

THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

APRIL 2006

Volume 17, Number 12

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**This Potter Is in a
World of Her Own**



THEY WERE THE MEDICINES THAT GAVE US ALL HOPE

LOIS (FIELD) WHITE

Not terribly long ago the recommended concoction for cleansing the human system in Vermont's springtime was sulfur-and-molasses. Protesting children and countless adults were promised comprehensive physical improvement. The yellow sulfur powder was stirred into molasses and a teaspoon given once a day for a week or so. Purveyors of home remedy gave a stronger "cow molasses" and sulfur mixture to anemic youngsters sometimes with milk.

Our ancestors handed down their recipes for home remedies, often derived from wild plants, barks and roots, and it was our parents who continued their use, hoping for prevention and the cure of ailments and diseases.

Some believed that a penny rubbed on a wart, the penny then thrown away, would result in the wart disappearing. The theory was that the penny "bought" the wart. Another approach was to slice a bean in half and rub the cut surface of the bean on the wart. One-half of the bean was thrown away and the other half buried. A piece of red yarn or ribbon, tied around the throat, was thought to prevent scarlet

(Please See *If a Piece* on Page 8)

Caledonia County Work Camp Inmates Give Back to Make Good



Photos By: North Star Monthly

Russ Hawkins (left) and Chris Jauch (center) are inmates, working members of the Caledonia County Work Camp crew, at the Dean Hale Building on Main Street in St. Johnsbury. Mark Valley (right) is service team leader, an employee of the Vermont Department of Corrections. This project, owned by the nonprofit Gilman Housing Trust, is one of many in the Northeast Kingdom in which the owner has benefited from Work Camp labor and the inmates involved find a new perspective on life for a positive and valuable experience for all.

TERRY HOFFER

Trouble finds you when you're in jail, and this beats that by a long shot." Russ Hawkins, 43, is serving time for his 5th conviction for DWI at the Caledonia County Work Camp. He is from Burlington. Hawkins says, "We're minimum custody inmates with a chance to do something different with our lives. It's a regular routine and a chance to find a sense of worth."

Chris Jauch, 22, is from Bennington. Jauch's sentence is for escape from house arrest after his conviction for grand larceny. He was stealing a stereo out of a car. "It gives me a desire to have goals," he says. "It's affirmative action training in that we are rewarded for good behavior. My mind is occupied, and I have positive thoughts. That's a behavioral change."

Hawkins says, "It gives hope especially to the younger people who have never known another way of life. Just going to work every day is a change for a lot of us."

Hawkins and Jauch are members of a team from the Caledonia County Work Camp currently working on the Dean Hale Building on Main Street in St. Johnsbury. Their service team leader is Mark Valley, an employee of the Vermont Department of Corrections. Valley is soft spoken and easy going, a far cry from the drill sergeant personality one could imagine in a role like his. "I love this job," Valley says, and it shows.

Valley describes his background as that of a self-employed builder, a handyman really, for 30 years. His specialty was heating systems until he signed on with the Department of Corrections, and his strength has proven to be human relations.

Hawkins says, "[Valley] has respect for us, and we respect him in return."

Mark Valley is the father of two, and he speculates that being a parent and understanding how people think should be requirements for the job. "These guys are great. None are violent offenders, and none were convicted of sex crimes. It's like having kids of your own. It's just that these kids went wrong."

Valley says, "Seven years ago when I started something like 95 percent of the offenses were related to alcohol. Now it's closer to 50/50 with heroin having gained a lot of ground. The Work Camp has a drug and alcohol program and counseling and self help training for guys dealing with addictions."

Jim Donnon is the Work Camp superintendent. Donnon says, "A lot of the inmates are dealing with addictions, and they put in a lot of time here trying to confront them. We call it a restorative place in that if you mind the rules, you keep your nose clean and you contribute, you get a day of credit [off your sentence] for each day of work and good behavior. There are places in the country that are much more like high security boot camps with people marching around double time with drill sergeants. Here there are no bars or cells. We have bunks - they are like barracks - but if we see people understanding the importance of getting up in the morning and doing a good job and giving back in the form of work for the

(Please See *We Have* on Page 6)

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Making a Difference One Step at a Time

I am often puzzled trying to understand the effectiveness of our great institution of social services and the entitlement and dependence that I see among some who take it for granted. I really don't know who should be the jury and judge of need, and I suppose that's the crux of the problem, but I was brought up short recently by two examples of people making a difference. And darn it - I'd like to think that our social policy planners and human service program managers would put their data collecting and grant proposals aside and talk to Mark Valley [See Page 1] and Lou and Cathy Brugliera [See Page 22].

Mark Valley is an employee of the Vermont Department of Corrections, a service team leader for the Caledonia County Work Camp in St. Johnsbury. Valley's responsibility is to set a positive example for a rotating group of "inmates," who have been sentenced to the Work Camp for a chance to consider their failure to follow the rules of society and to learn the importance of positive behavior.

Valley is a certified heating specialist, and those skills are important on Work Camp construction projects, but more importantly he has an understanding of leadership and human nature. As one inmate says, "Just going to work every day is a big change for a lot of us, but he [Mark Valley] has respect for us, and we respect him in return."

Valley started with the Work Camp seven years ago and is quietly proud of the success of the state program. He knows it's not perfect, and he sees some of his team members back. "You can't be disappointed if it doesn't always work because there are times that it doesn't," he says, "but we're all getting better at it."

The program teaches nonviolent offenders the importance of affirmative actions and the value of keeping one's mind occupied with positive thinking. Although Valley has seen the age of the inmates range from 17 to 70, he says, "It's like having kids of your own but understanding that these kids just went wrong." Valley is hopeful the program will expand - if not here then elsewhere in Vermont or beyond. He and it are making a difference - one person at a time.

Lou Brugliera is a retired police officer from Massachusetts who lives in Ryegate. Four years ago Brugliera and his wife decided to seek out the means to help a needy child in a poor country. They offered their help to two organizations before settling on the international Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA). The Bruglieras' sponsorship of two children in Guatemala has proven to be making a huge difference in the lives of members of the sponsored family and enormously rewarding to the Bruglieras in return. In February, Lou traveled to Guatemala to meet the family and confirm that a modest monthly sponsorship is allowing their sponsored children to do things (like attend school and have access to a health clinic) that have never been available to the family before. "I wish we could sponsor a hundred kids," he says. "There is no sense of entitlement, and they are so grateful." [The CFCA uses 92.7% of its revenues for program expenses and a mere 7.3% for administration and fundraising.]

Mark Valley's inmates and the Bruglieras' family in Guatemala are fortunate, and they know it. But Mark Valley and Lou Brugliera say they are the fortunate ones for their opportunities to be making a difference.

I like to think that somehow there is enough of this good fortune to go around, with less talk and more walk, with positive leadership and understanding and with a bounty of satisfaction for us all in seeing our efforts and our dollars making a difference (however we choose to apply them) - one step at a time.

Terry Hoffer

No Rack for the In-between Month

April, paraphrasing Garrison Keillor, exists so that Vermonters who don't drink can experience what a hangover is like. It's an in-between month: in between cold and warm weather outdoor activities. Trails are too barren for skiing, too wet for hiking. Ice fishing is over, but ponds and rivers are still uninviting for boating or canoeing. Snow may be off the roads, but the mud will swallow any bicycle. There's no need for snow blowers (hopefully!), but it's too soon for lawn mowers and rototillers. Because of this outdoor recreation limbo, it is the in-between car roof rack month.

Car roof racks make for an interesting study on human behavior and creativity. First, there is the engineering aspect. I admire the diversity of racks, both for what they carry and how they attach to the car. It seems that for every make and model of car and truck, there is a rack designed to fit its roof or bed; and if there isn't, ingenuity will modify an existing rack to fit.

There is the economics of roof racks. I suspect there is a symbiotic financial relationship between car and roof rack manufacturers. The ever-changing contours of car tops necessitate the continual revision of the attachment points of roof racks (the so-called rack "feet"). Purchasing or leasing a new car, even if it is just a newer version of the previously owned model, usually requires buying new rack feet, if not an entirely new rack. Unlike the retro movement of fashion, there does not seem to be any trend toward resurrecting past roof designs. Yet, I'm still hanging onto a box of old rack feet, hopelessly waiting for the return of rain gutters.

Then there is the psychological facet of roof racks. A roof rack conveys one's recreational or vocational interests. It does not require much deductive power to identify a bicyclist, canoeist or skier from the empty roof rack. However, some racks do make me wonder about the characteristics of the driver. For instance, I've seen racks with all sorts of rods and pipes sticking straight up in the air (doesn't seem very aerodynamic), which impart a spiked-hair look to the car. Do drivers of these cars favor punk culture? Are they bird lovers hoping for a nesting pair of ospreys to make their home on the top of their roof projectiles? The low profile racks with the wind diverting skirts say speed; whatever sport the drivers of these cars do, I bet they do it fast. I once saw a double cradle-like rack, might have been for two kayaks side by side. From a distance, the car looked like it had oxen horns—cowboy driver or someone partial to operas featuring Norse maiden warriors? Homemade racks demonstrate the creative spirit of the car owner; it's amazing what people can do with pressure-treated two by fours, zip ties and ratchet straps.

The cars with multiple racks always catch my attention. The box, boat and bike carriers all up on top suggest this driver works hard (must, in order to afford the stuff that goes in all the racks) and plays hard, prepared for all recreational circumstances. What to make of the off-season rack such as the ski rack still on the car in July? Is this a die-hard skier who lives for the first snow? Is this someone too distracted with other aspects of his life to find the time to remove the rack? On the other hand, is it someone who simply likes to see approaching cars slow down because they mistake the ski rack for a set of blue lights. (Be honest, who has not braked for an oncoming car that turned out just to have a ski rack on top?)

The most important feature of roof racks, and the reason I detest this in-between roof rack month of April, is their utility in identifying cars. Let me give an example. As a consequence of the limited choices of vehicles which suit Vermont's all-wheel-drive-requiring road conditions, in any large parking lot there are bound to be at least two, and often more, cars of the same make, model and color. It's darn embarrassing to mistakenly get into, or even try to get into someone else's car. With a roof rack, the odds improve dramatically that there will not be another car in the lot that is the same make, model, color AND has the same rack. I can see a lot farther than I can hear, so the visual distinction of a roof rack is an easy favorite over using the remote lock, starter or panic alarm. There is nothing like a roof rack to simplify finding your car in the big parking lot. I can't wait until the weather and roads make it worthwhile to put on our bike rack.

Tim Tanner

THE North Star MONTHLY

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Postmaster: Send address changes to **The North Star Monthly**, P.O. Box 319, Danville, VT 05828-0319. Periodical postage paid at Danville, VT.

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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.

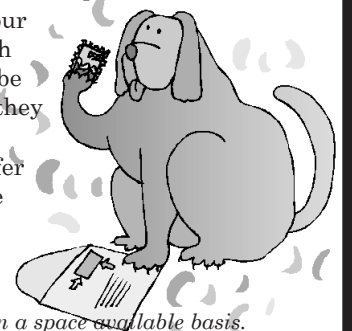
ARTICLES: We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to you sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.

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:

Dance Bands

Dear North Star,


The arrival of *The North Star* is one of the high points of the

month. I enjoy the articles by Lois White especially the one about the public dances in the area [January 2006]. It brought back many happy memories of my Academy years when we followed the bands to each location. Does anyone remember Marshall Morrill's Orchestra? It

(See *Letters on Page 4*)

Montpelier Begins Process of Rebuilding after Terrible Fire Troops with Artillery Are Set to Face Indian War Parties in Black Hills

The North Star
"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"
1807-1891
Est. by Ebenezer Eaton
Danville, Vermont



THE NORTH STAR

April 2, 1875

John Bovan, the boot and shoe man at West Danville, "lit out" one day last week. He left behind numerous small creditors to mourn his unexpected exit.

The Montpelier Watchman says, On every hand is to be heard the note of busy preparation for rebuilding that portion of the village devastated by the late fire, and the present prospect is that the fire, instead of proving a great calamity, is in a general sense a blessing in disguise. There are individual sufferers upon whom the loss falls heavily, but the commendable spirit of fairness exhibited by the insurance companies, who seem willing to pay, and pay promptly the amounts for which they are holden, gives a general sense of relief and feeling of confidence among those burned out.

John H. Moore of Barnet was brought to St. Johnsbury last week and fined \$20 and costs, some \$10 more, for his indecent treatment of

a little girl in Clement's store in Barnet.

Charleston, Vermont rejoices in a female dentist, whose "crowning achievement, the local paper says, was on the 10th of last month, when she pulled five double teeth for A.H. Gray.

April 9, 1875

The Centennial Exhibition - More than twenty five governments have notified the United States authorities of their intention of taking part in the Centennial Exhibition. Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and North America are to be represented and doubtless Australia also, coming in under the name of the British colonies.

Pork Packing - The pork packing season in the West closed last month, and the returns show an increase from one million six hundred and fifty two thousand, two hundred and twenty hogs in 1849-50 to five million, five hundred and thirty seven thousand, one hundred and twenty four in 1874-75. Chicago is the principle packing point. Cincinnati ranks next followed by St. Louis. Illinois appears to be the great hog raising state of the union.

Bismark, Dakota - All parties leaving here for the Black Hills have been stopped this side of the river. Scouts patrol the west bank of the rivers to prevent Black Hillers from crossing. Troops and Indians have gone to the Black Hills to guard the passes and arrest those there now. Great excitement prevails on the arrival of two men direct from the Black Hills and had in their posses-

sion several nuggets and particles of gold taken from the soil with an axe. They express themselves fully satisfied that gold exists there in paying quantities and have returned for provisions and implements. Ross, a man who went out with Gen. Custer's expedition last year, and the first who discovered gold, will leave here shortly with a military escort to thoroughly protect the Hills.

April 16, 1875

The Black Hills - Indian Commissioner J.T. Collins met with the Indians about their views of the sale of the Black Hills. He met with Red Dog, Red Cloud and Spotted Tail. Red Cloud said, "It is hard to give up our homes. Northern war parties are going out. I cannot be responsible if they fight miners in the Black Hills. My people are starving. There has been much stealing by agents and commissioners. The Great Father had a big council with white men in Congress this winter but he did not say anything about squaws and papooses being fed." Nothing definite was determined. All the Indians are armed with breech loading arms and have plenty of ammunition. Collins believes it is likely they are Northern Indians and three war parties are said to have left Spotted Tail about 500 warriors, which opens a good chance for the Boston party with their artillery.

Post Office Frauds - Recently discovered frauds in the post office department are not new, having been practiced for many years.

Joshua Pillsbury sold his place

on the St. Johnsbury road leading from Danville Green to Jared Peck for \$1,300. The premises comprise good buildings and 25 acres of land.

