaged in its final action, the last assault on Petersburg on April 2, 1865,

Abbott's best friend Walter Harvey Jr. was killed in action." Warren says, "Peter Abbott must have been devastated, but true to his style his emotions are subdued."

Two months later Abbott is back in West Barnet and trying to readjust to the life as he knew it in Vermont.

Understandably Warren is wide eyed with excitement at his finding the first-hand account associated with his great avocation, the Civil War. On Tuesday, May 3 at the Danville School he will present the highlights of his findings. Beyond the presentation in May he hopes to develop the material as a book based on Abbott's writings and his other research of the War.

Warren says, "I am so glad that I can contribute to preserving this one guy's story. It's an honor - and a privilege. I can save a piece of Vermont history, and the fact is that between a couple of file folders and couple of boxes it seems it was a really close call. This is a complete picture of a young man from the Northeast Kingdom in the Civil War. His perspective is fascinating and useful to anyone who is trying to understand the soldiers view of the War." Warren looks down at his notes and says, "This kind of understanding of history is exactly the sort of thing that gives meaning to life as we know it even in the 21st century." ★

# Hats Just Aren't What They Used To Be

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

Where have all the hats gone? Are they all in hatboxes in an attic somewhere? Maybe some are in museums and some have become costume stock for theater groups. I don't know of any hat graveyards.

All I know is that hats were very important when I was growing up. There were Easter bonnets, everyday hats, going-to-church hats and so on. One didn't just put on a hat to go out - one put on the correct hat.

When I was a girl I was excited when it was time for my spring hat. It was a creamy yellow straw hat with a ring of pretty spring flowers circling the brim. I wore it with a navy blue coat with the shiny sailor buttons. The outfit included white cotton gloves, patent leather Mary Jane shoes and white socks. Goodbye to woolly hats, mittens and clumpy galoshes. Oh joy - spring had come.

Grown ups had special hats, too. My stepfather put away his gray fedora (not a word you hear often now) and out came his straw boater, a rather absurd affair like a straw soup plate. He switched his old school hat band from felt hat to straw, and he was ready for spring. I don't know how his hats stayed on in a high wind, but they really were jaunty.

Women's hats sported flow-

ers, feathers, ribbons or an assortment of all these. There was often a small, crisp veil, not as a cover but as a frill conducive to batting the eyelashes coquettishly.

By the time I went off to college the hat era had slowed down, but I do remember my going away outfit at the time I was married shortly after graduation. My dress had a matching hat.

When I changed to simpler clothes for the long drive north from steamy Washington DC to a cool New England honeymoon the hat was left behind. I don't remember ever seeing it again.

The one woman I remember who exemplified the lady-in-the-correct-hat was my mother-in-law. She had a special hat for every outfit. She looked great in them all, and each fit into a tidy hatbox that had its place in her big closet. I'm not sure how the marvelous collection was dealt with when dear Torie died. Certainly there were beneficiaries and theater wardrobes that received all those boxes with hats inside.

There are of course still several queens who carry on the tradition of proper hats, but they are few and far between.

I don't go to cities much these days. Are there still millinery shops displaying delectable hats? One sees mostly bare heads, but I often look around at church to see who

might be wearing a hat. I wear one of my little collection of berets in simple colors. I feel more comfortable thus hatted, but I steer clear of white gloves.

**One didn't just put on a hat to go out - one put on the correct hat.**

I suppose there are garden parties somewhere and appropriate floppy hats. Weddings tend to bring out the odd hat, and skiers sport bright woolly ones, but alas the really elegant lady's hat is as rare as a tiara.

Oh there are possibly still men who attend operas and such and sport the stylish opera hat - tall but designed to be flattened by means of some sort of spring to fit under the seat.

It is probably as well that women no longer need a "hat allowance," but it is sad to think of the designers whose art is no longer appreciated. Maybe some day there will be a hat revival. If so ... will it sweep through Vermont? ★

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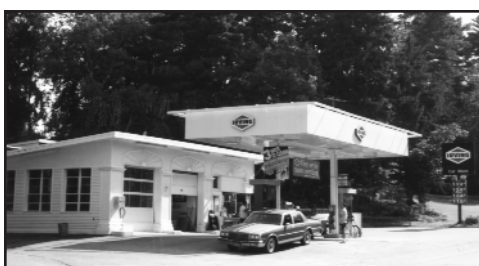
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# Danville's High School Prom Returns to the Town Hall

BRITTANY BENOIT

When people think about a high school prom, they remember poufy dresses, loud music, beautiful flowers and, of course, their wonderful prom date. But has it always been this way?

**"Flowers - there were lots and lots of flowers."**

I had the pleasure of speaking with Betty Calkins, Alice Hafner, Claire Sevigny, Carmen Calkins, Winona Gadapee and Pat Peck, all graduates of Danville High School. Betty Calkins, Alice Hafner and Claire Sevigny were graduates of the class of 1941. Winona Gadapee and Carmen Calkins graduated in 1953, and Pat Peck graduated in 1960 in one of the last classes to have its prom at the Danville Town Hall.

In my conversations with these ladies I learned that each had a story to tell about the way the Danville Prom used to be at the Town Hall. I was interested to hear their memories. I learned about prom themes they did or

didn't have, prom attire, the music and traditions that have emerged through the years - and exactly how they felt about the Prom coming back to Danville. Following the total renovation of the Danville Town Hall, the Danville High School Prom will return this year to the second floor space above Route 2 for the first time in 46 years.

While interviewing I asked each of the women what the theme was, at their last Prom. Betty, Alice and Claire answered quickly, "Flowers - there were lots and lots of flowers." Claire Sevigny added that there was a garden and a wishing well, as well as the cut flowers. But Carmen, Winona and Pat had quite different answers. They said that in their years there was no theme; theme wasn't important.

Another question I asked was "What did people wear when they attended Prom." There were a lot of different answers. Betty, Alice and Claire described very simple dresses, usually long and poufy. Carmen said her dress was big, blue and poufy and had a big blue bow on the back. It covered her entire body.

Winona remembers her dress



Photo from Danville Town Archives

For many years the Danville High School Prom took place in the second floor of the Danville Town Hall. One of the last to be there was in 1960. This year on May 21, for the first time in 46 years, after extensive renovations throughout the building the Prom will be back. Author Brittany Benoit spoke to some of the people who remember the old proms with live music, dance cards, lots of flowers and poufy dresses.

very well. She said, her mother had it specially made for her. It was pale green and made with ripple silk. Winona also remembered that the Prom was always on the same night as the Alumni Banquet. She remembered that one speaker was so long that she missed most of her dance. But, she said, that wasn't the worst part. It was so hot in the congregational church that varnish from the chair that she was sitting on melted and ruined her beautiful dress.

Pat Peck said that Prom attire was a bit different, style wise, from that described by the oth-

ers. She said, "Men wore suits, and girls would buy them bou-tonnieres. Girls wore short party dresses, and the boys would buy them corsages." That sounds similar to the Prom as we know it today.

I also got quite laugh when I asked Claire Sevigny what the music was like, and she said it was "good." Claire thinks the band that played at her Prom was named for its leader Charlie Hoar. She said they always had live music. There was never a DJ.

Claire added that when it came to dancing it was bit differ-

ent from the way it is today. During the dance, she said, everyone would promenade around they hall. Leaders would lead the procession around the room. Winona added that this was usually the dance that most people would dance to, because all you had to do was walk. Other popular dances at the time were the Round Waltz and Fox Trot.

I was astonished to hear about dance cards. Dance cards were cards that each girl had with a little pencil and tassel attached. The date you came with would usually only get the first and the last dance of the evening and the others were with boys who signed up for the dances and had their names on the girls' dance cards. Winona told me that she cheated on her "dance card" because at the time she was dating her high school sweetheart, Arnie Gadapee. Arnie would sign every line on her card.

The stories told by these wonderful ladies were interesting, but what I wanted to know as a student who will help coordinate and attend this Prom is "What did they think about the Prom coming back to Danville." In recent years the Danville Prom has been in St. Johnsbury, at the Burke Mountain base lodge and even in Bethlehem, NH.

The answers I got were exactly what I wanted to hear. Betty Calkins said, "It's nice to have it back here, it's so much nicer for the parents not to have to worry about their children [traveling a great distance]."

Carmen said the same thing, "It's wonderful!"

(See Prom is Back on Page 31)

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### Junior Varsity & Varsity Baseball

Mon.	May 2	Northfield	4:30
Thurs.	May 5	@ Oxbow	4:30
Tues.	May 10	@ Randolph	4:30
Thurs.	May 12	U-32	4:30
Sat.	May 14	@ Lamoille	11:00
Tues.	May 17	Montpelier	4:30
Sat.	May 21	@ Northfield	10:30
Tues.	May 24	Oxbow	4:30
Thurs.	May 26	@ U-32	4:30
Sat.	May 28	Randolph	11:00

JV Games are played at opposite site on the same dates.

### Junior Varsity & Varsity Softball

Mon.	May 2	Northfield	4:30
Thurs.	May 5	@ Oxbow	4:30
Tues.	May 10	@ Randolph	4:30
Thurs.	May 12	U-32	4:30
Sat.	May 14	@ Lamoille	11:00
Tues.	May 17	Montpelier	4:30
Sat.	May 21	@ Northfield	11:00
Tues.	May 24	Oxbow	4:30
Thurs.	May 26	@ U-32	4:30
Sat.	May 28	Randolph	11:00

JV Games are played at opposite site on the same dates.

### Track & Field

Tues.	May 3	LI Home Meet	3:15
Fri.	May 6	Girls' Burlington Invite. @ Essex	3:00
Sat.	May 7	Boys' Burlington Invite. @ Essex	10:00
Wed.	May 11	@ Milton	3:15
Mon.	May 16	LI Home Meet	3:15
Wed.	May 25	@ St. Johnsbury	3:15
Fri.	May 27	@ U-32	
		Frosh/Soph Meet	3:30
Sat.	May 28	@ Essex Invitational	3:15
Sat.	June 4	@ U-32 State Meet	10:00
Sat.	June 11	New Englands	TBA

### Golf

Mon.	May 2	@ Richford	
Wed.	May 4	@ Lake Region	
Mon.	May 9	@ Lyndon	
Wed.	May 11	@ Lake Region	
Mon.	May 16	@ Enosburg	
Wed.	May 18	Lyndon	
Mon.	May 23	@ Oxbow (Lake Morey)	
Fri.	May 25	@ Lake Region	
Tues.	May 31	Boys' Sectional @ Orleans	
Tues.	June 7	Girls' State @ Protor	
Wed.	June 8	Boys' State @ Middlebury	

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### Baseball/Softball Mountain League

MAY		
3	Lake Region @ Danville	4:30
5	Hazen @ Danville	4:30
10	Danville @ Enosburg	4:30
12	Danville @ Winooski	4:30
14	Richford @ Danville	11:00
17	Peoples @ Danville	4:30
20	Stowe @ Danville	4:30
24	Danville @ Richford	4:30
26	BFA Fairfax @ Danville	4:30
28	Danville @ Hazen	11:00

### Boys' Club Lacrosse

MAY		
5	@ Harwood	5:00
12	@ Chelsea/Sharon	4:30
14	@ U-32	11:00
17	@ SJA	5:15
19	@ Chelsea/Sharon	4:30
25	@ U-32	5:00
28	@ SJA	12:30

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# Clear Memory Can Last a Long Time

GARY FARROW

Our memories are liquid and alive. With new experience, they take on a different shape and meaning. Given to others, the past breathes in new life.

Our family drove down from Maine to visit relatives in New Jersey. My aunt and uncle wanted to show us the sights. They took us to a baseball game at the brand new Shea Stadium, and we sat in the first mezzanine on the third base side opposite home plate.

The Mets happened to be playing the Pittsburgh Pirates. It was a blistering mid-summer's day; my uncle covered his bald head with a handkerchief to protect himself from the sun. The first two Pittsburgh batters went

quietly. Then Roberto Clemente stood in the batter's box. The first pitch was outside, below the knees. Clemente hit the next pitch so hard to the opposite field that it was still rising when it hit the scoreboard. The scoreboard was approximately the height of the third tier seats, which rung the top of the horseshoe-like stadium. Clemente circled the bases. I was 15.

Eight years later, an earthquake devastated Nicaragua. In his native Puerto Rico, Clemente raised relief funds for the victims. On New Year's Eve, his airplane filled with supplies took off. There was trouble; the plane dropped into the ocean, and he was gone.

It might not have registered with me had I not seen him years earlier, but I came to learn that Clemente was the first Latin American star in the major leagues; and that he got his 3,000th hit at Shea Stadium in the last game he ever played. We don't live forever.

When my son was a Little Leaguer, I told him the story. About Clemente's moral strength; opening doors for Latin Americans, sacrificing his life to help others. I see a proud man, in (but not of) this world, circling those bases.

On a damp summer's night when he was 13, we went to Boston and Fenway Park to see

our Red Sox play the White Sox. His favorite player, was Frank Thomas, a huge muscular blackman with a gentle smile. The man radiated quiet power and genuine goodness.

We sat in the right field stands perhaps ten rows up. In his first at bat, Thomas hit a ball high up above the park's halo of lights. It came down five rows in front of us. There was the obligatory scramble for a souvenir. Some college kids next to us laughed, one of them struck an Adonis pose. In the way of Wrestler Hulk Hogan, he ripped his T-shirt to reveal a not so impressive physique. A few beers had enhanced his good-humored creativity and bravado. We cheered and hooted celebrating the dramatic and the ludicrous.

A summer's day 23 years ago allows me to still gently touch my son's imagination with values that are dear to me. Clemente's 1954 rookie card became one of his favorites.

My son and I live in different states now, but those memories allow us to be together. In a moment, we can go back to the grace of Frank Thomas on a summer's night or the nobility of Roberto Clemente one sweltering afternoon. Perhaps in time, these memories will sustain a new child. ★

# Prom is Back at Danville Town Hall

(Continued from Page 30)

Winona said, "There are so many memories in that gym." [The second floor space in the Town Hall has been used for meetings, theater productions, dances and for many years as a basketball court and gym.] Winona is delighted that others will be able to share similar memories.

On Saturday, May 21 2005, the Danville Class of 2006 will have the first high school Prom in the Town Hall in 46 years. The class invites the community to share in the event. The theme this year is Aurora Borealis, "The Northern Lights." Music will be provided by a DJ, as the band the class had planned on is not available on the date.

The Prom will be from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. The class is hoping to have a "showing" of Prom attendees during the first hour of the dance. As host, the junior class is hoping that everyone can come and be a part of this wonderful return to a great tradition in our town.