April 23, 1875

Giant Powder Explosion - Details of the terrible giant powder explosion in San Francisco last week add horror to the story that came by telegraph. Upwards of a ton of powder was stored in a warehouse where the disaster occurred. The explosion was caused by careless handling of the powder by a man in the building. At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon the entire city was shaken by the blast. Thick, black smoke enveloped the city and continued to roll up from the reeking ruins of the warehouse and other structures in its vicinity. Small frame shanties were scattered in chips around all the docks and in the bay. Search and recovery efforts resulted in eighteen bodies of both male and female taken from the ruins. Property loss was nearly a million dollars.

A Large Sweet Order - Last week Wm. B. Palmer of this village received an order from the proprietor of the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, Cal. for two hundred gallons of maple honey. M.V.B. Sargent, David Morse and Newell Stocker will manufacture the order and put it up in two gallon tin cans. The Palace Hotel is a new public house covering 92,250 square feet of land making it the most spacious hotel in the world. It will contain 755 rooms for guests, parlors, drawing rooms, dining halls, bath and toilet rooms, promenades and in

short every thing conceivable to make it the grandest hotel in Europe or America. It will cost including the land on which it is built \$4,000,000.

April 30, 1875

The Middlebury Register claims that the sheep trade has never been better with large numbers being constantly shipped to California at very remunerative prices.

Important Decision - The Supreme Court has rendered judgment for defendant to recover costs in the case of S.S. Johnson vs. Town of Irasburgh. Plaintiff was traveling over defendant's highway on Sunday for other purposes than "works of charity or necessity" when he was injured by reason of the insufficiency of the same. This case is said to be the first ever tried in this state, in which the Sunday question as far as it relates to traveling on the highway was the direct issue to be tried. If Sabbath breakers rely on this decision, they will hereafter travel Sundays at their own risk unless their business brings them within the exception of the statute.

A colored man is now officiating as pastor of a Baptist church in Stowe.

The New Bank - For the new Merchants' Bank to be located on Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury, stock subscriptions in the amount of \$215,000 were taken last week. There were 127 subscribers in all. The balance of the \$300,000 wanted is undoubtedly subscribed ere this time, and it is reported that a new bank building is to be erected on Railroad Street.

THE North Star MONTHLY

New North Star Subscribers and Renewals

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Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 2)

was a favorite of our gang and played at Harvey's Lake and Lake Morey. I think it was a Danville group and they were very good.

Margaret Ide
Danville

Thanks

Dear North Star,

At the first of each month, I always look forward to *The North Star*.

Airie Lindsay
Barnet

Nantucket Interlude

- John Downs

Nantucket Island, 20 miles off the coast of Hyannis, MA, has provided relief from the real world for me and my wife Virginia off and on for years. We have regularly visited Bill and Anne Allen of Wheelock, who vacation there at their daughter and son-in-law's house.

The island is small – about 15 miles long and 3 miles wide. It is a world populated for the most part by gray-shingled houses with white trim, featuring sandy beaches and good fishing. Downtown streets are paved with cobblestones of ancient origin. They are long-lived and quaint, but no

fun to drive or walk on.

The island is gradually becoming a rich man's paradise, but they let plebeians like us in occasionally. Properties that in other places would be considered rather ordinary sell for millions. Traffic is understandably modest, for it costs \$230 round trip to transport a car by ferry.

The high-speed catamaran ferry from Hyannis took an hour, and we debarked prepared for a quiet, lazy weekend filled with visiting, reading, walking on the beach and occasional imbibing. But, surprisingly, there were to be reminders of a world in agitation.

We had no sooner unpacked and settled in than Bill showed me the local paper with a letter inviting anyone to participate in a march on Saturday, March 18 to mark the third anniversary of the start of the Iraq war. It was billed as "... a chance to express your dissent ...". There had been a similar march in 2003 protesting the start of the war, and Bill marched then.

Although we had gone home by the time the march was held, Bill reported that he and Anne, 92 and 83 respectively, and Nancy Warren, a former Burke resident visiting them, participated in the quarter-mile march with about 150 others. It was a great success on a

gorgeous day.

The morning after our arrival we went to the stately Athenaeum-Library to pick up movies, and while there viewed a picture of the famous black abolitionist Frederick Douglas. It was in this building on August 16, 1841, that Douglas, then a recent runaway slave, delivered his first sensational talk about the evils of slavery and the need for the abolition movement to succeed.

Below Douglas's picture is a bronze plaque in his honor. A statement he made in 1857 is printed on it: "Agitation is essential to protect freedom and human rights. If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

My anticipated escape from the real world finally fell by the wayside when I picked up "An Unreasonable Woman", a autobiographical book by Diane Wilson. It was the heartwarming story of one woman's epic struggle to protect the fishing industry in and about Seadrift, TX, her family home for generations. I spent many hours absorbed with the details about how she, the mother of five young children, fought international chemical firms that were polluting the bays near her home, including Formosa Plastics, Alcoa and Union Carbide.

They were systematically poisoning the waters so that shrimp and other edible

fish were rapidly disappearing. Wilson engaged in several hunger strikes to make her points. Much of the time she was thwarted by local and state politicians who were much more interested in bringing new jobs to the area than they were in protecting the environment and the jobs of people and industries already there. It is virtually unbelievable that she was ultimately successful.

Her story brought to mind other marches and citizen efforts to bring about needed changes. One hundred and seventy-nine out of 195 Vermont towns voted in March of 1982 to freeze nuclear weapons. Virginia and I, along with about 750,000 others from various states, participated in the nuclear freeze rally on June 12 of that year in New York City. It involved marching up 5th Avenue and congregating in Central Park. Glover's Bread and Puppet Theater led the parade and enchanted the bystanders. Then there was the scantily attended protest meeting in Lyndonville on the night in January when the president delivered his annual State of the Union Address.

I did not come back from Nantucket quite as relaxed as I had expected. I realized more than ever that peaceful protest and agitation must be the business of all of us who dissent from the Bush administration's foreign and domestic policies. Frederick Douglas and Diane Wilson accomplished what they did by relentless agitation; surely no conscientious citizen can excuse his or her inaction by maintaining that individuals can't accomplish anything.

I like the suggestion implied in Wilson's book that being reasonable has brought us to the present unfortunate impasse at home and abroad. So now is the time to be unreasonable. What do we have to lose?

Nominations Requested For
PHILIP AND JOANNA MANNING'S
DANVILLE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
HELPING HAND AWARD

The Award honors a person willing to do more than their share to make the Danville School and its community a great place to be.

Nominees may be:

- (1) A Danville School student.
- (2) A member of the Danville School staff.
- (3) A community member volunteering directly at Danville School.
- (4) A community member that exemplifies those qualities that build a supportive and healthy community in which a school and young people can thrive.

Send nominations, including expenses, by **May 15, 2006** to:
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Survival of Societies is in Our Hands

- Isobel P. Swartz

Recently I read three books that have some interesting interconnections. The first is Chris Mooney's *The Republican War on Science*; the title aptly describes the contents. Together with several news events, this book set me going along one course of thinking about our country's future. The subject took on greater significance as I read the other two. Charles C. Mann's *1491* presents abundant evidence of extensive, complex and populous societies that existed in the Americas in pre-Columbian times. Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* discusses examples from the past and present to reach some profound conclusions about how societies respond to change.

Most people who have visited the spectacular ruins of past civilizations or read about them, such as the Maya and Inca, ask what happened to these sophisticated societies whose building techniques and achievements are viewed with awe today. I think that we are curious because in the back of our minds is the thought that this decline could happen to us! Disease was a significant cause of huge population loss and societal weakening among many indigenous peoples of the Americas, not just the Mayans and Incas. Smallpox, for example,

brought from other cultures, especially from Europe, created havoc among these societies. They had diseases in their surroundings, too, but populations build up resistance to what is constantly around them and easily succumb to the new.

When people are weak from disease, or when the population of a society is decimated, stronger neighbors often take advantage and move in. This is especially true when natural resources are limited. A supply of natural resources such as wood, soil, water, food and, more recently, fossil fuels and minerals, is fundamentally important to all societies. They either have them or need to get them elsewhere. A society's natural resources have to be used with care: planning for sustainability; avoiding pollution of soil, air and water; and preventing erosion. These precautions may seem obvious to us, but ignoring them caused many societies to collapse. The Norse settlements in Greenland, Easter Island, Haiti, Rwanda and Australia's agricultural disasters, show us what can happen with an absence of forethought.

A new consideration to me is the importance of written language to the fate of a society. Many early societies collapsed because they didn't realize the cyclical nature of the climate. Years

of warm temperate weather that gradually moved into colder times so that familiar crops would not grow; or hotter times when no vegetation could grow, and unprotected soil would blow away, involve cycles longer than living or tribal memory. In societies without a written historical record there was no memory and no warning. The Norse in Greenland died out because they were settlers in a new land with no written language, and also because they would not adapt to climate change by altering their way of life so as to be more like that of the happily surviving Inuit, whom they considered less civilized.

Being willing to change old beliefs and ways of doing things in order to adapt to new circumstances seems to be a fundamental necessity for a society to survive. Rabbits and foxes were introduced into Australia because the British settlers wanted to feel more "at home" there. The resulting elimination of indigenous mammal species, extensive burrowing, and competition for vegetation, caused economic and environmental disasters. Nutrient-poor soils high in

salt content make agriculture very expensive, and re-growth of depleted natural vegetation is very slow. Sheep farming by early settlers that still continues today is not the best use of such fragile resources. But old ways are hard to change.

We need to heed the warnings of these books. There is no excuse for ignoring the lessons of the past or of the present TV news from Sudan or Rwanda. We need to be informed enough to question all actions of our own government that weaken environmental regulations or lower the standards for air and water quality. We also need to know and react to what is happening in other countries, for they are either our suppliers of natural resources, or our customers. When one society fails today we all will feel the impact in one way or another.

Globalization means, in a very real sense, that no societal group is alone on this planet. Water, air, climate and the marine environment have no political boundaries. I was concerned when President Bush met recently with science fiction author Michael Crichton, who had just received a journalism prize for his latest

novel on global warming from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, (NYT Sunday 2/19/06). The president agreed with Crichton that human activity is not responsible for the increasing rate of global warming. It is disturbing that the President seeks out and values support rooted in fiction to justify his environmental policies and ignores the opinions of qualified, published scientists and environmentalists.

We have every tool at hand to enable our society's survival and that of the global community: written historical records of climate and other natural events; space technology that allows us to see our planet from afar, science and technology, innovative agricultural and forestry techniques; new ways of using energy resources that can reduce pollution. Methods of controlling population and fighting disease are also such tools. All we need now is to be flexible and innovative enough to use them, and to have the will to make some changes in our lifestyles.

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“We have a pretty high degree of success ...”

- John Donnon

Work Camp Superintendent

(Continued from Page 1)

community it seems like it's working." Inmates who fail to comply with the conditions of the Work Camp lose the opportunity to reduce their sentence through the earned reduction of time and are transferred to a regular jail. "We have a pretty high degree of success," Donnon says, "and, when someone leaves here and gets a job related to a skill they learned at the Work Camp that's pretty encouraging."

building and sell the old trusses, the overhead doors and the furnace. We had a ton of donations in the form of materials and other labor, and the finished building cost us \$96,000."

Larrabee provided the Work Camp inmates with T-shirts printed with "A-Team," and the expression is still used among Valley's team. Larrabee remains in mail contact with one of the Walden project crew, and his interest in the Work Camp program remains strong.

Donnon says, "We like to agree to work on a fixed price for our work. Usually it's \$200 a day for our crew of ten, but we have the flexibility to work for less if it looks like the need is genuine and the experience will be valuable to the guys in the program."

Valley says, "We try to stay away from roofing and foundations, but we do framing, sheetrock, insulation, windows and doors and finish work." Valley is a certified heating specialist, himself, and he has had inmates who were licensed electricians and plumbers.

"There's not much the inmates from the Work Camp can't do," says Olivia Bealeu. Bealeu is a project manager for Gilman Housing Trust, owner of the Dean Hale Building in St. Johnsbury. Gilman Housing is a non profit housing developer seeking to create affordable housing for low and

They know that if they screw up they are gone.

Last year Valley and his crew from the Work Camp went to Walden and constructed a new emergency services building at Walden Heights. The 2,300 square foot building was dedicated in October. Dennis Larrabee was project overseer for the town, and he says, "The Work Camp did a wonderful job. They furnished a crew of 10 inmates and a leader for 90 days for a cost to the town of \$9,200. They tore down the old building and salvaged framing materials and insulation. We were able to use a lot of them in the new



Photos By: North Star Monthly

Mark Valley, team leader for the Caledonia County Work Camp, checks in arriving supplies for the day's work at the Dean Hale building in St. Johnsbury. Inmate Russ Hawkins says, "[Valley] has respect for us, and we respect him in return."

Olivia Bealeu is project manager for Gilman Housing Trust. She says, "[The inmates] are motivated to make something of their opportunity, and they know that if they screw up they are gone. When you treat them decently they give back."

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April-May 2006

Black Ash Basket Making with Jesse Larocque
April 22, 9:00 - 1:00
Fee: \$40 members, \$50 non-members; Supplies: \$25
 A skilled Abenaki basket maker and engaging teacher demonstrates the entire process of black ash basket making, from pounding splints from the ash log to weaving your own small splint basket.

Felting with Amanda Weisenfeld
April 29, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Fee: \$30 members, \$35 non-members; Supplies: \$8.00
 A founder of the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, Amanda will teach traditional flat felt making techniques and provide an introduction to more contemporary needled felt.

Corn Brooms with Norma St. Germaine
May 20, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Fee: \$30 members, \$35 non-members
 Make your own "Cobweb Catcher" - the perfect broom for reaching into dark corners.

Decorative Painting with Martha Kinney
May 13, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Fee: \$30 members, \$35 non-members; Supplies: \$15
 Martha is a master of a wide variety of traditional decorative painting techniques. She teaches the art of theorems, small paintings on velvet that incorporate stenciling and free hand details.

The Art of Sharpening with Richard Montague
May 20, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Fee: \$30 members, \$35 non-members
 Get an edge! Know the joy of working with properly sharpened tools in the kitchen, workshop, or garden through this workshop on how to condition and maintain a wide variety of edged household and workshop tools.

Call Shannon Anderson at the Museum (802-748-2372) for details and to register. Space is limited, and registration is required. All courses are taught at the Fairbanks Museum, 1302 Main Street, St. Johnsbury.

moderate renters and homeowners and promoting community development in the Northeast Kingdom.

Bealeu says, "Assistance from the Work Camp saves us a ton of money, and we see it as a training opportunity to address a crisis we anticipate as a shortage of skilled tradesmen in the area. We often hire professionals who are willing to work with these guys, and that

interaction benefits everyone.