I would like to thank Betty Calkins, Alice Hafner, Claire Sevigny, Carmen Calkins, Winona Gadapee and Pat Peck for their information and help. ★

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# Bald Eagles Build Nest in Connecticut River Valley

Vermont is closer to having bald eagles successfully nest in the state according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

A pair of eagles was recently seen putting the finishing touches on a nest located in the Connecticut River valley in southern Vermont. Dr. Hector Galbraith, a professional ornithologist and ecological consultant, located the nest in a large white pine after observing an adult eagle pulling grass and flying off.

Galbraith says he observed two adult eagles lining the nest with grass, an activity that usually signals the final phase of nest building.

"Over the years I have seen lots of juvenile eagles in the area," says Galbraith. "I believe, within a decade, there could be ten pairs of eagles breeding on the river." Eagle sightings in southeastern Vermont are increasing. An expanding population in Massachusetts has meant more eagles moving up and down the Connecticut River.

"We'll monitor the nest," says Steve Parren, a wildlife biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, "to see if the pair is successful, but it's late in the nesting season, and they may not lay eggs this year. However, their nesting activity bodes well for next year. We urge people to stay away from the nest."

This is not Vermont's first bald eagle nesting attempt in recent years. A pair of bald eagles displayed territorial behavior at Somerset Reservoir eight years ago, but no nest was found. In 2002, a pair built a nest near the North Springfield Reservoir but failed to lay eggs. A great horned owl took over the nest the following year, and the eagles never returned.

Historical records of bald eagles in Vermont are scarce, but they were reported to have nested near Lake Bomoseen in the 1940's. Currently, Vermont is the only state in the continental United States that does not have bald eagles nesting within its borders.

Eight young eagles were successfully reared and released from the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison during 2004. The project's second season will begin with the arrival of more eaglets in early May. ★

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## St. Johnsbury Academy Spring 2005 Sports Schedule

Baseball & Softball			Girls' Tennis		
5/3	BFA	A 4:30	5/2	Middlebury (NL)	A 3:30
5/5	Milton	A 4:30	5/5	Harwood	H 3:30
5/10	Spaulding	H 4:30	5/9	Stowe	A 3:00
5/12	CVU	H 4:30	5/12	U-32	H 3:30
5/14	Burlington	A 11:00	5/14	Middlebury	H 10:00
5/17	North Country	A 4:30	5/16	North Country	A 3:30
5/19	Harwood	H 4:30	5/18	Lake Region	A 3:30
5/21	Middlebury	A 11:00	<b>Boys' Tennis</b>		
5/24	Mt. Mansfield	A 4:30	5/2	Middlebury	H 3:30
5/26	Mt. Abe	H 4:30	5/5	Harwood	A 3:30
5/28	Missisquoi	H 11:00	5/7	Montpelier	H 3:00
All JV Games at Opposite Site			5/9	Stowe	H 3:30
GOLF			5/11	Burlington (NL)	A 3:30
5/2	NCU, MHS, SBHS	A 3:00	5/12	U-32	A 3:30
5/6	@ West Bolton ESS, CHS, VUHS	A 3:00	5/14	Middlebury	A 3:30
5/13	@ Basin Harbor Boys' Invitational - NCU	A 8:00	5/16	North Country	H 3:30
5/16	@ Newport Girls' Invitational - NCU	A 1:00	<b>TRACK</b>		
5/16	BFA, Rice, NCU	H 3:00	5/3	Essex, Montpelier	H 3:30
5/19	@ Champlain MMU, VUHS, MVU	A 3:00	5/6	Burlington Invitational (Girls only) @ Essex	A 3:00
5/24	@ Kwiniaska SBHS, CHS, MAU	A 3:00	5/7	Burlington Invitational (Boys only) @ Essex	A 10:00
6/1	@ Newport Division 1 North	A 1:00	5/11	Lamoille, MMU, Spaulding	H 3:30
6/2	@ Harwood @ Sugarbush Girls' Tournament - States - Girls	A 1:00	5/13	Bob White Boys' Relays @ BFA	A 3:00
6/7	@ Proctor States - Boys'	A TBA	5/14	S. Burlington Iverson-Rebel Relays (Girls only)	A 10:00
6/8	@ Middlebury	A TBA	5/18	Colchester, Winooski, Essex	A 3:30
<b>Boys' Lacrosse</b>			5/20	Metro Frosh Meet @ Essex	A 3:00
5/3	Harwood	H 4:00	5/21	Hanover Invitational	A 10:00
5/5	Randolph	A 4:00	5/25	Lyndon	H 3:30
5/7	Rice*	H 11:00	5/28	Essex Invitational	A 10:00
5/11	Burlington*	A 4:00	6/14	State Meet @ Rutland	A TBA
5/14	Harwood*	A 11:00	6/11	New England's @ TBA	A 10:00
5/17	Lamoille	H 4:00	<b>Girls' Lacrosse</b>		
5/17	JV Danville*	H 5:30	5/2	Rice	A 4:00
5/20	U-32*	A 4:00	5/5	U-32*	H 4:00
5/21	JV Tournament @ Essex	A 9-2	5/9	BFA*	H 4:00
5/25	Montpelier	A 4:00	5/13	Montpelier*	A 4:00
5/28	Randolph	H 11:00	5/18	Chelsea	H 4:00
5/28	JV Danville*	H 12:30	5/20	Spaulding*	A 4:00
* All JV Games Follow Varsity Games			5/23	Randolph	H 4:00
			5/25	Rice	H 4:30
			5/28	Spaulding*	6:00
			5/28	Oxbow	A 11:00
			* All JV Games Follow Varsity Games		

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# Maypole Celebration - An Ancient Tradition and a Salute to Spring

LOIS (FIELD) WHITE

Little girls enjoyed making May baskets in those long-ago days. They cut colored construction paper and glued strips into U-shapes to form boxes. Then they glued a strip up over the top for a handle. They might have found a white birch chunk in the woodshed

from which a strip could be peeled to make an even more lovely basket. Then they tramped off into the woods for early flowers.

Often a cold spring would yield no blossoms, and children made do with mosses and pretty leaves. Sometimes a downed birch tree yielded a piece of bark; most kids knew that bark should not be

peeled from a living tree.

After the basket was finished and filled the little girls waited for the end of April. Then on the morning of May Day those same girls visited a neighbor, hung the basket on the doorknob, knocked and then ran and hid to watch the surprise and pleasure as their baskets were discovered.

Occasionally a teacher would treat the students to a Maypole. Flowers and strips of colored crepe paper were tacked to the top of a pole or a tree from which branches had been stripped. A group of fathers would set the pole in the schoolyard or village square. Children gathered around the pole, held the ends of the paper strips and walked around the pole, braiding and weaving the strips over and under and around the Maypole until it was covered. Sometimes they sang or danced as they circled the pole.

Little did the children realize that they were re-creating observances and celebrations of spring that were centuries-old.

Our month of May, named for the goddess Maie, signaled the beginning of a festive season in medieval times. In the British Isles and other European countries, celebrations took place in villages. Some say these customs originated

with ancient Druids who worshipped trees; others think the traditions date from Roman and Etruscan times.

On May Day villagers went to the woods and gathered hawthorn blossoms, flowers and other greenery. Maypoles were fashioned from ash, birch, cypress and elm trees, stripped of their branches, decorated with flowers and ribbons and erected in town squares. Some of these Maypoles were as tall as 100 feet. In small villages Maypoles were set up just for May 1; in larger towns Maypoles were a permanent fixture on the square. Some people put miniature Maypoles in their dooryards, or young men placed Maypoles beneath their sweethearts' windows.

Once the town Maypole was ready villagers gathered around, dancing and weaving ribbons until the pole was covered. There could be Morris Dancing and sword, rapper and garland dances to celebrate. Morris Dancing by teams of men included bells ringing and sticks clashing, to drive off unfriendly powers and awaken the Earth from its winter slumber. There were lively steps, feet stamping and handkerchiefs waving to lift peoples' spirits, inspire the crops to grow tall and promote the growth of newborn animals. The ancients believed the Morris magic was necessary to foster the renewal and rebirth of spring. A king and queen of the May were elected, and

merrymaking went on for days.

The industrious and thrifty Protestants had no use for Maypoles, which, to them, meant unrestrained festivity. In the mid-1640's the English Parliament banned Maypoles, but in some villages they survived.

Our ancestors, who settled in northern Vermont, brought some of these May Day customs with them. However, because the Puritans frowned on such festivities, May Day did not become popular in colonial New England. May Day observances were generally restricted to parties for children and, in later years, celebrations at women's schools and colleges.

For a chance to see a Maypole on May Day join us on the Vermont State House Lawn on Sunday, May 1. There in Montpelier Morris Dancers and all manner of celebrants will perform and enjoy the arrival of spring to our own northern Vermont.

Later in May the Marlboro Morris Ale (festival) is held in Vermont's southeastern Windham County on the last weekend of the month. The festival concludes month-long Morris Dancing in and around Brattleboro. Dancers dressed in white with colored embellishments, ribbons, rosettes, strings of bells and derbies or other hats and accompanied by concertinas, accordions and other instruments, will dance in Brattleboro on May 28 at 5:00 p.m. and on the Green in Newfane on May 29, also at 5:00 p.m. This will be Vermont's salute to the ancient tradition of May Day and a final fling into spring.



Lois (Field) White family photograph

This grand Maypole celebration was at Peacham Corner on May 2, 1936. Among those we can identify are Howard Churchill, Donald Douglas, Evelyn Farrow, Jean Farrow, Lois Field, Hazel Hoxie, Joan Minakuchi, Lorraine Munger, Lloyd (Toby) Munger, Sammy Munger and Timmy Somers. Adults include Agnes Farrow, Lillian Farrow, Nellie Minakuchi (wife of the Congregational Church minister Yutaka Minakuchi), Peggy Munger and Belle Somers.

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# Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

**May 1, 2004** - This is by far the greenest and warmest Green-up Day we've experienced. Got a head start yesterday filling a bag on our wooded side of Walden Hill Road and on the swamp part of Kittredge Road. Found the usual discarded empty liter wine jugs and miscellaneous car parts.

**May 4, 2004** - I am curled up by the woodstove while snow falls and the wind howls. Lots of poor man's fertilizer covers the ground this morning. The weatherman claims that May snow which accumulates happens about once every five years. This is one of those years. As far as May snowfalls go, my journal shows about 50% since 1997.

**May 8, 2004** - Frost last night with temperatures below 30° this sunny morning. A bluebird is perched on the woodpile soaking up the sun. Hopefully he'll stick around and check out our new bird house. Peas are beginning to poke through so the soil must be warming up. Came home yesterday to a clear, cold, sparkling star night. Big Dipper hung high over the house to the west of setting Cassiopeia.

**May 10, 2004** - Lots of bird activity over the past few days. Swallows have been collecting bits of dried grass from the driveway and are constructing a nest in the backyard bird house. Our lone male bluebird continues to perch in the nearby apple and

cherry trees and atop the other vacant bird house. He appears to be without a mate. A pair of broad wing hawks have been frequenting our fly space, and one is perched in a maple tree at the edge of the field. I'm still hesitant to hang seed because of bears but miss the bird activity the feeder brings. Ate our first asparagus which I rescued from the snow.

**May 12, 2004** - Our final load of wood is stacked. We started that chore in the snow a week ago and ended with blackflies. Found a new blueberry patch in the field and removed the encroaching evergreens to give it room to grow. Poplars are full with that initial spring green foliage, and tamarack needles have sprouted. Maples are holding back a bit, but shad flowers are about to burst open. Warmer weather and plenty of rain have encouraged spring growth.

**May 13, 2004** - Shad blossoms have opened in great profusion, looking like a suspended snowfall. Our side entrance is an enchanted Pissarro, impressionist painting. It's cooler today, perfect for transplanting my tiny lettuce and spinach sprouts. I checked the one remaining birdhouse and found the beginnings of an abandoned chickadee nest. I removed it in hopes that our bluebird will find a mate and nest there. He was doing some strange aerial displays this evening, treading air and swooping and diving like a swallow. Must have been quite a

bug feast out there.

**May 17, 2004** - Beautiful spring day, low 70's with a cool breeze. There's not enough wind to discourage the black flies but enough to set the poplars shimmering. Our male bluebird did indeed find a mate and brought her to see our remaining vacant bird house. She went in several times but must have had another abode in mind.

**May 20, 2004** - Took advantage of two sunny days to complete our first mowing. We had another brief visit from a lone bluebird and a lengthier one from a woodchuck sunning himself in our perennial garden. He was close enough to our solarium windows that Jeff was able to throw a jug of water on him and send him scurrying to shelter. Once the coast was clear, the woodchuck waddled up the driveway and headed down the road.

**May 21, 2004** - Heavy winds and driving rain throughout the night. Clouds prevail this morning with the sun managing a brief appearance. Glad we finished that first mowing before this latest soaking. The ground looks refreshed and ready to continue its spring growth spurt. It was unusually quiet at the bird feeder this morning. A small hawk perched on the bird house pole may have had something to do with inactivity. Checked my bird guides and think our visitor may have been a Merlin. He has

moved on and now the sparrows and finches have returned. Exciting news, the bluebirds are indeed nesting in the remaining bird house. They've been taking turns inside, the male has been bringing food for the female and aggressively chasing a nosy flicker away. Now they are both taking a breather on the woodpile. Evidently the theory of placing two bird houses 10 to 15 feet apart to assure that one house is left for bluebirds, is a sound one.

**May 22, 2004** - Nest building continues with the male bluebird flashing his deep blue back as he guards the bird house. The female seems to be the main gatherer of dried grass for the nest.

**May 27, 2004** - We're finally

seeing the sun after 5 days of continuous rain. Bluebirds favor the woodpile, lamp-post globe and the top of the clothesline. Swallows prefer the roof antenna and hummers sit on the tips of the pointed rhododendron buds.

**May 31, 2004** - What started out as an early spring put the brakes on about 10 days ago with frost warnings for the last two nights. I think we were OK on the hill, but lower elevations had a chilly 30° this morning. Despite the cold and excessive rain, it's beginning to feel like spring. Sunrise is at 5:30, trees are full with true green leaves. Apple and cherry blossoms are out, and lilacs are lush and at their peak. It's a beautiful end to the wettest month so far in 2004.



Photo By: Jeff Gold

"The shad blossoms opened in great profusion, looking like a suspended snowfall."

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# No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

We would have a hard time cooking without the fresh and healthful products dairy farmers provide worldwide.

From an ordinary dish such as macaroni and cheese to a fabulous crême brulee - milk, cream, butter and cheese enrich our diets and keep life interesting in the kitchen.