"The men from the Work Camp are typically at a point in their lives where they can make a big change. They are motivated to make something of that opportunity, and they know that if they screw up they are gone. When you treat them decently they give back. Often the hardest thing for me is to stay ahead of them. They always

finish ahead of schedule, and someone has to find more work to do."

Bealeu says, "These are hard times for non profit organizations all over the country, and they are all trying to be creative with the few resources available. It's not easy to solve social problems with less and less money, but this is a program that seems to be doing

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Dennis Larrabee was overseer of the 2005 construction of the Emergency Services Building at Walden Heights. The project was completed on time and on budget with labor from the Caledonia County Work Camp. Larrabee understands the value of the work to the town and the value of the experience to the inmates. He continues to praise their work and remains in contact with one of the inmates who worked on the project last summer.

just that.”
 Bealeu says, “The guys from the Work Camp crews are human beings. Like the rest of us they are a product of their environment, and if we can make a positive difference in theirs - that works for us.”
 Bealeu looks forward to the Dean Hale Building joining the rest of the active real estate in St. Johnsbury. “The original vision,” she says, “was retail, but those prospects aren’t exactly lining up

at the door.” She expects to see the space rented to an existing non-profit organization from St. Johnsbury and a second commercial business tenant. “There are changes in St. Johnsbury,” she says, “and that’s a good thing. The idea that the community will return to one in which it’s busy all day and busy on into the evening is not unrealistic. There’s a lot of hope for St. Johnsbury all over the state.” ★

Annual Northeast Kingdom College Night on April 3

The Northeast Kingdom College Night will bring together representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities. Lyndon Institute, Lyndon State College Upward Bound and St. Johnsbury Academy will sponsor the annual event on Monday, April 3 in the Stannard Gymnasium from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 Visiting admission office officials will answer questions and respond to concerns about admissions at their respective institutions. High school students will have the chance to ask about

application procedures, the use of the SAT and the availability of financial aid. There will be qualified representatives available to answer questions about curriculum, facilities and campus life on the campuses represented. There will be representatives from liberal arts programs and those from technical and business oriented curricula as well.
 College bound juniors and their parents and college placement staff are particularly encouraged to attend. For further information call (802) 751-2401.

Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
 Library Director

First and foremost, I want to thank the Town of Danville for supporting the Pope Memorial Library at its annual town meeting. We raised our appropriation request by \$2,000 this year as we have many projects to undertake. Some of the projects on our “to do” list are: painting the outside trim, painting the (fairly) recently replastered ceiling and replacing our inside lighting. These projects have been on the back burner for quite a while and now with the extra money in our budget we hope to get started.

Also, many thanks to all who donated cookies and bars for our town meeting luncheon. The ham and baked bean meal was a great success, and we are grateful to all who helped us put it on.

Our next book in the Canadian Cultural Diversity discussion series is *Island* by Alistair MacLeod.

One of Canada’s most important writers, MacLeod grew up in Cape Breton. Here he presents a powerful collection of short stories set on Canada’s Eastern shore, where the traditions and Gaelic language of transplanted Scots continue in a harsh new world. All of these affecting, elegiac tales focus on strong ties of loving kin, particularly the link between fathers and sons.

Fathers share the experience of work with their sons, and boys puzzle over family events and tragedies and learn to be men in the close-knit communities. Sadly, as times change, fathers lose their sons, who become educated men and leave the land and sea for professions in the city. MacLeod’s characters are deeply touching and memorable, and their simple lives are rich with

loyalty and affection for their families and way of life. This last discussion of the series will be lead by scholar Helene Lang. All are welcome! Books and schedules are available at the library.

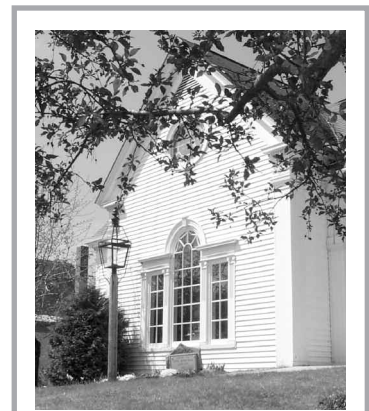
Our annual Novel Dinner will take place at the Creamery Restaurant on Sunday, April 2 starting at 4:00 p.m. We will have the Log Cabin quilt on display and raffle tickets will be available. This is a beautiful handmade quilt, fit for a queen or king size bed. The winning ticket for the quilt will be drawn at the Danville Fair on August 6.

During the last week in April, National Volunteer Week, we will honor our volunteers with a luncheon at the Danville Inn hosted by Steve Cobb. We celebrate Mary Blanchard our resident computer whiz, Robin Rothman who is responsible for our beautiful gardens, Ellen Gold who sets up a mini-library at the senior meal site every other Thursday, Jeff Gold designs and prints our bookmarks for the library and for our book discussions, Gary Farrow our trusty Wednesday morning volunteer and Donna Lambert-Schmeich, our Friday morning volunteer and back-up librarian.

We appreciate the time and energy our volunteers give to the

Pope Library and don’t know what we would do without them! Recent book acquisitions include *Enrique’s Journey* by Nazario, *Colorado Kid* by King, *Gilead* by Robinson, *The Virgin’s Lover* by Gregory and *The Tenth Circle* by Picoult. Come in and check them out!

Our YA program will continue thanks to a grant from the Windham Foundation and gifts and money appropriated to the program by Danville citizens. Rita Foley and Jill Kelleher, program coordinators, have purchased many new DVD’s, computer games, board games and books for use in the YA center. The program meets Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.



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Gratitude to those who helped make this dream a reality

If a piece of red yarn didn't work then maybe a caterpillar in a thimble would.

(Continued from Page 1)

fever and nosebleeds. A live caterpillar in a thimble, wrapped in cloth and tied around the neck, was another preventative.

Be thankful you made it past childhood to the modern age - despite the absence of sulfur and molasses.

There were all kinds of tonics, emulsions, compounds, elixirs, tinctures, ointments, liniments, plasters and poultices. Some "patent medicines" contained alcohol, opium, heroin and arsenic. They were available at pharmacies, from the Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs or from traveling salesmen. Harold Adams of East Peacham and Harley Carruth of Groton went door-to-door selling Raleigh products. Another popular brand was the Watkins Company.

However, it was castor oil that was the main household sta-

ple, promising to remove warts or fade moles, encourage hair growth, mixed with turpentine and applied as a chest poultice or taken as a laxative. Parents gave their children cod liver oil, sometimes mixed with orange juice or a few raisins, to provide Vitamin D as compensation for the diminished sunshine in Vermont's long winters. The taste was horrible.

Families pored over self-help medical books, such as *Your Family Physician*, written by a group of doctors and *The Doctor At Home* compiled and edited by George Black, and later revised and published by Ward, Lock & Co. These books, available in the 1800's and early 1900's, described diseases and physical and mental conditions and a recommended treatment and medicine for each.

Folk Medicine, A Vermont's Doctor's Guide to Good Health, by D. C. Jarvis, M. D. of Barre, published in 1958 is a more recent book. Jarvis praised the properties of cider vinegar and honey, kelp, iodine, castor and corn oils. He believed that cider vinegar and honey, added to a glass of water and taken daily, would result in glowing good



Photo By: Frank Miller

Four examples of nearly all-purpose cure alls.

health and even promote pregnancy.

Health insurance is a relatively recent concept, and before it was commonly available doctors were consulted only in dire cases, such as matters of pneumonia, severe injury and childbirth. It was not unusual for doctors to accept food or firewood in lieu of cash for their services.

Northern Vermonters had their own special remedies, some mixed at home, others "boughten." The most common illnesses and ailments, and their hoped-for curative treatments, were as follows:

Sore throats: Goldthread, a vine found growing under trees, placed around the throat. A chicken or bird feather, dipped in iodine, was used to paint the inside of the throat. A mixture of

sugar, butter, vinegar and ginger was fed to children.

Chest colds: Plasters and poultices made from camphor oil, mustard ointment or dry mustard mixed with water, Mentholatum and, later, Vick's Vaporub. These were rubbed on the chest and covered with a piece of warm flannel. Kids were often given a teaspoonful of Vick's to eat. Skunk oil, hens' oil and bear grease, rendered from the fat of these creatures and melted lard with nutmeg were used.

Coughs and other respiratory infections: Calcidin tablets containing iodine, lime and starch; cough syrup made from onions and honey boiled with water; sliced onions, baked until brown and slimy and a mixture of coal oil and sugar.

Cuts and skin infections: Iodine, mercurochrome, Epsom salts, cloverleaf and rosebud salves, poultices of flaxseed mixed with warm water, wrapped in a cloth and placed on the affected area. A wad of cobwebs put on a wound stopped bleeding. Salt pork was placed directly on a wound; "flesh upon flesh" was the reasoning. Black "drawing" salves, arnica and antiphegistine were applied to boils and carbuncles. The neck of a heated bottle was placed on a boil. The heat caused the core to come out so the boil could drain. Bread-and-milk poultices were put on eye stys to bring them to a head. Butter was spread over burns.

Headaches and fits: A sliced raw potato, wrapped in a cloth and applied to the head.

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Illustration Courtesy of Norm Lewis

Lydia Pinkham was the familiar visage associated with the Pinkham Compound, which promised relief from all manner of "female discomfort" from adolescence through menopause.

Asafetida, the fetid gum resin of that plant of the carrot family, was given, as well as aspirin.

Aches and pains: Sloane's and Raleigh's liniment, both red and white, rubbed on or taken orally in water. There were any number of tonics, including tincture rhubarb and Father John's Emulsion. Burdock root, golden-root and peppermint, all steeped in water, were thought to be good for the blood.

Stomach complaints: Cambric tea with milk, sugar and water, Fletcher's Castoria, baking soda in water, ginger tea, charcoal (chewed, for heartburn).

Bee and hornet stings: Thoroughwort, a 3-foot tall plant found in swampy places, steeped in water, then placed on the stings. In the absence of thoroughwort, mud could be used.

Lice: All parents were alerted when lice were spotted at school. Kerosene was applied to the scalp and hair, or sulphur and

lard were spread over the whole body and hair at nighttime. Then children were dressed in long-legged underwear and a cloth cap and put to bed. This treatment was repeated for a week with no baths in between. The whole schoolroom stank.

Toothache: Iodine, oil of cloves, oil of peppermint. The only sure cure was extraction, and, because of vast quantity sugary foods and absence of preventive dentistry, many lost most or all of their teeth by middle age. This may be why our ancestors rarely smiled for their photographs.

Fussy babies: Catnip mixed in water and put into baby's bottle was thought to relieve the soreness of teething. Babies were given used tea bags to chew on. The bowl of a silver spoon rubbed on the gums helped break the skin so teeth could erupt. Brandy or whisky on a sugar cube was given to cut phlegm and calm a baby. Save the Baby was introduced in the 1940's. Mellin's Food, a powdered substitute for milk, was mixed with water and given to babies allergic to milk, sometimes to prevent death.

Constipation: The Sears Roebuck catalog for 1945-1946 has two full pages of laxatives. There were over 50 in all. Mineral oil was often used (A gallon cost \$1.49). Other laxatives were Sal Hepatica, Ex-Lax, cascara sagrada, syrup of figs, milk of magnesia, castor oil and various salts and herbal products.

Women's complaints: Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was a favorite tonic, advertised to contain 200 international units of Vitamin B1 in a daily dose. Mrs. Pinkham, described as a resident of Lynn, MA, patented her compound, and it was mass produced from 1875 on. Pinkham's Compound contained 20% or more of alco-

hol, black cohosh and other ingredients and was promoted to relieve every female discomfort from adolescence through menopause. Carter's Little Liver Pills were also popular.

Diseases: There was no preventing the so-called childhood diseases. Vaccinations against smallpox were the only inoculations, and many children did not receive them. Measles (often with their terrible results), German measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough and scarlet fever made the rounds in schools and communities. Babies died of diphtheria. Infantile paralysis (polio) crippled children. Kids stepped on nails and contracted tetanus. Calvin Coolidge Jr., son of the president, died of blood poisoning resulting from an infected heel blister; red streaks up the leg were an ominous sign. Tuberculosis forced patients into sanatoriums. Pneumonia was a killer, and treatments for asthma were ineffective. Influenzas were common. Most families lost at least one child to disease.

Penicillin and a host of other "miracle drugs" surged into popular use, and vitamin supplements became available to improve health. Today babies, children and adults are routinely inoculated against disease and given booster shots. Our standard of health care has soared, and modern, as well as more traditional, treatments are widely available. Most babies live to adulthood, and Vermonters live into their 80's and beyond.

Cancer and heart disease are the killers today. Obesity, among adults and children, accelerates other physical problems, but be thankful you made it past childhood to the modern age - despite the absence of sulfur and molasses. ★

Bad Dog Blues

Gather round while I sing you the Bad Dog Blues
For the dogs we have loved that nobody should choose,
The ones who bite lawyers and vomit on shoes.

For the dogs who kill chickens but can't swallow pills,
Who limp home all swollen with porcupine quills
And howling about it like Beverly Sills.

For the dogs who make small children scream on the street,
And jump on the counter and eat the roast meat,
And sleep on our bed but then snarl at our feet ...

For the dogs who leave dog-poop in all the wrong places
And run around afterwards licking our faces,
And eat high-priced sneakers, including the laces.

For dogs who bark loudly when telephones ring,
Who gobble up sweet baby birds in the spring,
And roll in each smelly disgusting dead thing.

For the dogs who get worse as they age, and not better:
Their tempers much sharper, their messes much wetter,
Then one day they die, on my favorite sweater.

A Bad Dog's not handsome, or noble, or clean,
But oh, when you lose one, the anguish is keen ...
If you've had a Bad Dog, you know what I mean ...

Reeve Lindbergh

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Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



We never called it the "privy." Maw was, as were many of her generation, a great user of euphuisms. No one ever died, they "passed on" or were "gone." Similarly, no woman was ever pregnant, she was "in the family way." The nearest we came to calling the convenience (or more accurately, inconvenience) a privy was "back house," but usually we went "south" or "to Groton" or "to the House of Parliament."

Maw would come bustling out, settle herself and Patty on the front seat, and then ask, "Has everybody gone?"

An ell was attached to the house, a shed connected to the ell. On the south end of the shed, on the westerly side, stood the privy. We lived on a back road from Peacham proper to Groton village, which lay south of Peacham. Hence, "south" or "to Groton," with all apologies and no offense intended to Grotonites.

Our privy had one small window, high on the north side. The window had a screen in summer and, in winter, a loosely fitted sash. Snug was not a word one

thought of in connection with the privy in winter. Icy blasts howled around the outside, and cold air leaked through all the cracks. We had a three-holer, the middle seat having a board over it with a smaller hole cut out to accommodate little bottoms. Loose squares of board covered the holes. The covers clattered down just before we left the privy.