Dairy is a major food group in the United States and an important part of the economics of the country as well. The familiar farming way of life shapes the landscape and creates a sense of peace and well being.

The following recipes pay homage to the farmers who produce these ingredients for us.

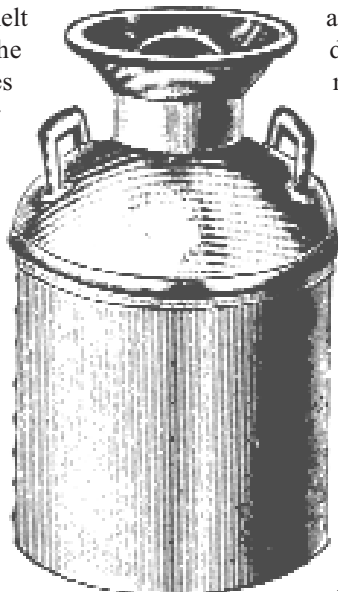
## Pasta and Three Cheeses

A classic! The addition of ricotta and the use of different pasta shapes add a dimension to this dish making it a truly gourmet version of macaroni and cheese.

- 1 lb. box pasta – I use butterfly (bow tie or farfalle) pasta. You can use penne pasta
- 1 lb. block of extra sharp Northeastern made cheddar cheese
- 12 oz. grated 100% parmesan cheese
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce

- 6 cups milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups bread crumbs
- 1 large onion – thinly sliced

Cook the pasta (al dente), strain, and rinse with cold water. Reserve the pasta in a baking pan. Meanwhile cut the cheese into small pieces, and place in a suitable container for heating. Pour the milk over the cheese so all the cheese is covered. You may have to use a little more milk. I like to use a microwave to melt cheese into the milk (this requires a plastic or microwavable container). If you are using the stovetop a medium sized saucepan will suffice. Using medium heat on stovetop or full power in the microwave let this mixture become one fairly homogenous mass. The cheddar will always be a little lumpy. Make sure to stir every so often. When the cheese and milk mix is hot and fairly smooth add 6 ounces of the parmesan, the Worcestershire sauce and the hot sauce. Stir well. Pour this mix over the pasta in the baking pan, and stir it in evenly.



Mix the bread crumbs with the rest of the parmesan cheese, and spread over the top of the pasta and cheese. Place onion slices on the top, and drip the heavy cream evenly over the top.

Bake in a 375° oven for about 30 minutes or until it is all bubbly. Remove from the oven, and let the casserole sit for about 15 minutes before serving.

A simple salad is all you need for a great meal.

## Northern Italian Gnocchi

Gnocchi is an Italian specialty that uses a wide range of ingredients. It can be very different depending on where you encounter it. Gnocchi are more like a dumpling (although much lighter) than a pasta and are made from either potatoes, cornmeal, spinach or cheese. The small pasta shaped gnocchi require a practiced technique in order to not create a leaden result. The recipe below is an easier version from the North of Italy that utilizes their beloved cornmeal and lots of milk.

- 6 cups milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup white Quaker cornmeal
- 1 cup parmesan cheese
- ½ cup heavy cream

Place the milk and cornmeal in a heavy bottomed saucepan with the salt and a tablespoon of the butter. Cook over medium to high heat stirring constantly until

the mix is hot and just to the boiling point. Just be careful not to burn it. When it has reached the boiling stage turn it to medium heat, and cook for another 10 minutes until it is smooth and thick. If it is too thick to keep stirring add either more milk or some light chicken stock.

Oil a cookie sheet, and pour the cornmeal mix onto the sheet. Let it cool completely. It will set up and be very firm.

Coat a 9"x13" baking dish with butter. Cut the cooled cornmeal mix into 2 inch squares, and line the baking dish with these squares overlapping them as you place them in the pan.

Melt the remaining butter, and distribute it evenly over the gnocchi in the pan. Add the heavy cream over the gnocchi. Sprinkle the parmesan cheese over all, and place the dish in a 375° oven for about 15 minutes or until the tops are brown and bubbly.

This dish requires at least a 5 minute wait before serving. It has to rest before you can dish it out.

Serve as a side dish or a full meal with a vegetable and a tomato salad on the side.

## Panna Cotta

The Italians are not a dessert-oriented people, but this is a magnificent smooth-as-silk cream that pleases all. I hesitate to use the word custard for this dessert because it contains no eggs. The translation of panna cotta is 'cooked cream' and that is just what it is. A more heavenly use for dairy products may not be found.

- 1½ cup confectioners' sugar
- 4 cups heavy cream (non ultra high temperature is preferable – do not use

whipping cream because it sometimes contains additives that don't cook well)

- 2½ cups whole milk
- 3 envelopes Knox gelatin

Mix the sugar, milk and cream in a saucepan, and cook on medium high heat stirring vigilantly. Let the cream mix come to a boil, and when it starts to roll up to the top of pan turn it down to a simmer. Cook for about 5 minutes. Sprinkle the gelatin over the mix, and continue cooking at low heat for about 5 minutes more. Make sure you stir in all the gelatin. Pour the panna cotta into a bowl, and stir occasionally until the mixture cools.

After it has cooled pour into individual custard cups or Jell-O molds, and refrigerate. Overnight refrigeration is recommended.

For service, unmold the panna cotta onto individual plates. You may have to place the cups into simmering water for a few seconds to coax the creams out.

A sweetened 'fruit of the season' topping is always welcome.

## Old Fashioned Custard Pie

I don't think any dessert represents the American palate throughout the century as well as a plain custard pie. On display in diners all over the country and a staple in kitchens from Maine to Oregon this pie sets a standard. It sometimes gets forgotten – so make it now and keep up this American tradition.

- 4 eggs - slightly beaten
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups milk, scalded
- 9 inch unbaked pastry crust - make sure you roll it out very thin

Preheat oven to 450°. Thoroughly mix eggs, sugar, salt and vanilla. Slowly stir in the hot

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milk. Strain this into the thin unbaked pie shell. Sprinkle nutmeg or cinnamon over the top. Bake in a very hot oven for five minutes, reduce the heat to 375°, and bake 30 minutes or longer till a knife inserted comes out clean. Served chilled.

**Crème Brulee**

What would a lineup of dairy recipes be without a crème brulee. It's elegant and very easy to make. The caramelizing of the sugar on top is made easy by an ordinary propane torch. Just remember to be careful when using this tool in the kitchen.

- 3 cups heavy cream
- 1 vanilla bean
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 6 egg yolks
- ½ cup brown sugar

In the upper part of a double boiler heat three cups of heavy cream with the vanilla bean. Beat the sugar with the egg yolks in a medium bowl until light and creamy. Take out the vanilla bean, and stir the warm cream into yolks very carefully and slowly.

Return mixture to double boiler, over boiling water. Stir constantly until the custard coats a spoon. Put into single serving glass or pottery cups, and place in the refrigerator to set. When you are ready to serve cover the top of each cup with brown sugar. Slowly caramelize the top of each cup with a low flame propane torch. Serve immediately for rave reviews. ★



**Ask the Shrinks**

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

Our 14-year-old daughter has been a source of enormous pride for the two of us. She is a straight A student and a fine athlete. Her father and I have felt blessed to have such a child.

all we could get from her was that she didn't much like art class.

Should we take her to a therapist?

Concerned Parents

Dear Concerned Parents,

There is much information we would need to answer that question. Here are some definite indicators that your daughter should see a therapist: your daughter has no or only one or two friends; there is a history of bedwetting or fire starting; there are signs of self cutting and/or tattooing, her eating habits have changed drastically; she eats either much more or much less food and she doesn't want to participate in family meals.

You haven't mentioned any symptoms such as these. If, after an assessment of your daughter's behavior, you notice any of these signs we would recommend that she see a therapist.

If none of these symptoms are present perhaps it might be useful to look at the problem from another perspective. For many very talented and intelligent children the weight of their parents' pride and expectations becomes an intolerable burden. It is more common than one might think for a parent to act as if her or his happiness and well-being depends on the child fulfilling the parents' (high) expectations. Many of us

**For many very talented and intelligent children the weight of their parents' pride and expectations becomes an intolerable burden.**

The problem for us comes from Amy's new art teacher. This teacher called us in for a conference. To our consternation she told us she was quite worried about Amy. She said Amy had cried in class because she thought her art looked awful. The teacher said she had told Amy her work did not look awful, but that didn't help. The teacher showed us one of Amy's pictures; and then I got upset. The picture was almost all black with a little scarlet showing through; it reminded me of a volcano just before eruption.

The teacher asked us if we would consider psychotherapy for Amy. We spoke to Amy, but

have known parents who have voiced feelings of betrayal if their grown child has chosen a different career path, a different school, or a different mate from the one hoped for by the parent.

Feelings of disappointment would be normal under these circumstances, but betrayal speaks to another dynamic entirely. For some parents the child is an extension of themselves. This means the child is not seen as an independent human being but as another limb, capable of delivering pain or pride, shame or guilt, joy or betrayal.

Amy's artwork that you described as looking like a volcano about to explode does indicate that something is amiss. Artworks often tell a clear story,

especially when words cannot. Her distress at her art not being "good enough" also suggests that she is struggling with something. She might have an incipient depression, pent-up anger or stress, which some therapy might help. If our musings about too high parental expectations rings true for you, perhaps you and your husband could use help clarifying the boundaries between you and Amy. Recognizing and resolving these boundary and expectation issues could lift a heavy weight from your daughter's shoulders.

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler each have a private practice in St. Johnsbury. ★



Photo By: Rita Foley

Students in the Pope Library Young Adult Program spent a late March afternoon participating in a craft activity led by Arrianna O. Byrne. The group decorated flower pots and planted seeds for a Mother's Day bouquet. (L-R) Cortney Elliot, Josslyn Berwick, Rebecca Newman, Max Willis and Beth Decker.

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# Click & Clack Talk Cars

## Hybrid's Highway Mileage is Less Than I Thought

Dear Tom and Ray:

I'm considering buying a hybrid car, but someone told me that because I do a lot of highway driving, I will not get nearly the mileage promised in ads. The reason I was given is that on the highway, the gasoline portion of the engine is used rather than the electric portion. Is this true?

- Gayle

**RAY:** Well, Gayle, no one ever gets the mileage promised in the ads. But it's true that the benefits of hybrids are tilted toward city driving.

**TOM:** Here's why: Hybrids combine a gasoline engine with a battery-powered electric motor. In Toyota's hybrid system (which

is the most popular), the battery power is called on first. So if you're just driving gently in city traffic, you might use ONLY the battery a lot of the time. And if you're stopped at a light, you're using nothing!

**RAY:** That's when a hybrid will save you a lot of gasoline.

**TOM:** At higher speeds - above 15 or 20 mph - or on harder acceleration, the gasoline engine kicks in. And, while the battery is still assisting the gasoline engine, you rely much more on the gasoline engine. So, at highway speeds, you still get good mileage, but the boost isn't quite as great as it is around town.

**RAY:** Incidentally, the reason nobody gets the Environmental Protection Agency-rated mileage

in their car is that the tests are unrealistic. The tests are done with all of the accessories off, including the heat and air conditioning. In reality, most people have at least some accessories on all the time. Every accessory requires some power and lowers your mileage.

**TOM:** What makes the difference even greater on a hybrid is that turning on a major accessory, like the heat or AC, automatically turns on the gasoline engine. So, even at low speed around town or when you're stopped at a light, if your AC is on, your engine is running and you're using gasoline.

**RAY:** The Prius EPA test claims ratings of 60 mpg in the city and 51 on the highway. We have yet to meet anybody who gets even close to that. Most Prius owners we talk to get somewhere between 40-50 mpg, which is still fantastic! You might be very happy even at the lower end of that scale, Gayle. But the mileage is not what the EPA leads you to believe it will be.

**TOM:** So, it's time for the EPA tests to join the real world. Turn on the AC, let a few pounds of air out of a couple of tires, and

throw a cord of wood or two in the back, and then we'll see some real-world mileage estimates.

## On Automatics Some Gears Are for Decoration

Dear Tom and Ray:

You guys keep talking about the proper way to drive a manual transmission. Well, I have an automatic and know nothing about shifting from "Drive" to "1" or "2" and back. Those numbers aren't just for decoration, are they?

- Anne

**RAY:** Actually, they pretty much ARE there for decoration these days, Anne.

**TOM:** In which case you'd think the car makers would do a better job, wouldn't you? I mean, would a couple of rhinestones or a little glitter kill them?

**RAY:** Automatic transmissions are pretty much "set it and forget it" these days; 99.9 percent of your forward driving can be done in "Drive." When the transmission needs to be in a lower gear, it'll shift itself into a lower gear.

**TOM:** There's only one really important exception and that involves long, steep hills but

only when you're going down them. On a steep mountain road, where you'd need to be on the brakes pretty much constantly for more than half a mile or so, you should shift the car into a lower gear. Shifting down in that situation uses the inertia of the engine to help keep the car from going too fast.

**RAY:** That prevents you from over-heating your brakes, which leads to brake failure, which leads to a life-insurance claim.

**TOM:** Try the next lowest gear below "Drive" first. And if you still need to ride the brakes to maintain an appropriate speed, drop down another gear, all the way down to "1" or "Low" if necessary.

**RAY:** Some people suggest that you downshift for extra power when going up hills or when your transmission is shifting frequently between two gears. But none of that is really necessary. During normal driving, if the transmission really needs to be in a lower gear, it'll figure this out itself. These are college-educated automatic transmissions we have these days, Anne, so fugetaboutit.



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## Danville Senior Action Center

### May Meal Schedule

**May 3** - Harrington's Spiral Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Blueberry Scones, Carrots, Pineapple, Oatmeal Cookies.

**May 5** - Chef's Salad with Ham and Cabot Cheddar Cheese and Homemade Croutons, Vegetable Cheese Chowder, Orange Juice, Ice Cream with Fig Newtons.

**May 10** - Meat Loaf, Rice and Gravy, Homemade Rolls, Peas and Carrots, V8 Juice.

**May 12** - Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Tossed Salad, Oranges, Brownies. Library Day.

**May 17** - Macaroni and Cabot Cheddar Cheese, Orange Scones, Cottage Cheese with Pineapple Salad, Peas and Carrots, Apple Juice.

**May 19** - Beef Stew, Biscuits, Spinach Salad with Mandarin Oranges and Croutons, Cake.

**May 24** - Cheese Omelet, Corned Beef Hash, V8 Juice, Pineapple and Graham Crackers, Bagels and Cream Cheese.

**May 26** - Ham, Beans and Rice, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Peas and Carrots, Bananas, Pudding. Library Day.

**May 31** - Buffet

Sing-a-Long with Winona Gadapee on Tuesdays at 11:30

Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$3.00 for guests 60+ (Others \$4.00) is appreciated.