The handmade door swung on hinges and had a long, strong spring to close it. When we girls left, the door closed with a resounding bang. No question about where we'd been. The door also had a hook-and-eye fastener to use to insure privacy, a privacy much disturbed by repeated urging from the other side, "Don't be a pig," and "Let me in, this minute."

Maw had a routine when we were going anywhere. We girls would be waiting in the Old Plymouth. Dad would be lighting his pipe, impatient to get going. Maw would come bustling out, settle herself and Patty on the front seat, and then ask, "Has everybody gone?" Immediately, we'd pile out of the car and disappear into the privy. A bang of the door, a scurry to the kitchen for a sketchy hand-washing, and back we'd come, panting, to seat ourselves again in the car. Only then was it safe for Dad to start on the projected journey.

The privy at the Old House had a low seat for little ones

beside the higher ones. It also had a longer drop than ours. Most privies did. Ours had a very shallow pit. It couldn't have been more than four feet deep, if it was that. Considering that Maw and we five girls had to be accommodated, the pit proved woefully small before spring. When the older girls were away at school or working out, demands on the privy were lightened. (In those days, the men usually used the gutter in the warm stable. How puzzled I was, one Christmas, at June's gift for Dad. She had made him a calendar for the barn, each day printed on a sheet of toilet paper.)

The privy at the South Part school stood by itself at one side of the yard. There was one side for the girls, one for the boys. The building, seats and all, was painted white. The doors opened toward the north. In the wintertime, the teacher knew we really had to go with no fears of our malingering. No one would venture out to that chill solitude from the warm schoolroom unless the need was desperate.

The privy at the South Peacham school was grand, built high off the ground and was always cleaned out before we started school in the fall. Each sex had its own covered walkway. There, too, the seats were painted white and were cold. There was only one seat, so we stood in line in the girls' walkway, urging the occupant to hurry up, giggling, and listening to the boys on the other side of the wall.

My grandmother's privy, on the Mack's Mountain farm, stood off the shed, up a few steps. Gar had scrubbed the interior until the boards were white. There was cheesecloth at the window. Gar tacked bright prints and poems from magazines all over the walls. While we were sitting there, we had something interesting to look at.

When new catalogs came, we looked at them with critical eyes. We weren't impressed with shiny, bright colored pages. We much preferred soft newsprint. If we were lucky, new catalogs

came in time for the old ones to retire to the privy. The soft pages were the first to go. Before we finished the catalog, we would have to resort to the hard shiny sheets. By repeatedly crumpling and smoothing them out, we managed to make them bearable. While visiting the privy, we pored over the items set forth in the catalogs. We spent many a fortune in imagination, buying items that appealed to us. (Did this contribute to the materialism for which Americans are known? Picture all the old privies, each occupied with a possible buyer, studying all the goodies offered by Messrs. Sears and Roebuck. TV should enjoy such a captive audience!)

Cleaning out the privy was a job Dad detested. The spring day would come when he could put off the chore no more. Dad would hitch the horses to the dump cart (or the manure spreader), back the cart behind the privy, load his corncob pipe with Dill's Best, and, puffing out a cloud of blue smoke, proceed to load the cart and haul the contents away. He spread the compost over the meadow to enrich the hay crop. (Dad used a much earthier term, pure Anglo-Saxon, for "compost.")

We had enamelware chamberpots under our beds at night.

The chamberpots saved a bone-chilling trip to the privy. Gar had china chamberpots with covers. She kept them decently hidden in a commode in each bedroom. The matching washbowl, pitcher and soap dish were placed on top of the commode. (These sets are hot items at auctions. Al May used to have a lot of fun selling chamberpots. "What have we here? Grandpa's coffeecup?" He'd doff his Derby hat and continue, "Just what every bedroom needs. What am I bid on this indispensable item?" At one auction, a woman, carried away by the excitement of the bidding, kept raising the bid and finally bought a chamberpot. Aghast, the woman looked at her purchase. "I can't think what I'm going to do with it," she exclaimed in dismay. A bystander grinned and said, "I could tell you but I won't.")

The old privy is gone now. No one mourned its passing. However, the "convenience" wasn't all bad. A small girl "going to Groton" with her oldest sister, who was scared of the dark, taking the trip through the shed by lamplight, with flickering shadows and the cold, had a comfortable feeling that she was needed, an important person, whose presence served to keep the bogies at bay. ✨

Garden Sonnet

Into the molding garden sinks
The last of April's snow, The wintered gardener
Puts away his catalog and thinks
Of flowers and all the bounty he might garner.

Experience tempers optimism though. Crops do fail.
So as he contemplates the stubble and decay
He thinks of drought, 'coons, cutworms, hail;
Of frost; of gardens lost in weedy disarray.

Yet he recalls the good as well as bad:
Recalls the taste of fresh-picked buttered corn
And firm red-ripe tomatoes to be had,
And peas. Then eagerly the work is borne.

Getting on with it's the thing
To change the winter into spring.

Bruce Hoyt

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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.



Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

"The Certainty of Taxes"

It is one of only two certainties (the other being death), according to homily. It was the reason that we threw off the yoke of colonialism to become our own republic. Yet throughout our history, we have struggled with what, how and whom to tax - as have all governments in all histories - because another certainty is that governments cost, and so need to raise revenues.

Direct taxation by the federal government was deemed unconstitutional.

We have always borrowed as a source of revenue; as soon as we were a nation we had a national debt. By 1789, our first federal government was already deeply in debt from financing the Revolutionary War. To create other revenues, Congress passed the Tariff Act, which was signed into law on July 4th 1789, authorizing the federal government to collect duties on imported goods.

For over 100 years, customs revenues were the largest single source of revenue for the federal government. Our economy was agricultural, but global trade drove its growth in our seaboard nation, and so it made sense to tax trade, which was what was creating wealth. In our early years, Congress also levied excise taxes on various items, including distilled spirits, tobacco and snuff, refined sugar, carriages and various legal documents (either luxury taxes or "sin" taxes).

The first attempt at direct taxation - a recurring tax paid directly to the federal government based on asset value - came in the 1790's with taxes on houses, land, slaves and estates, that is, on the more productive

assets of an agricultural economy. Direct taxation by the federal government was deemed unconstitutional (and very unpopular), and those taxes were abolished in 1802.

With the heavy fiscal demands of the Civil War, Congress added more items subjected to excise taxes, such as playing cards, gunpowder, feathers, telegrams, iron, leather, pianos and medicines. License fees were collected for almost all professions, and many legal documents were taxed.

In 1861, Congress passed the first income tax, 3% on incomes over \$800. In 1862 this was amended to create a progressive system of tax brackets (resulting in only two), as well as the standard deduction (\$600) and employer withholding. That income tax was abolished in 1872, and until 1913, almost 90% of all government revenues came from customs and excise taxes.

In the last part of the 19th century, mass production created the need for mass consumption and mass markets. It became clearer that high tariffs on imports and high excise taxes on domestically produced goods were stifling economic growth. By then we had become an urban, industrial economy, where capital - useful for consumption or investment - was the most valuable asset, and great accumulations of it were being created. So we created a tax on capital and on the incomes that create it.

The 16th Amendment, passed in 1913, allowed the government to tax business' and individuals' "lawful" incomes. Rates ranged from 1% to 7%, on income of more than \$500,000. Only 1% of Americans paid income tax.

Thus began our modern income tax system. It has, of course, been amended many times. The word "lawful" was dropped in 1916, to the regret of many a mobster caught on income tax evasion (if nothing else). Estate taxes were added in 1916. Rates were raised - by the end of World War II, the maximum rate had grown to 94% - and rates were lowered; now the maximum rate is 35%.

In 2004 (the latest available data), individual and corporate income taxes (including social insurance taxes) accounted for approximately 64% of federal government receipts, excise taxes a mere 2.57%, and "other" tax revenues slightly less, 2.43%. Borrowing accounted for approximately 31% of federal revenues.

More economists have begun to doubt the income tax on theoretical grounds, because it may be a disincentive to earn income or create wealth, and because it lowers disposable incomes, and it is just that getting and spending that drive economic growth in our modern capitalist economy.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, we relied on import and excise taxes, we taxed products traded, until we decided that such taxes imposed too heavy a burden on economic growth. In the 20th century, we relied on income taxes, on taxes on the profits from manufacturing and investment, until now we debate their impositions on economic growth.

It makes sense to tax the assets and activities that create wealth, because that is the most

effective tax: it brings in the most revenue (which is, after all, what a tax is for), but what creates wealth is usually what generates growth, and then we worry that we are undermining our future.

Perhaps in the 21st century we will tax something else, but eventually we will come to regret that burden, too. The truth is that taxation is always a drag on economic growth, because inevitably it siphons off assets - however we do it - from investment in growth. Yet without taxation of some sort, we are left to finance the federal government entirely with debt, which would also, eventually, weigh too heavily upon us.

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.

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String Worth Saving

Bill Christiansen

When I was a kid, I remember this as the time of year when marbles suddenly appeared on the school playground.

Some time between the end of March and the beginning of April, marbles appeared in boys' pockets. This was purely a masculine game. I don't remember ever seeing girls play marbles. When I was in the third grade, I learned how the game was played. It wasn't like any marble game I have seen since, and I'm not sure if any other kids in the world played like this.

Seldom did you play "keepsies" for a "steelie."

The game I knew had more rules than one could hope to remember and new ones were added each day.

The first bits to be learned were about the marbles themselves. There was a value system for the marbles. Small pottery marbles were the lowest value, hardly worth playing for. These were followed by multi-colored glass marbles. Next came the "pures," or glass marbles of a single color you could see

through. Then came "jumbos," glass marbles about twice as big as a regular marble. At the top was a "steelie," a marble-sized, steel ball bearing. Seldom did you play "keepsies" for a "steelie." I'm not sure how this language evolved, but it was one of the things to be learned.

The game was played in two parts and might be played all over the playground. The object was to hit the opponent's marble with your own. Standing side by side, two players tossed their marbles out ahead. Each succeeding shot from then on was made by "shooting" your marble with the side of your hand.

Now the strategy: Phase two of the game started when you could touch your marble and the opponent's marble with a "span." This meant touching your marble and your opponent's marble with the outspread thumb and little finger of your hand. You only wanted to be this close to the opponent's marble when it was your turn. So, in the initial stages of the game, you moved your marble, but kept a distance from your opponent, hoping he would make a mistake and land his marble near yours. This part of the game could take quite a while and cover a great deal of ground. How long you allowed this part of the game to go on was a func-

tion of your confidence in the second part of the game.

When the marbles were within a "span," the second part of the game started. This was called "dropsies." If it was your turn, you picked up your marble and stood over your opponent's marble. You placed your feet at a 45 degree angle with the opponent's marble centered in between. You held your marble between your thumb and first finger, with the hand above the waist, and aimed at your opponent's marble. When ready, you dropped your marble. If you hit the opponent's marble you won and got to keep the spoils. This may sound simple, but the trick was to take into account the wind, various distractions around you and whether to use one eye or both in the process of taking aim.

The feet placed at an angle kept the dropped marble from bouncing away if the target was missed. This guaranteed the opponent a drop on his turn if you missed.

Now you can see the advantage of a "steelie." Being heavier, it would fall true, and the chances of a hit were increased. However, before the game began, if it was decided that if the "steelie" missed, you could substitute another marble. The "steelie" was too valuable to lose.

This leads to another aspect of the game: rules. When you learned to play the game, you were only told enough rules to get started. As the game pro-

gressed, you were told new rules to cover situations as they arose. Usually the new rule put you at a disadvantage. You did not protest as you could invoke the new rule on the next opponent. As the season progressed, the number of rules expanded until there were hundreds. You could protest the introduction of rules, and there would ensue an endless argument and the game might even stop.

Now you have a bunch of third graders with pockets full of marbles sitting in the classroom. In the classroom an old, long-standing rule came into play. Any marble that hit the floor belonged to the teacher. If it was yours, you picked it up and took it to the teacher's desk and put it in her desk drawer, which held "millions" of marbles from past years. The rule was enforced with no questions. Often, you kept your marbles in a net bag. This had a risk, for if you

dropped the bag, you lost the whole thing. To my knowledge, none of the "lost" marbles were ever returned. To a third grader, the teacher appeared to hold a fortune in marbles.

As quickly as marble season appeared on the playground, it disappeared. Suddenly one day, there were no more marble games. The season moved on, and the playground was devoted to other activities. There was never any discussion as to the marble season, and no schedule for its reappearance was ever set. This was one of the mysterious comings and goings of childhood. The following year, I attended another school where marbles was quite a different game with different rules. I never learned to play the new game, which involved a small hole scooped out of the dirt.

As a kid, what better way to learn about strategies, rules and unintended consequences. ★

April lake ice, harsh with mineral scents,
Darkened and thinned into translucence
Dull as dug up Roman glass,
Still supports branches and ridges of soil,
Driven down the bursting feeder brook,
To lie in alluvial waves of silt, attracting geese.

Sharon Kenney Biddle

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I Was Sure I'd Heard a Sound in the Woods

BOB SARGENT

It was a gorgeous day in February. The snow was fresh. We had had about an inch and a half of fresh stuff the day before, and it made everything white and clean. I was walking across the field and could see the diamonds flashing all around me in the bright sun. Duchess, my black lab, was with me and having a great time sticking her nose into the snow hoping, I guess, to stumble upon a hibernating field mouse. Do they hibernate? Her head would come up with her nose covered with snow, happy as a clam. Are clams really happy? I wouldn't think so, but what do I know.

I had my snowshoes on, even though I didn't really need them. According to Mark Breen at the Fairbanks Museum, we had less snow fall in February than we've had in one hundred previous Februaries. But with the wind, which had been blowing like crazy for a week or so, off and on, I figured that there might be some drifting and snowshoes wouldn't hurt. Plus, I like looking behind me and seeing the symmetrical tracks in the virgin snow.

Why was I out here in temperature of around zero degrees with gusting wind putting the chill factor down much lower? One reason was that when I looked out the window of my house, it looked a lot warmer. The second reason was that, last evening, before I

went to bed, I was giving the horses one last bucketful of water, when I heard this weird sound. It sounded like a cross between a mewling cat and a sick cow, and it came from the woods beyond the edge of the field behind my barn.

We often hear sounds, but this was different. Living in rural Vermont, the sounds are different from city sounds, but there are sounds. Sometimes in gusty winds like we have been having lately, a tree will break with a crack like a gun shot. Yes, I have heard gun shots, but that's another story for another time. Or it will crash through other limbs as it falls to earth. And we have the singing coy dogs. When they get going, it is really something to hear, like crying babies, howling dogs or a mixture of the two. And when the wind is right, we hear real dogs barking from neighboring farms.

But, as I said, the sound I heard last night was different from anything I had heard before. So, when the day turned so nice, I decided to take a walk in the woods, on the off chance I might hear it again, or find out what it had been.

At the edge of the field I entered the woods. I took off my snowshoes, since there was even less snow in the woods, made sure Duchess was still around, and headed in.

The walking was a little rough with no path, but that made me look down as well as up. The trees themselves are amazing if you

stop to really look at them. They are all different and yet, like people, they have similarities. And as Joyce Kilmer wrote, "I think that I shall never see, / A poem lovely as a tree. / A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed / Against the earth's sweet flowing breast. / ... Poems are made by fools like me, / But only God can make a tree."

Some are down right ugly; some are lovely; some are unique; but all are interesting. Again, just like people. Oh yeah, God made them too. As Albert Einstein said one evening as he gazed into the heavens, "How could such a magnificent symphony not have a conductor?"

I also looked down, hoping to see some of those "fleas," that aren't really fleas, hopping about in the snow like Charlie Brown, from the Fairbanks Museum, showed us in his stint on TV recently while walking in the woods with the Channel 3 weatherperson. But, no such luck. I wonder if he had those "fleas" in his pocket and dumped them out just for the show? No, he wouldn't do that. I'm not even sure that he could do that.

So I wandered through the woods for maybe half an hour (it was cold!) and then headed back. I saw tracks but wouldn't swear to what any of them were, except the deer tracks. Those I do know, since I had briefly done some

hunting way back when. I spent a year hunting men in Korea, and after moving to Maine found that hunting deer was just not the same. In the first place, they don't shoot back, which is kind of unfair. And in the second place, they are so pretty and innocent. I'd rather use a camera.

Here I am, back at the edge of the field. I decided I didn't need to

put the snowshoes back on, so Duchess and I headed back. At the brow of the hill, I could see the house and wood smoke coming from the chimney. What a pleasant sight. Oh, what about the sound, what made it? I haven't a clue. As someone else once said, "when you have a destination in mind, the journey is half the fun."

Actually, it may be all the fun.



Photo By: Liz Sargent

Bob Sargent and his Labrador retriever Duchess spent part of a February afternoon in the woods near their home in Danville. They were in search of the source of a mysterious sound from the night before and found instead a more satisfying discovery.

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Richard Brown Photographs of Hill Farms on Display at Fairbanks Museum

Richard Brown's photographs have been on the cover of *Vermont Life* and other glossy magazines that focus on the pastoral beauty of the landscape. His work has been published in books and praised in collections. For many, Brown captures the essence of rural Vermont through his carefully aimed lens. In this

special exhibition, *Echoes of the Past: The Last of the Hill Farms*, his focus on a stonewall, round barn or weathervane reveals a way of life that was once common in rural northern Vermont.

Most of the photographs in this exhibit were taken 30 years ago, many in and around the Northeast Kingdom. Brown, a

resident of Peacham, was interested in documenting the way people lived, the tools they used and the animals they kept. The households he photographed show a way of life that recalls this region's early non-Indian settlers. Many of the characteristics he finds, from architectural styles to orchards that endure after the farm is gone, are reflections of necessity from a long-ago past and cherished hallmarks of Vermont villages today.



Sheep Shearer Photograph by Richard Brown

In his introduction to the exhibit, Tom Slayton, editor of *Vermont Life*, writes, "These photographs show us a Vermont that is all but extinct: the small farms of upland Vermont that began to fail a century ago and now are almost completely gone. It was a world shaped by endless cycles of hard physical work, a world that would find the abundance we enjoy today unimaginable, yet a world with its own dignity, rewards and beauty."

In his own words, Brown describes what interested him, "In making these photographs I searched for those simple farms and native-born Vermonters hid-

den among the weatherworn hills that still exemplified the stoic, self-sufficient character of the Vermont that used to be."

The photographs will be complimented by farm equipment from the Museum's permanent collection. Taken together, the images and pieces from the collection, create a lasting impression of the people who worked the land, as generations before them had.

Echoes of the Past: The Last of the Hill Farms will be on view at the Fairbanks Museum, March 25 - October 29. For further information call (802) 748-2372.

the ARTS around

April

March 31 - 6 *The New World* (2005, U.S.) [PG] Director: Terrence Malick. When British adventurer John Smith meets a native woman named Pocahontas, a balance based upon centuries of intertribal harmony with the environment is rattled forever. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-2600.

1 Limon Dance Company presents Chiaroscuro Project, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH.

1 Duke Robillard, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

4&5 Mabou Mine's Dollhouse, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH.

7 Chris Smither, Morse Center, St. Johnsbury.

7 Brooks Williams with Michael Pickett, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

8 St. Lawrence String Quartet with Todd Palmer, Clarinet, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH.

8 Gregory Douglass, Champlain College, Burlington.

8 Fancy Trash, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

8 Rani Arbo, Opera House, Barre.

7, 8 and 10 - 13 *Manderlay* (2005, Denmark) [NR] Director: Lars von Trier. A withering and disturbing look at race relations, liberalism and nation building and in some ways even more controversial and shocking than the director's predecessor, Dogville. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

9 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

9 *Disappearances* (2005 U.S.) Director: Jay Craven. The story of Quebec Bill Bonhomme, a hardy schemer and dreamer who, in the depths of the Great Depression is desperate to find money to save his farm and turns to whiskey-smuggling, a traditional family enterprise. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

14-20 *Matchpoint* (2005 U.S.) [R] Director: Woody Allen. Luck, is the pivotal force in life as witnessed by Chris Wilton who lands a job as the tennis instructor at a very exclusive tennis club and chances to meet the to-the-manor-born Tom Hewett and, at the Royal Opera, Tom's sister. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

14 Woods Tea Company, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

15 Throwback, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

20&21 Children of Uganda, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH.

21-27 *Cache* (2005, France) [R] Director: Michael Haneke. The comfortable and complacent life of a seemingly typical bourgeois European family is interrupted by mysterious videotapes that appear on their doorstep. The walls of security and secret begin to crumble. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

21 Lucy Kaplansky with Richard Shindell, Opera

House, Lebanon, NH.

21 Joao Bosco, Flynn Center, Burlington.

21 Throwback, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

21 Ralph Stanley & a Bluegrass Extravaganza, Capital Center, Manchester, NH.

22 Cobalt Blue, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

22 Joao Bosco & Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH.

23 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

27 Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH.

28-May 4 *Mrs. Henderson Presents* (2005, England) [R] Director: Stephen Frears. Nothing seems to bring a vaudeville house to life in pre war London until Mrs. Henderson hits upon a flash of inspiration: a nude revue. She sidesteps censorship laws by freezing performers as "tableaux vivants" in which showgirls do not move a muscle and the theatre becomes a smash hit. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

28 An Evening with Sarah Vowell, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hanover, NH.

28 Ameranouche, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

29 Screwtops, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

29 Northeast Kingdom Classical Series presents The Triple Helix Piano Trio, South Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-5451.

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Annual Peacham PTG "All Fools" Auction

The 13th annual Peacham School auction promises to be another memorable and entertaining event! Last year's auction featured a Stephen Huneck wood-cut print, a beautiful hand-felted tote bag, delectable desserts including the famous lovingly hand-baked in a wood cook-stove carrot cake, locally grown organic vegetables, beef and lamb and a weekend at the Buddhist meditation center, Karne-Choling.

Proceeds from the auction last year benefited extra-curricular

activities at the Peacham School including the weekly winter ski and activities programs, scholarships and instrument purchases for the instrumental program, visiting artists, community bonfires and picnics and other programs and scholarships. A major purchase by the PTG this year was new Tubbs snowshoes that were used by the entire school even in this winter of little snow. Kids have been having a great time with the shoes, and many sign them out over the weekend for outdoor

exercise and fun with their families.

Again, the auction will feature raffle tickets for Laura Johnson's hand-made quilt. Johnson has made a quilt and donated it to the PTG for each of the past ten years, spending more than 40 hours annually cutting and stitching pieces together to construct a full-size log cabin quilt. Each quilt represents an investment of several hundred dollars for the purchase of high-quality material and professional batting and stitching, also donated by Laura. An heirloom quilt of this caliber would probably sell for upwards of \$800. The quilt raffle drawing this year will be on Saturday, April 8 at the Peacham Home Companion, an annual extravaganza benefiting Friends of the Peacham Library. Raffle tickets may also be purchased at Peacham Elementary School, Peacham Library and Peacham Post Office.

The auction will take place on Saturday, April 1 beginning at 6:00 pm. The pre-view begins at 5:00. Admission is free and refreshments are by donation.

Peacham Library Sponsors an Evening of Comedy

On Saturday, April 8, the Friends of the Peacham Library (entertainment division) will present three one-act comedies, The Odd Couple, Fourteen and The Clocks.

The cast, all local, youthful and talented, includes Josh Browne, Erika Thresher White, Leah Prescott, Jonah Tidyman, Miko Kempton, Phoebe Courtot and Holly Greenleaf. Browne, Prescott, Tidyman and White are all graduates of the St. Johnsbury Academy, who currently attend the University of Vermont. All were active participants in the Academy drama department and performed in a number of acclaimed Academy productions.

The other talented young performers are all students at Danville High School and the St. Johnsbury Academy.

Musical interludes will be provided by students at the Peacham Elementary School directed by Janet Edmondson.

The three comedies offer different types of humor, but each offers lots of opportunity to limber up for spring with laughter.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$5 per person or \$15 per family. The admission price includes pie and socializing after the show. All proceeds will benefit the Peacham Library.



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Weston Brisco (center) is a junior at Danville High School and a member of the boys varsity basketball team. A year ago Brisco offered to cut off his hair if the team made it to the semifinals of the year-end high school basketball tournament. Many high school basketball players in Vermont refer to it as the AUD. That's the municipal auditorium and basketball arena in Barre. The Danville team did get to the AUD, Brisco did cut his hair, and the team responded by raising money for cancer research and for individuals getting treatment for cancer.

On March 16 Brisco and his current teammates visited the Norris Cotton Cancer Center in St. Johnsbury and presented a donation to the new cancer treatment facility. Radiation Oncologist John Marshall, M.D. met the group and gave them a tour.

Above are (L-R) Dr. Marshall, Jesse Murray, Nate Coutu, Brisco, Brandon Cochran, Julian Kempton and Logan Calkins.

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At the same time Penny Johnson at the Derby office helped me with the construction loan for my new house. There were times when I couldn't get to the bank, I was so busy, so the bank came to me. Now they've added the new courier service. That's awesome! The only bad part is I don't get to see my bank friends as often, just when they come in for an appointment to have their hair done.

It has been an incredibly busy year - new business, new house, new bank...and a lot of customers, including my friends at LSB."



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Don't Stay at Home Without One: Lifeline Emergency Call System

Deke Calkins is 82 and legally blind. He lives alone, with his German shepherd, on an unpaved road. For many years Calkins was a heavy equipment operator, and he loves to talk about those experiences. But he doesn't drive anymore, and his interests are substantially limited to taking care of his home and his property - seven spring-fed ponds, his lawns and the network of trails on 63 acres in Danville.

"I'd hate to give up this place, but without Lifeline I'd really have to think about it."

Calkins gets phone calls from friends, and twice a week meals are delivered from the senior meal site, but there are times, he says, when days go by and he gives thought to his personal safety. But he isn't worried. The peace of mind Calkins has found is in the personal emergency response service known as Lifeline.

Lifeline is a service, based in Framingham, MA, which provides emergency call systems to subscribers. Subscribers, like Calkins, have a base unit, which is powered by household electrical current (and a battery backup) and connected directly to phone lines. Subscribers carry or wear a waterproof activator button, and from anywhere within approximately 500 feet of the

base unit they can alert an operator to their need for help.

Once the signal is received, the Lifeline operator will access the subscriber's file and call back through the base unit and speak in a reassuring voice, for instance, "Mr. Calkins, do you need any help." If the operator hears nothing or doesn't understand the response a call is placed to a local responder - a neighbor, friend or the rescue squad. The responder will investigate and, if all is well, reset the system. If medical help or some other form of assistance is required it is on the way. Finally the Lifeline operator will call back to ensure that help arrived.

John Sleeper is the Lifeline program manager for the Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, and since 1986 he has been installing and servicing Lifeline systems. "It's a wonderful organization," Sleeper says. "They started over a liquor store in the late 1970's, and they have grown to be a huge operation outside of Boston where base units are assembled and operators are on call around the clock. There are 80-90 operators standing by at all times, fielding calls from all over the country." There are 470,000 systems nationwide, almost 6,000 in Vermont alone. Sleeper recently installed his 555th system in the Northeast Kingdom, and he says, "The idea is to allow people to be safe in their homes for as long as possible, and it works."

Sleeper says there are Lifeline subscribers with varying forms of disability or other needs

for the system - from those in their 20s to some over 100. "There are people with all kinds of medical and security needs to those who simply live in the middle of nowhere. Lifeline gives a sense of security to subscribers and their families."

Sleeper describes a fairly typical example of a young woman who was beside herself with concern for her father living alone in Essex County. The man maintained that he was fine and had a routine with his house lights and neighbors such that if something went wrong and the routine changed someone would stop by. The man's daughter realized that it was a system waiting to fail. She persuaded her father to install a Lifeline system, and she finds great comfort in knowing that he wears the button, he can test the system whenever he feels the need, and at least once a month he gets a call from one of Sleeper's volunteers to be sure his medical records are up to date and the numbers for local responders are accurate.

"One subscriber," Sleeper says, "awoke in the middle of the night to the sound of someone pounding on her door. She alerted Lifeline, and the state police were sent to her house. The police officer found someone had quite innocently run off the road and was seeking help at the lady's door."

Sleeper says, "Lifeline averages 50,000 calls every 24 hours (from all over the country)." He says, ninety-five percent are button tests or errors. About half of the rest are not medical but other



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Deke Calkins lives alone with his German shepherd Max. He swears by the Lifeline System, and whether he is in his house or outside on his lawn tractor he knows that emergency help, if he needs it, is just a push of the button away.

calls for assistance, and approximately 1,200 are life and death situations in which people have fallen or need other emergency medical care.

Sleeper says, "Most people think the elderly are on the edge of senility waiting to die. But the people I see are fascinating; they are living history books, and most are really quite active. Some go dancing, they work in the garden, and a lot of them do the work required to maintain their home. Some mow their lawns and cut firewood. One subscriber goes to Florida every winter and relocates his base unit and notifies the operators so that if he calls they won't go looking for him in Vermont. But if something does go wrong and a subscriber does need help, it's only a button push away."

If anyone is interested in a Lifeline installation they can call John Sleeper in St. Johnsbury at

(802) 748-7475. He keeps base units and the activator buttons on hand and can usually schedule an installation within 24-48 hours. There is an installation fee of \$39.95, and a monthly charge of \$36. "For all that the subscriber and the family and friends get - it's a lot of peace of mind for the price," he says. Subsidies are available for those who satisfy the income eligibility criteria.