# Harden Your Transplants and Divide Your Perennials

LEONARD PERRY

Hardening transplants, dividing perennials and pruning roses are some of the many garden suggestions for the month of May.

Acclimate greenhouse-grown transplants over the course of a few weeks before setting them into the garden. Begin by placing them in a sheltered spot during the day and bringing them inside at night. Then increase their exposure to sun, wind and cool temperatures gradually. Once they're in the garden, be prepared to cover them if a late cold snap threatens, and unless your garden is in an exceptional location frosts are likely in our climate zone through Memorial Day.

Transplants of snapdragons can be planted outdoors now. They tolerate below-freezing temperatures and flower best in cool weather. Plant them in groupings for the best show. You just can't have too many snapdragons!

Start planting cole crops, such as broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. These crops should be planted about two weeks before your last frost date, in soil

amended with compost. Don't be concerned if their leaves turn red or purple. It's often a sign of phosphorus deficiency due to cool soils and will go away as the soil warms.

Plant small sections of leaf lettuce every two weeks or so, rather than planting the whole pack of seeds at once. That way, you'll have tender, young leaves to harvest throughout the spring. As spring heads toward summer, choose non-bolting varieties.

This is a good time to dig and divide late-blooming perennials, such as asters and daylilies. If left undivided, the plants become unproductive and overcrowded. Dig up the clump, and use a sharp spade to create pie-shaped wedges. Replant these divisions in a full-sun location in well-drained soil, and water often to keep the soil moderately moist.

Cut back dead rose canes to healthy growth and remove any spindly branches. Make a slanted cut that angles up toward an outward-facing bud, starting 1/4 inch above the bud. This directs the new canes to grow outward, which improves air circulation in the middle of the plant to reduce risk of diseases like black spot.

Check apple, cherry and other fruit trees for nests of tent caterpillars. They will emerge at the same time the leaves sprout. Blast their nests with a strong spray of water to destroy them, or spray them with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). BT will harm

only the caterpillars and not other beneficial insects, birds or humans. You'll need a pump sprayer for this job. Use the correct form of BT, and follow all directions and precautions.

To reduce watering, incorporate water-absorbing crystals into the potting mix when you plant. It's hard to add them afterwards. Since clay pots dry out faster than plastic, use plastic pots set inside clay pots to help hold in moisture. Grouping pots together will also help reduce moisture loss.

Make a note of gaps in your spring bulb garden, and plan to plant more bulbs there this fall. By choosing a variety of bulbs, from early-blooming snowdrops to late-blooming alliums (ornamental onions), you can have a colorful show for months. Note the bloom times in plant descriptions. For example, Kaufmanniana tulips bloom early, while single, late tulips wrap up the spring show.

*Leonard P. Perry, Ph.D. is extension professor in the department of plant and soil science at the University of Vermont. ★*

## Sparkie

I look out my widow  
And what did I see  
A fluffy red squirrel  
Looking back at me.

His bright black eyes  
Held mischief, not fear  
They danced with mischief  
For a new friend's here

He, from a snow bank  
Me, from within  
He, seeking friendship  
Me, loving him.

Doris Stebbins

## Touch and Metaphor

Touch evokes memories of long forgotten experiences, Recalling to the present even fleeting moments of the past, Buried deep in the mind, hidden from conscious thought.

Touch reminds us of unanticipated delights, unplanned incidents That may have set in motion cataclysmic change. Fading memories are rejuvenated by the mere contact of fingertips.

Let no one disavow touch of another who is held dear. Life involves touch from birth to death. This sense, above all others, a metaphor for love and caring.

Isobel P. Swartz

## West Barnet Senior Action Center

### May 2005 Menu

**May 4** - Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Mexican Corn, Dark Bread and Bread Pudding.

**May 6** - Buffet.

**May 11** - Corn Chowder, Tuna and Egg Salad Sandwiches, Carrot Raisin Salad, Rice Pudding.

**May 13** - Chicken & Biscuit, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Cranberry Jelly, Orange Jell-O with Pineapple.

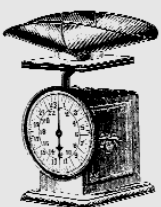
**May 18** - Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Tropical Fruit.

**May 20** - Liver & Onions with Bacon, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Dark Breads, Pudding with Topping.

**May 25** - Macaroni & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Green Beans, Muffins, Jell-O.

**May 27** - Potato Salad, Hamburg or Hot Dog, Tossed Salad, Pickled Beets, Cottage Cheese, Ice Cream.

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.



## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES



MLS# 198655 - Enjoy busy summers and quiet winters when you own this year-round, three bedroom home on Joe's Pond. Immaculate, move-in condition with quality finish work and attention to detail. There is a new metal roof and new Pex plumbing. Natural pine decor and ceramic tile flooring. Sixty five feet of water frontage and a nice lawn provide lots of play space. Sunny waterfront exposure on the "Big Pond."

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Rosemary Gingue.....748-8843  
Mike Mayo.....748-3222  
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## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES



MLS# 193321 - Spacious 200-year old restored post & beam Colonial farmhouse on 2-acres of lawn and gardens. Three-car attached garage, 2 porches, 5 bedrooms, 2 and 3/4 baths, 2,800 sq. ft. of living space.

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ML #175041 - Immaculate home with additions of a sunroom and mudroom. Across from the VAST trails and very nice views, this home is ideal for vacation, first or retirement home. There are 3.81 acres along with a large 2-car garage.

\$91,500



ML# 198198 - The site work and septic design have already been done on this 10.9-acre building lot just a short distance from Danville village. Enjoy peaceful, rural surroundings, good local views, and sunny southeast exposure. Must build within 2 years or be responsible for land gains tax.

Priced at \$74,500

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

**AROUND THE TOWNS**



**May**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

- Mondays** - Preschool Story Time, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Youth Library, 10:00 a.m. (802) 748-8291.
- Mondays** - Story Time, Pope Library, Danville, 10:00 a.m. (802) 684-2256.
- Mondays** - Just Parents meet with concerns for drugs and kids, Parent Child Center, St. Johnsbury, 7:00 p.m. (802) 748-6040.
- Tuesdays** - Baby & Toddler Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- Tuesdays** - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 6:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- Wednesdays** - Preschool Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10:00 a.m. (through May 18). (802) 626-5475.
- Wednesdays** - Read 'n' Stuff, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- Thursdays** - Introduction to Computers, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10:00 a.m. (802) 626-5475.
- Thursdays** - Read and Weed Book Club, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- Thursdays** - Danville Town Band Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Danville School auditorium. (802) 684-1180.
- Fridays** - Bingo, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Lakeview Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 748-8180.
- Saturday & Sunday** - Planetarium Show 1:30 p.m., Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-2372.
- Saturdays** - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 1:00 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

**May**

- 2 Advanced Directives Information Session with Rev. Lynn Burgess, chaplain at Northeastern VT Regional Hospital, Conference Room