Sleeper's own mother has a Lifeline system. "It allows my father to leave her at home without worrying."

Deke Calkins thinks it's the best thing that ever happened. "I got my Lifeline in 1999, and I wear it all the time." Calkins loves to ride his garden tractor and mow his lawn in the summer or, with tire chains, explore his trails through the woods in the winter. "I'd hate to give up this place, but without Lifeline I'd really have to think about it."




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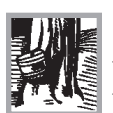
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Photo Courtesy of Paul Robertson

In the spring of the year following the end of World War I, a sugar-on-snow party was organized on the Danville Green. The party was a tribute to the returning war veterans. In this picture (facing the camera from left) are Ben Heath, unknown, Guy Pettingill and C. Thomas. The man in the overalls with his back to the camera is Harry Danforth the father of Danville's first casualty in the war, Henry Danforth. After the war a Danville American Legion Post was opened and named after Henry Danforth.

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Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

April 5, 2005 - Light dusting of snow this morning. Water drips from the roof in a steady stream. What was 4-feet of snow in mid-March, is now mere inches. March went out softly, "like a lamb." A week of 40° weather and full sunshine gradually ate away at the snow and slowly thawed the roads. We had a lone robin pecking for worms yesterday as a light rain turned to snow. This morning, he's perched up in the shad, waiting for open ground to reappear. A few juncos and song sparrows joined the chickadees at the feeder.

April 7, 2005 - A flock of about 50 juncos congregated on the lawn feasting on seeds and worms, which the rain brought to the surface. Our vernal stream

has eaten away its snow cover and is flowing through the field. The frog pond overfloweth. Even the garden is finally surfacing. Heavy rains last weekend found their way into our electrical box and slowly worked their way down, shutting off our power. The electrician came to the rescue and replaced the box and corroded circuit breakers. Being perched on the hill may give us an outstanding view but it leaves us vulnerable to the elements, especially when high winds combine with rain, forcing water into the most unlikely places.

April 10, 2005 - A weekend of perfect early spring weather. Daytime temperatures found the 50° mark under cloudless, sunny skies with nighttime readings back below freezing. The majority of the snow has melted, and

streams are easing back into their regular channels. The sound of fast flowing water marks the beginning of spring. Being able to empty the compost without donning snowshoes is another sure sign of spring. Jeff found some fresh droppings in the field so deer must be moving out to forage in the reemerging grass. Nights have been brilliantly starlit. There's no moonlight to take away from the splendor of the stars.

April 12, 2005 - More avian signs of spring. Individual robins have given way to flocks, gliding on roller skates across the field. Eastern kingbirds returned, flicking their white-banded broad tails, and flickers are aerating the ground. But most exciting is the return of a brightly colored male bluebird. He took up his usual lookout atop the nesting box as though it were only yesterday that he last appeared. It seemed early for his return but last April 22nd I made a journal entry of sighting both male and female bluebirds, and the male usually comes scouting ahead of time. Slowly but surely seasons progress.

April 13, 2005 - A hint of flurries this morning with Mt. Washington showing a more substantial coat of fresh snow. Clouds negated the warmth of the sun so we stoked up the stove to take out the morning chill. Took a stroll up Walden Hill Road. There's still plenty of snow at the higher elevations, but bare south-facing slopes are sparsely dotted with coltsfoot blooms. I've been raking stones and sand from the yard and adding them to some bare spots on the drive.

April 17, 2005 - Another sunny, spring weekend. Snow pack is definitely receding, osiers are blushing, and a hint of



Photo By: Jeff Gold

A week of 40° weather and full sunshine gradually ate away at the snow and slowly thawed the roads.

rust red is beginning to show in tamaracks and maple crowns. There's even a hint of green in the lawn. My first sun-dried laundry is blowing in the breeze, and the garden is tilled and ready for some moo doo. Swallows have returned and decorate the skies with their swooping aerial ballet. We're into a possible record-breaking dry spell now that the melt-off is basically over. Our neighbor down the road was burning leaves to fertilize his beautiful perennial flower beds and wound up burning most of his field. Fortunately the volunteer fire departments from Danville and Walden came to the rescue.

April 21, 2005 - Much-needed rain yesterday is bringing on the green. Bright sunshine and clear blue skies today with a stiff breeze made me think it's a good day for outdoor laundry. But a look at the thermometer showing 25° made me revise my plans. We took a leisurely, long walk around the reservoir a few days ago. Evidence of deer is scattered throughout the trail, and drumming grouse abound. I heard some very forceful woodpecker hammering, but the bird remained elusive. Found one

lone tiny yellow violet in bloom, and pulmonaria is opening in the perennial garden.

April 23, 2005 - Gray, misty morning. Birch trees stand out stark and white, tall elongated statues against the muted hills. Green grass gives way to golden brown fields, which in turn meld into blushing wine-red osiers. Hills are topped with rust-colored crowns of swamp maples and birches, and tamaracks are beginning to hint at a flush of new growth. Vermont's other foliage season is slowly unfurling.

April 24, 2005 - Very dramatic full moonrise tonight. Torrential rains stopped by late afternoon, and the sun finally came out around 5 o'clock. No clouds left now; the moon has full reign. Peepers are peeping but not too boldly yet. The male bluebird returned today with a mate, and they seem to be nest building.

April 26, 2005 - More signs of spring: honking of migrating geese early morning, and a bright yellow goldfinch appeared at the feeder. Vernal pools pulsed with the cacophonous quacking of wood frogs punctuated by individual shrill peepers.

April 30, 2005 - A very wet end to the month of April. At least the precipitation is rain, not snow or something in between. The hills are showing a reddish tinge as swamp maples and birches put forth early buds, and the fields are green. Crocuses and daffodils are up in town, but spring is more tentative on Walden Hill. We're still on the long wait for spring to finally burst forth from winter's lingering grasp.

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St. Johnsbury Academy Spring 2006 Sports Schedule

Baseball & Softball			
4/22	Spaulding (NL)	H	11:00
4/25	Missisquoi	A	4:00
4/27	S. Burlington	A	4:00
4/29	North Country	H	11:00
5/2	BFA	H	4:30
5/4	Milton	H	4:30
5/6	Essex (SAT Day)	A	4:00
5/8	Spaulding	A	4:30
5/11	CVU	A	4:30
5/13	Burlington	H	11:00
5/16	Rice	H	4:30
5/18	Harwood	A	4:30
5/19	Middlebury	H	4:30
5/23	Mt. Mansfield	H	4:30
5/25	Mt. Abe	A	4:30
5/27	Colchester	A	11:00

All JV Games at Opposite Site

Girls' Tennis			
4/10	U-32 (NL)	A	3:30
4/13	North Country (NL)	H	3:30
4/24	Lake Region (NL)	H	3:30
4/27	Montpelier	A	3:30
5/1	Middlebury	A	3:30
5/4	Harwood	H	3:30
5/6	Montpelier (NL) (SAT Day)	H	3:30
5/8	Stowe	A	3:30
5/11	U-32	H	3:30
5/15	North Country	A	3:30
5/18	Lake Region	A	3:30
5/20	South Burlington (NL)	H	10:00
5/22	Harwood (NL)	A	3:30

Boys' Tennis			
4/10	U-32	H	3:30
4/13	North Country	A	3:30
4/27	Montpelier	H	3:30
4/29	Stowe	A	10:00
5/1	Middlebury	H	3:30
5/4	Harwood	A	3:30
5/6	Montpelier (SAT Day)	A	3:30
5/8	Stowe	H	3:30
5/11	U-32	A	3:30
5/13	Middlebury	A	11:00
5/15	North Country	H	3:30
5/20	Burlington (NL)	A	10:00
5/22	Harwood	H	3:30
5/24	Burlington (NL)	H	3:30

TRACK			
4/25	NCU, SHS, Miss	H	3:30
4/27	Frosh Meet @ Lyndon	A	3:15
5/3	w/ Peoples @ CVU	A	3:30
5/5	Burlington Invitational (Co-Ed) @ Essex	A	3:00
5/6	Burlington Invitational (Co-Ed) @ Essex	A	10:00
5/10	w/ Harwood, Essex	A	3:30
5/12	Bob White Boys' Relays @ BFA	A	3:00
5/13	Girls' Iverson-Rebel Relays @ SBHS	A	10:00
5/17	Danville, SBHS	H	3:30
5/19	Metro Frosh Meet @ Essex	A	3:00
5/20	Hanover Invitational w/ Danville	A	10:00
5/24	@ Lyndon	A	3:30
5/27	Essex Invitational	A	10:00
6/3	VT Meet @ Colchester	A	TBA
6/11	New England's @ Willow Brook Park New Britain, CT	A	10:00

Girls' Lacrosse			
4/24	U-32 (NL)*	H	4:00
4/26	BFA (NL)	H	4:00
4/29	Lamoille*	H	11:00
5/1	Chelsea	A	4:00
5/4	Randolph	H	4:00
5/6	MHS (SAT Day)	A	3:00
5/11	Spaulding	A	4:00
5/13	Rice	A	11:00
5/16	Montpelier	H	4:00
5/18	BFA	A	4:00
5/23	U-32	A	4:00
5/25	Oxbow	H	4:00

* All JV Games Follow Varsity Games

GOLF			
5/1	CVU, BFA, MMU @ St Johnsbury	H	3:00
5/2	BHS, MUHS, ESS @ Middlebury	A	3:00
5/9	SHS, MMU, BFA @ Barre	A	3:00
5/11	MHS, MAU, MVU @ Champlain	A	1:00
5/16	MAU, SHS, SBHS @ Barre	A	8:00
5/17	NCU, CHS, VUHS @ Williston	A	3:00
5/18	Boys INvitational @ Newport	A	8:00
5/22	CVU, Rice, MVU @ St Johnsbury	H	3:00
5/25	VUHS, MHS, MVU @ Champlain	A	3:00
5/29	Division 1 North @ Newport	A	10:00
6/1	Girls' Tournament - Harwood @ Sugarbush States - Girls	A	1:00
6/6	@ Proctor States - Boys' @ Middlebury	A	TBA

Boys' Lacrosse			
4/24	U-32* (NL)	A	4:00
4/26	Burlington*	A	4:00
4/28	Harwood (NL)*	A	4:00
5/1	Lamoille	H	4:00
5/3	Randolph	A	4:00
5/6	Rice (SAT Day)*	A	3:00
5/9	U-32*	H	4:00
5/11	Spaulding	H	4:00
5/13	Montpelier (NL)	A	11:00
5/18	Harwood*	H	4:00
5/20	Spaulding	A	3:00
5/23	Montpelier	H	4:00

* All JV Games Follow Varsity Games

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Don't Count on Somebody Else to Save Those Old Historic Photographs

BETTY HATCH

After reading Lorna Quimby's delightful article about old photographs in *The* [March 2006] *North Star*, it came to my mind that each town needs to gather and preserve pictures of its former old buildings and residents for its historical file.

Walden celebrated the bicentennial of the chartering of the town in 1981, and those on the Bicentennial Committee decided to present some stories and facts of its history for the residents. Our "Walden 200" was born. Six issues were published with the help of residents who had Walden businesses or recollections. Folks in town and some former residents showed much interest in the project, and in 1982, we decided there was a lot of Walden history that needed to be saved. Two issues a year were published, each

with a different theme. Time spent at the town clerk's office and pouring over local history books brought out facts, and residents were invited to add their recollections and stories. This is what I call "folk history."

About the time the committee started writing a formal history of Walden, I asked at the Vermont Historical Society Library what they had there about Walden. The answer was "nothing." I think maybe they did, but information about Nathaniel Burbank wasn't cross referenced under Walden. Since the publishing of "Walden 200", the Vermont Historical Library has a complete set of the issues and is binding them in hard cover to prevent wear and tear as they are used in research.

The first issues were factual information. Later issues included hand drawn illustrations. Gradually snapshots were repro-

duced to illustrate stories. They say "a picture is worth a thousand words," and a good one helps bring stories to mind.

The Allen County Public Library in Indiana also has a set of "Walden 200" for its genealogy periodicals section. As you read Vermont history, you find many folks moving westward for better opportunities. These pamphlets give them some better idea of what life was like here, why they left and what they used in establishing their homes and families.

In recent years, Stuart and Anne Smith have been researching genealogy in old issues of the *Caledonian* and *Caledonian Record*. They are studying each obituary listing family descendants. Anniversary parties or any article that gives family information are noted as to issue and length of article, so anyone doing family research can go to the

Athenaeum in St. Johnsbury and find the micro filmed information and copy the article for their use. The Smiths have much of their work published by years and it is in the Walden Community Library, Vermont Historical Library and other libraries in the area.

For the last several years, I have put together an exhibit of historical interest for March Town Meeting. This year two pictures from a lady in Maine were enlarged and copied showing the village of Noyesville about 1900. For further interest, pictures of many of the buildings were displayed around the Noyesville picture. Some of those buildings are long gone but others have been updated, and it created much interest among folks at the meeting.

With the recent loss of two of our Walden residents, who were good sources of stories and histor-

ical facts, I am making an effort to get family trees and stories written and to collect copies of interest in town for the historical file.

Older folks are trying to get rid of extras at their homes, and I am encouraging them to put pictures aside to be put in the town file after they are gone. Doing so now will give them the satisfaction of knowing that the photographs will be interesting and helpful to future generations. We all enjoy looking at old pictures and hearing stories. I'd like to see each of us research the artifacts of our place and help out these future historians.

I am not "blowing my own horn," but I hope folks will see how they can help their own town historical committees in preserving town history. Many of Terry Hoffer's articles in *The North Star* have done just that. You don't have to be a published author to help out. ★

When They Try to "Stay in Touch" I Don't Take it for Granted

VAN PARKER

This is the time of year I start looking at garden catalogues. Right now I'm starting to browse through two of them. One is an old favorite. The other is a catalogue that a friend sent, and I'm looking at it for the first time.

It isn't just the seed catalogues that attract me. I think it's a desire to get "down to earth" to start raking and digging and figuring what to plant and where. There's something satisfying about that. It's not high flown or theoretical. Without intending a pun I would describe it as grounding.

We have a friend, who spent almost his entire working life with a single company. That doesn't happen much anymore. People often change jobs a half dozen times during their working careers. Companies interested in their bottom line aren't hesitant to let go of employees when it suits them, and their employees reciprocate by not having any particular loyalty to those who pay their salary. Working for a company like that isn't grounding. It doesn't make people feel connected - only used.

I believe we need to feel connected. So we say to our friends things like "keep in touch" or "stay in touch." For 41 years I was in the active ministry. The ministry is a strange sort of occupation. You get up there and preach on Sunday and do all the things that ministers and other clergy types do. You attend meetings, officiate at baptisms, weddings and funerals, call in the hospital and pray on a variety of occasions.