- B. 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7473.
- 4 The Regeneration of Frank Lloyd Wright after 1932 with H. Nicholas Muller III, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7:00 p.m. (802) 748-8291.
- 5 Osher Lifelong Learning: Hudson River School Tradition with Larry Golden, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1:00 p.m. (802) 626-5135.
- 5 Pumpkin Hill Singers Present: *Songs from Here and There* accompanied by Dave Hare and Ellen & Jeff Gold, North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-3642.
- 6 Pumpkin Hill Singers Present: *Songs from Here and There* accompanied by Dave Hare and Ellen & Jeff Gold, Congregational Church, Danville, 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-3642.
- 6 Family Contra & Square Dance with Hull's Union Suit Victory String Band, Knights of Pythias Hall, Danville. 8:00 p.m. (802) 563-3225.
- 6 Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7:00 -9:00 p.m. (802) 684-3867.
- 7 Green Up Vermont Day. See Page 2 for Information.
- 7 Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7:00 a.m. (802) 684-3666.
- 7 Birding the Shadow Lake Trail from Waterford to East Concord with NEK Audubon. 7:00 a.m. (802) 748-2372.
- 7 Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4:00 p.m. (802) 748-8291.
- 8 **MOTHER'S DAY**
- 9 Book Discussion: Harriett Chessman's *Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper*, Dailey Memorial Library, Derby. 10:30 a.m. (802) 766-5063.
- 9 Don Bredes signs *The Fifth Season* at Kingdom Books, 446 Railroad Street, Suite 4, St. Johnsbury. 4-5:30 p.m. Reserve a copy in advance. (802) 748-5488.
- 9 Cancer Support Group, Conference Room A, NVRH, 4:00 p.m. (802) 748-8116.
- 11 Northeast Kingdom Youth Birding Day, Blue Mountain School and Barnet School, 9:00 a.m. (802) 748-8515.

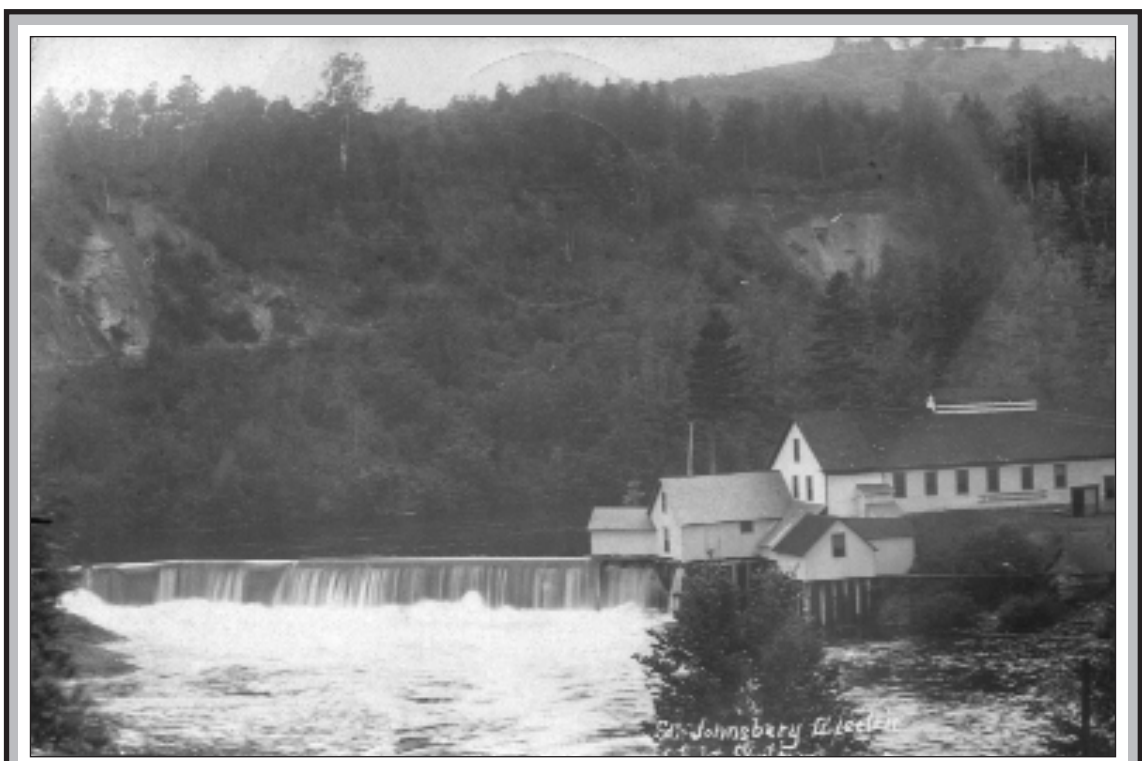


Photo Courtesy of Merton Leonard Collection

*This summer day prior to 1908 the Passumpsic River was spilling over the dam at the St. Johnsbury Electric Company. The generator was located, according to an inscription on the photograph, about two miles north of Passumpsic. As the population's demand for residential and industrial electrical power was growing there were more small scale power stations than we can imagine today.*

- 12 Osher Lifelong Learning: Nature, Culture and Art: Reflections on African & Western Art with Lois Eby, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1:00 p.m. (802) 626-5135.
- 12 Film discussion following 7:00 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.
- 14 Town-wide Yard Sale, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 9:00 a.m. - Noon. (802) 626-5475.
- 14 Learning the Birds by Ear: A birding outing for the blind, the visually impaired and their guests, Meet at Mountain View Farm, East Burke, 9:00 a.m. (802) 748-2372.
- 15 Learning the Birds by Eye: A birding outing for the deaf, the hearing impaired and their guests, Meet at Mountain View Farm Inn, East Burke, 9:00 a.m. (802) 748-2372.
- 18 Seat of Your Pants Birding: A Victory Tour for the wheelchair bound and their guests, Meet at Damon's Crossing Parking Area, Victory, 9:00 a.m. (802) 748-2372.
- 18 Spiritualism in Vermont: Religion, Politics and the Preternatural with Joe Citro, Hardwick Depot, Hardwick, 7:30 p.m. (802) 563-2508.
- 18 Cardiac Support Group, Cardiac Rehabilitation Room, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7401.
- 20 Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7:00 -9:00 p.m. (802) 684-3867.
- 22 Northeast Kingdom Birdathon, 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. Volunteers welcomed to study birding at its best at Coventry Marshes, Joe's Pond Marshes, Victory Basin, Nulhegan Basin, South Bay Marshes and Lake Memphremagog, Windsong Wildlife Sanctuary and Woodsville Atlas Block. (802) 748-8515.
- 23 Book Discussion: Tracy Chevalier's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Dailey Memorial Library, Derby. 10:30 a.m. (802) 766-5063.
- 25 St. Johnsbury Seed and Weed Garden Club program with Gardener Henry Homeyer and *Tricks of the Trade*, 7:00 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 748-8291.
- 26 Night Noises near Moore Dam, Listen for owls, whip-poor-wills, frogs and ... Meet at Concord Post Office, 6:00 p.m. (802) 748-2372.
- 27 Zodiac Nights at the Fairbanks Museum, Special star show, light refreshments, gallery talk. 5:00 p.m. (802) 748-2372.
- 28 Spring Craft Fair and festival in Hardwick; Parade, exhibits and barbecue, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 28 Revels North Pancake Breakfast (8:00 - 11:00 a.m.) and Yard & Plant Sale (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.), Norwich Congregational Church Parish Hall. (603) 298-8913.
- 30 Plant, Book and Bake Sale to Benefit Pope Memorial Library, 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Pope Library, Danville. (802) 684-2256.
- 30 Diabetes Support Group, Conference Room B, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7433.
- 30 Alzheimer's Support group, Caledonia Home Health, St. Johnsbury. 7:00 p.m. (802) 748-8116
- 30 MEMORIAL DAY**
- See also the *Arts Around the Towns* Calendar Page 14.

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