But what I found I needed to do most in the ministry was to get-and stay-in-touch with people. After being in the church office for half a day, or after going to some meeting, I wanted to get out and make some calls. Sometimes they were crisis calls. Much more often they were not. Don't know whether it helped the people I saw,

but I know it helped me. It cleared out the cobwebs. It brought me down to earth. It kept me in touch.

When someone says "stay in touch," it's usually more than just a catchy phrase. It's a confession that we aren't meant to bounce around by ourselves, as though we were separate from everyone and everything around us. We need neighbors. We need friends. We need to be in touch with the earth

and to open our eyes to the beauty around us.

So back to the seed catalogues. Maybe this year I'll put in more peas or rotate a couple of other things in the hope that they'll do better. Perhaps taking more time to loosen up the soil will lead to better beets or carrots. We'll see. But just getting out there will be good. It's one way to keep in touch. ★

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2006 Spring Schedule

Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

Baseball/Softball Mountain League

APRIL		
18	Danville @ Williamstown	4:00
20	Danville @ Richford	4:00
22	Williamstown @ Danville	11:00
27	Danville @ Lake Region	4:00
29	Canaan @ Danville, double header	11:00/1:30
MAY		
2	Stowe @ Danville	4:30
4	Danville @ Hazen	4:30
9	Danville @ Winooski	4:30
11	Lake Region @ Danville	4:30
13	Richford @ Danville	11:00
16	Danville @ Peoples	4:30
18	Enosburg @ Danville	4:30
23	Danville @ Stowe	4:30
25	Hazen @ Danville	4:30
27	Danville @ BFA Fairfax	11:00

Boys' Club Lacrosse

MAY		
1	SJA @ Danville	5:30
9	Chelsea @ Danville	5:30
11	@ Danville	5:30
18	@ Danville	5:30
23	SJA @ Danville	5:30

Mountain/NVAC Track

APRIL		
26	@ Peoples	3:30
27	@ Lyndon, Frosh Meet	3:30
MAY		
9	@ Peoples	3:30
17	@ SJA	3:30
24	@ Lyndon	3:30
26	@ U-32, Frosh/Soph	3:30
JUNE		
3	@ Green Mt., State Meet	

Middle School Track Meets

MAY		
10	@ Peoples	
16	@ Harwood	
19	@ U-32	
22	@ Peoples	
27	@ U-32	

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Lyndon Institute

Spring Athletics 2006

Varsity Baseball			
Tues.	April 18	Scrimmage	
		Fairfax	3:00
Thurs.	April 20	@ Oxbow	4:00
Sat.	April 22	@ North Country	11:00
Wed.	April 26	Montpelier	4:00
Thurs.	April 27	@ Lamoille	4:00
Sat.	April 29	@ Vergennes (2)	11:00/1:30
Mon.	May 1	@ Northfield	4:30
Fri.	May 5	Lake Region	4:30
Tues.	May 9	@ Randolph	4:30
Thurs.	May 11	U-32	4:30
Sat.	May 13	Lamoille	11:00
Tues.	May 16	@ Montpelier	4:30
Thurs.	May 18	Northfield	4:30
Tues.	May 23	Randolph	4:30
Thurs.	May 25	Oxbow	4:30
Sat.	May 27	@ U-32	11:00
Varsity Softball			
Mon.	April 17	Scrimmage	
		White Mt.	3:30
Thurs.	April 20	@ Oxbow	4:00
Sat.	April 22	@ North Country	11:00
Wed.	April 26	Montpelier	4:00
Thurs.	April 27	@ Lamoille	4:00
Sat.	April 29	@ Vergennes (2)	11:00/1:30
Mon.	May 1	@ Northfield	4:30
Thurs.	May 4	Harford	4:30
Tues.	May 9	@ Randolph	4:30
Thurs.	May 11	U-32	4:30
Sat.	May 13	Lamoille	11:00
Tues.	May 16	@ Montpelier	4:30
Thurs.	May 18	Northfield	4:30
Tues.	May 23	Randolph	4:30
Thurs.	May 25	Oxbow	4:30
Sat.	May 27	@ U-32	11:00
Track & Field			
Thurs.	April 13	@ Windsor	3:30
Thurs.	April 27	NEK Frosh @ Lyndon	3:15
Tues.	May 2	Lyndon	3:15
Fri.	May 5	(Boys/Girls) BI's @ Essex	3:15
Sat.	May 6	(Boys/Girls) BI's @ Essex	10:00
Tues.	May 9	@ Peoples	3:30
Sat.	May 13	@ S. Burlington (Girls)	10:00
Tues.	May 16	Lyndon	3:15
Sat.	May 20	Windsor Invite	10:00
Wed.	May 24	Lyndon vs SJA	3:15
Fri.	May 26	Frosh/Soph @ U-32	3:30
Sat.	May 27	Essex Invite	10:00
Sat.	June 3	State Meet @ Windsor	9:30
Sat.	June 10	NE Championship in CT	9:30
Golf 9 Hole Matches Start @ 3:30			
Mon.	April 24	@ Northfield	3:30
Wed.	April 26	@ Randolph	3:30
Mon.	May 1	@ U-32	3:30
Wed.	May 3	Lyndon	3:30
Mon.	May 8	@ Oxbow	3:30
Wed.	May 10	@ Lake Region	3:30
Mon.	May 15	Lyndon	3:30
Wed.	May 17	@ U-32	3:30
Thurs.	May 18	@ NC Invite (Boys)	8:00
Mon.	May 22	@ Montpelier	3:30
Mon.	May 22	@ NC Invite (Girls)	1:00
Wed.	May 24	@ Lake Region	3:30
Tues.	May 30	Div. II Sectionals @ Orleans	
Tues.	June 6	Girl's States @ Proctor/Pittsford	
Wed.	June 7	Boy's States @ Middlebury	

What's Happening at the Town Hall?

Barnet

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

February 27, 2006

Town Service Officer – Board reappointed Stanley Robinson as town service officer.

East Barnet Bridge Repairs – Board signed application for funding for repairs to East Barnet Bridge over Passumpsic River on Comerford Dam Road. Engineering estimates for cost deck repair and painting the structure are \$175,000. State will pay 90% of cost to a maximum of \$150,000. Town will pay 100% of any cost over \$166,700. It was suggested that bids be prepared with one bid for deck repairs and a second for painting. The project could be spread over a couple of years if necessary.

VSAC Summer Job – Town will seek assistance from Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for lifeguard positions at Harvey's Lake Beach and for lake monitoring program.

Liquor License – Board approved liquor license for Aunt Dees Country Store.

Overweight Permit – Board approved overweight vehicle permits for Arthur Whitcomb, Cardinal Logistics Management Corporation and Thomson Timber Harvesting.

Gadley Hill Road – Gary Bunnell reported road foreman met with landowners and logger working around Gadley Hill Road and determined which old trees in the right of way may be removed to aid in drying out the road.

March 13, 2006

Board Organization – Board elected Theodore Faris as chair, and voted to appoint Gary Bunnell and Stanley Robinson as road commissioners.

Water Pollution from Roads – Board reviewed material describing Vermont Local Roads Program and grant funds for reduction of water pollution generated by roads or road maintenance.

Culvert Replacement – Board reviewed letter from County Resource Conservation District offering assistance in replacing culverts or related road improvement projects.

Overweight Permits – Board approved overweight permits for

Carroll Ainsworth, Barrett Trucking Co., Carroll Concrete, W. D. Fearon, Larry Flood and S. T. Griswold & Co.

Summer Mowing – Board discussed advertising for bids for mowing grass at Stevens Cemetery, Palmer Cemetery, the monument in Barnet Village, Library building grounds and new fire station land and to clean up around the Town Hall and Town Clerks Office. Advertisement will be placed in paper as soon as possible.

Cabot

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

March 1, 2006

Paving Bond – Board discussed proposed \$300,000 paving bond on warning for town meeting.

Check Authorization – Board reviewed 2006 orders and checks to date and voted to authorize all checks drawn by treasurer to date.

March 7, 2006

Board Organization – Board elected Caleb Pitkin, chair; Larry Gochey, vice-chair; Ted Domey, secretary.

Appointments – Board voted the following appointments: Pound-keeper, Cheryl McQueeney; Dog Control Officer, Josephine Guertin; Fence Viewers, Walter Bothfeld Sr., Rusty Churchill and Daniel Cookson; Inspector of Coal, Wood Lumber & Shingles, Anson Tebbetts; Tree Warden, Roland Payne; Town Service Officer, William Cobb; Health Officer, Gary Gulka; Town Energy Coordinator, Maurice Morey; Sewage Officer, Carlton Domey; Zoning Officer, Carlton Domey; Willey Building Committee, Carlton Domey; UDAG Committee, Chuck Talbert; Road Commissioner, Larry Gochey; Newspaper, *Hardwick Gazette*; Town Attorney, Paul Gillies; Master of Colors, Brian Houghton; Town Web Site Committee, William Walters, Chris Riddle and Kenny Christman.

Road Commissioner – Board voted to set salary for road commissioner at \$10,000.

Danville

Town Clerk: Virginia Morse
 Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Larry Gadapee, Rick Sevigny, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

March 2, 2006

Road Work – Kevin reported road crew has been keeping up with road conditions but roads remain rough. They have been replacing roofing screws and patching as necessary on the old garage roof. Wood furnace is working well although he is still tweaking it. Moisture in garage attic is a bigger problem this year.

Town Hall – Town received approval from state to run water line under US 2 for the town hall sprinklers. Board voted to hire Bore Tech to proceed with work using funds from town hall building fund. Town received certificate of program completion from Department of Housing and Community Affairs on the lift grant.

E-911 – On request of Jeremy McMullen Board voted to name TH #99 Hattie's Hill Road.

Curbcut – Board approved curbcut permits for Harold Webster on Bruce Badger Highway, Duane and Dianne Webster on Webster Hill Road, Laurel Stanley and John King on Joe's Brook Road, Walter McNeil Jr. on Coles Pond Road, James Emmons and Dana Young on Joe's Brook Road, John Doyon on Peacham Road, William Herman on Cole's Pond Road and Emory Fellows on Jamieson Road.

Sewer Plant – Merton Leonard reported that town received 20-year report on the sewer system and will forward to state as required.

Fire Department – Board discussed concerns of the fire department as to condition of fire hydrants.

March 16, 2006

Board Organization – Board elected Mike Walsh as chair, Rick Sevigny vice chair and Merton Leonard clerk.

Road Work – Kevin reported road crew is trying to keep up with changing road conditions and working on replacement of roofing screws and patching as necessary old garage roof. Reg Guertin injured his knee on the job but has returned to work.

Water Line to Town Hall – Merton Leonard reported Bore Tech has been working on water line for sprinkler system through ledge

under US 2 to town hall.
Sewer System – Leonard reviewed engineer's report on the condition of the sewer system and will work with Stub Parker on a response to the state.

Public Officials Insurance – Board approved renewal of public officials insurance policy as presented.

Appointments – Board approved reappointment of town officials including Kevin Gadapee, Road Foreman; Howard Gadapee, Fire Chief; Louise Lessard, Sexton of Cemeteries; Selectboard, Surveyor of Wood and Lumber; Stephen Parker, Tree Warden; Jo Guertin, Dog Warden and First Constable; Cheryl McQueeney, Pound Keeper; Donald Glover and Greg Scott, Development Review Board; Jim Ashley representative to Solid Waste Management District; Linda Leone, Zoning Administrative Officer; Jeremy McMullen, E-911 Coordinator; Michael Smith and Kellie Merrill, Planning Commission; Town Clerk's Office, Dog List; and Jim Jung, Green Up Committee.
Liquor Licenses – Board approved liquor licenses for Goodfella's Inc, Danville Restaurant & Inn, Marty's First Stop and Diamond Hill Store LLC.

Fee Donation – Board received letter from Susanne Terry, who has done consulting work for the Board. Terry will donate her time to the town. Board voted to write and extend its appreciation.

Green Up – Board approved contribution of \$100 to Green Up Vermont.

Better Back Roads Program – Board approved contribution of \$75 to Better Back Roads program of Northern VT Resource Conservation & Development Council.

Lyndon

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

February 20, 2006

Highway Report – At 12% through

year entire budget is 12% expended.
Town Meeting – Board reviewed town meeting agenda with Moderator Norm Messier.

Merger Committee – Board discussed report of merger (of town and village) committee. There would be minimal cost savings but efficiencies and improved public perception and less confusion.

Miller's Run Bridge – Art Sanborn assured Board that deck is acceptable on Miller's Run Bridge.

March 6, 2006

Highway Report – At 15% through year entire budget is 16% expended.

Blue Spruce Lane – Board voted to sign property transfer tax return and accept deed transferring Blue Spruce Lane to Town of Lyndon.

Certificate of Highway Mileage – Board voted to approve certificate of highway mileage.

Excess Weight Permits – Board approved 14 excess weight permits.

March 14, 2006

VLCT Health Insurance – Wellness Coordinator Laurie Willey explained VT League of Cities and Towns program through which town could save up to 4% on health insurance premiums. Willey indicated town is already doing that which is required for program eligibility and Board voted to approve town's participation.

County Fair Association Summer Bicycle Tour – Dick Lawrence reported on summer plans to have up to 2,000 cyclists stay at the fairgrounds this summer and Board voted to provide basic emergency services.

Appointments – Board voted to make 32 reappointments of town officials.

Excess Weight Permits – Board approved six excess weight permits for the town.

Liquor Licenses – Board approved 17 liquor licenses.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss a matter of personnel, no action was taken.

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

Peacham

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

February 15, 2006

Old Town Hall – Board discussed proposed purchase and sale agreement regarding Old Town Office as submitted by the Peacham Community Housing.

Peacham Pond – Board discussed previous decision regarding Peacham Pond Road reclassification with Dennis Hendy and John Guilmette representing the Peacham Pond Association.

Road Crew – Phil Jejer reported road crew met for an in-house training session regarding personal protective equipment with representative from VLCT. Jejer discussed total compensation for the road crew and suggested comparing it with the notion of contracting roadwork.

Grant Program – Board discussed VTrans Structures and Class 2 road grant programs and the Better Backroads grant programs and requested that administrative assistant prepare applications as appropriate.

Traffic Ordinance – Board read proposed traffic ordinance and voted to adopt the ordinance as presented.

March 1, 2006

Trailer Bids – After voting to add opening trailer bids to the meeting agenda, Board opened three bids. Board voted to accept the high bid of \$651 submitted by Richard Stevenson.

Administrative Assistant – Phil Jejer reported that not much has been happening. Road crew will wait until the thaw to get to serious work. Board voted to designate Allen Thresher Jr. and Richard Stevenson as “preferred excavation contractor” for the town.

Road Work Plans – Board discussed road work for 2006.

New Plow Truck – Board discussed alternatives to acquiring a new plow truck including purchase, keeping the old one and outsourcing the work and reducing the size of the road crew by one position. The administrative assistant reported that there is considerable employee idle time in the winter months and offered information on the availability and costs of contractors who could perform winter and summer work for the town.

Old Town Hall – Board discussed the Old Town Office and future action depending on the outcome of

the vote at town meeting.

Lister Training – Board voted to approve lister training as requested for Becky Jensen.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss a personnel matter, no action was taken.

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty
 Selectmen: Gary Swenson, Richard Browne and Tim McKay

St. Johnsbury

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

March 9, 2006

Fire Station Relocation – Board met with Architect Jay Ancel and discussed McKinstry Site as a fire station location. Discussion included shape of building, parking, and impact on the surrounding neighborhood and alternative locations. Board agreed to establish a single site as a priority.

Town Offices – Board discussed several options for town offices and space for police department and dispatching services in existing municipal building. Architect will continue work and report back to Board as soon as possible.

March 13, 2006

Fence Damage – Board held a site visit at 1043 Lackey Hill Road to inspect fence damage.

Board Organization – Board elected Gary Reis as chair.

Town Plan – Board convened public hearing for public comment on town plan. Board will hold a second hearing as required on April 10. Priscilla Messier described the process with approximately 150 people working on the draft as presented. Bernier Mayo and Gary Reis served as co-chairs.

Housing – John Hall, commissioner of housing and community affairs, met with Board and discussed initiatives for housing programs in the state. Hall indicated the state is pleased to fund the proposed St. Johnsbury housing study and that he believes the town could benefit from the housing initiatives currently under consideration.

Town Meeting Review – Board discussed observations made as to effectiveness of the March town meeting and possible ways to improve in the future. Mike Welch noted comments on lack of Board participation in presentations; poor sound quality; poor visibility on

slide program; confusion as to charter amendment proposals; motions announced by moderator and then motions made from the floor. Board agreed that each year the process improves and agreed to be more active in presentations next year.

Appointments – Board voted to make appointments as follows:

Design Review Board – Pat Cahoon, John Horvatic and Shara McCaffrey; Lister - Conrad Doyon; Recreation Board - Kathy DeLeo, Carol Lyon and Jamie Ryan; Fence Viewers - Bryon Quatrini and Jerry Rowe; Deputy Health Officer - Troy Ruggles; Industrial Park Board - Reg Wakeham; Tree Warden - Jeff Brigs; Inspector of lumber, shingles and coal - Robert Ide; Coal Weigher - Robert Ide; Town Service Officers - Michael A. Welch; Homeland Security - Troy Ruggles; Energy Coordinator - William Christiansen; Tax Stabilization - William T. Costa Jr. and Ann Laferriere; St. Johnsbury Development Executive Board - Jerry Rowe; St. Johnsbury Downtown Improvement District - Reginald Wakeham, Carol Novick and Jim Heath.

Leadership Health Program – Town Manager described “Leadership Health Program” offered by VT League of Cities and Towns, an incentive for employees and dependents to live a healthy lifestyle. Program is designed to encourage those in town’s health insurance plan to reduce costs of health care by taking part in healthy living. Manager said VLCT will be offering health insurance premium rate credit for up to 4% of the premium for communities that score well in the program. St. Johnsbury currently spends over \$600,000 per year in health insurance.

Fence Damage Diane Dargie Fence – Board discussed matter of damage to fence owned by Diane Dargie and voted that because fence is in right-of-way it is owner’s responsibility to repair.

Street Light Replacement – Manager reported that a request to remove a street light at end of Pine Street and neighbors have supported the idea. There has been a request to install a light at intersection of Breezy Hill and Hospital Drive and town manager will confirm the interest of the neighbors on Pine Street.

Overcliff Water Tanks – Board discussed reconstruction or replacement of Overcliff water tanks. Tanks

were inspected and engineers have provided an estimate of \$31,700 for preparing a basis of design for the work to be added to current work. After discussion Board voted to amend engineering agreement with Dufresne Associates for the purpose of developing a basis of design report for tanks and approve the application to increase the loan funding for planning and design of the water system by \$31,700.

CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Meeting – Manager announced a March 29 meeting to update neighborhood on spring schedule for CSO project.

Dawg House – Manager reported for Chief of Police that the Dawg House has complied with the conditions outlined by Board and that there have no major incidents at the establishment.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss town manager evaluation and labor relations agreements with employees, no action was taken.

Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith
 Selectboard: Perley Greaves, Daniel Lamont and Douglas Luther

February 28, 2006

Town Equipment – Doug Luther reported that grader needed a new gear box with repairs totaling \$3469.37.

Easement on Town Land – Lina Smith reported Board received a request from someone interested in buying the Gutzmann property on VT 15 in South Walden. Buyer is asking the town for an easement to bring power through the lot owned by the town. Perley Greaves will research this and report back to Board.

Utility Easement – Board signed permit for Washington Electric Coop to construct a 7200 volt distribution line on Orton Road to begin near the residence of Jim Nudd.

Constable – Bill Huntoon reported on calls received and requested that the Board give him permission to purchase a digital recorder for \$39. Approved his request.

Sate Police – Randolph Wilson informed Board that he attended a police advisory board meeting and reported that State Police in St. Johnsbury will be at full staff by summer.

Overweight Permits – Board

signed five truck permits.

March 14, 2006

Board Organization – Board elected Dave Brown as chair, Perley Greaves clerk and Doug Luther vice chair. Greaves was elected to serve as liaison with road crew.

Easement on Town Land – Board discussed request by John Patoine for a utility easement through town owned land near the South Walden Schoolhouse. Board voted to begin process to grant easement by warning the matter for 30 days.

Appointments – Board voted to appoint Lauren Johnson - service officer, Cheryl McQueeney - pound keeper, Jo Guertin - animal control officer, town listers - fence viewers, James Teuscher - weigher of coal, Elwin Brown - inspector of lumber, shingles and wood, Dave McMath - tree warden, Marvin Greaves Jr. - 911 Coordinator.

Cemetery Commission – Dennis Larrabee agreed to serve on the cemetery commission. Lina Smith was also elected but indicated that if someone else could be found to serve she would prefer having someone else take the seat.

Harrington Hill – Perley Greaves reported concern for town liability associated with private plowing of a Class 4 section of Harrington Hill. Dave Brown will research posting Class 4 roads.

Better Back Roads – Brown reported Jim Ryan from Better Backroads is helping town apply for seven more projects for 2007.

Fire Department – Perley Greaves reported a request at town meeting for a report on distribution of the Watson money for the new fire department building and provided the information for the Board.

Overweight Permit – Board signed overweight truck permit.

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I Wish We Could Sponsor a Hundred Kids

TERRY HOFFER

Lou and Cathy Brugliera have a log home on a Ryegate hillside with views that span the high peaks of the White Mountains. Their house is comfortable, and in their retirement they have the chance to live as they want. In some ways it's a modest life, but in another they have found great wealth.

"This gives our life a meaning that we haven't known since our own children left."

- Lou Brugliera

Ten years ago, Lou says, he and his wife decided to seek out the means to help a child in a poor country. They discovered an organization with world-wide connections, and for ten months they sent money and letters. "But nothing made sense," Lou says. "We weren't convinced that the responses we got were in any way related to our donations. We inquired about the people and the place where the donations were going, and what we got in return was no more than, Thanks for your Gift."

"It proved disappointing," Lou says, "and we stopped. We had lost all interest when a neighbor mentioned his own

experience as the sponsor of children in Guatemala. His association was through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging."

Known as CFCA, the lay Catholic, nonprofit organization is based in Kansas. CFCA's mission is to cultivate relationships between sponsors in the United States and children and aging people in developing countries around the world. Since 1981 CFCA has grown into a family of more than 300,000 sponsors serving over 310,000 children and elders in 26 countries.

The neighbor in Ryegate assured Lou and his wife that letters he received from his sponsored children in Central America were remarkably satisfying and the administrative costs of the CFCA were surprisingly low. [Data published by the Internet based Charity Navigator shows that CFCA uses 92.7% of its revenues for program expenses and 7.3% for administration and fundraising. Charity Navigator gives CFCA its highest rating of four stars. The American Institute of Philanthropy gives CFCA a score of A+.]

Lou and his wife submitted an application and asked for a chance to sponsor a young girl in the same area as the children sponsored by their neighbor. Soon they received a photograph of a 7-year old girl from Santiago, a tourist town in central Guatemala. "It was very low pressure," Lou says. "All we had

was this photograph, a name and a description of the girl." They were delighted, and in 2002 Lou and Cathy began sending \$20 each month as sponsorship for Andrea, the Mayan girl in the photograph, and her single parent family.

By means of letters received through a translator from Andrea, Lou and his wife learned of a younger brother named Isais. They asked if they could sponsor him as well. Since then Lou and Cathy have faithfully continued their sponsorship and letter writing, and in return they have received a stream of handwritten correspondence conveying the great appreciation of their family in Guatemala.

Lou says, they learned quickly about the doors that were opened to Andrea and her brother as a result of their sponsorship. Andrea started school, and both had the benefit of a health clinic and religious training. In an area where the average per capita income is less than \$50 a month, and government social services, as we think of them, are nonexistent, it is up to non governmental organizations such as CFCA to change the standard of living. CFCA has been active in Guatemala since 1987 and has expanded its reach in the country to 80,623 sponsored children, 2,652 sponsored elderly, 324 college scholarships and 131 students studying in seminaries.

CFCA, Lou says, will provide classes in parenting, nutrition, health care, cooking and



Photo Courtesy of Lou and Cathy Brugliera

Lou Brugliera went to San Lucas in Guatemala in February and met with the children (and their mother) that he and his wife sponsor through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. Lou says, "This gives our life a meaning that we haven't known since our own children left."

gardening and instruction in trades like weaving, pottery and jewelry making. Once a month Lou and his wife send their sponsorship donation, and he says, they usually hear in return an acknowledgment of the pencils, stickers, papers or toys that they provide. "We know she is getting these things, and through a translator she has explained what a difference it makes."

Five years ago Lou's neighbor went to Guatemala to visit the children he sponsors, and when he proposed a return trip this year, Lou jumped at the

chance to join him. In early February Lou set out for Guatemala City and a three hour van ride to the CFCA mission in San Lucas. (Cathy would have loved to have gone but her health would not allow it.) There with his neighbor he was given an orientation to the area. Lou says, "I was shocked by the poverty. Other than a homeless person living in a box there is nothing in this country to compare. I wasn't prepared for the squalor - but the remarkable thing is how happy they are. They live in bamboo or

(See *What a* on Next Page.)

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“Funny Papers” and Other Distractions

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

When I was growing up in the city, two papers plopped down outside our door quite early on Sunday morning. If we, my brother and I, were up first, it was tempting to grab the papers and pull out the bits we liked, mostly the comics. We referred to them then as the “funny papers.” But there was protocol: adults had first go at the paper and did not like having its order-

ly bulk rumbled into a dog-eared pile. When we were finally given our bits, we sprawled out and enjoyed the funnies to our hearts’ content.

I remember wondering why parents wanted to read the comic strips. But now we are parents and grandparents and still read the comics, skipping over a few that seem to lack anything that tickles our still-active funny-bones.

Sometimes I find bits of real

humor and appeal in unexpected places – little gems stuck into the colorful assortment of silliness. When I was a child I was scornful of the *New York Times* because they did not deign to include comics. *The Herald Tribune*, also a good newspaper, had some delightful strips – some quite definitely intended for adults. We read them all, from Mutt and Jeff to Mr. and Mrs., the latter having a clearly adult approach to humor.

In a much later segment of my life, my husband and I owned a small weekly newspaper. It was my task, which I cherished, to seek out examples of local people who were living constructive lives – or just plain enjoying themselves. I searched far and wide for nuggets of sweetness, often laced with a chuckle, to lighten up the tough collection of dreariness that had to be printed. I would drive around the rather dull town looking for people who appeared to be happy or engaged in fun activities. They were not resentful of being approached but rather liked having their pictures and stories in our folksy little paper. I don’t do this anymore, of course, but I get rather the same pleasure out of reading to some shut-in friends I have, laughing with them over a delightful book.

In this time of seemingly endless horror, as well as the discouraging news that confronts us daily on TV and in the papers, it is pleasant to have the contrast of wit, even if it tends to be corny. We have become quite addicted to Saturday morning on the radio (VPR, of course) with *Car Talk* and *Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me*. These are funny, clever and sometimes quite sophisticated.

I’m happy that our good old *North Star* offers enjoyment in various forms, trying and suc-

ceeding in not spreading doom and gloom on its pages. This is done not just by including humor, but also by highlighting the best and most special aspects of life in our area. We are lucky to live in a place where so much good stuff is going on. And our editor is so good at encouraging writers who can offer a variety of positive and interesting reports and viewpoints to fill the columns. Our *North Star* shines brightly over our everyday lives.

What a difference these small contributions make

(Continued from Page 22)

block houses with tin roofs and dirt floors and maybe they have electricity and maybe they have running water. It makes you realize just how much we have and how much we waste. They live on so little, and we expect so much.”

Lou says, “The child survival rate in Guatemala is low, and the suicide rate of young men is high because fathers find they are ashamed by being unable to care for their families.”

Lou and his neighbor were among 31 visiting sponsors, and he says, “When we met our kids on that Tuesday, there wasn’t a dry eye in the place. At the end of the day we were drained.”

Lou had taken with him six bars of Ivory soap, toothpaste, a cross from his wife and a clock to give to the children’s mother. He had a stuffed rabbit wearing bunny slippers, crayons and a

calculator for Andrea and a set of toy trucks for Isais. Lou says, “It’s impossible to explain the satisfaction in seeing what a difference these small contributions make. They appreciate us more than a lot of Americans appreciate their own families and all that they provide.”

Lou says, “You never hear kids in Guatemala say I’m bored. Kids in this country have no idea how lucky they are.”

Lou says, “There is no sense of entitlement as we have come to see it in this country. They are so grateful, and they take nothing for granted. Andrea and Isais’ mother thanked me over and

over again because she can do things for her children that have never been done before in her family. She thanked me for picking them, and all I wanted to do was thank her.

“I wish we could sponsor a hundred kids - we can’t, but if we can get others to do this we’ve really accomplished something beyond what our fixed income will allow.”

Cathy says, “You know the song that goes ... and let it start with me? That’s just the way we feel about it. It’s almost as good as a second family. We are the fortunate ones.” ★



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This Land Would Be Too Good for Development

TERRY HOFFER

"When we were students at Yale Law School we stuck out like sore thumbs." Peter Griffin holds no ill will against his law school classmates, most of whom he describes as "born to be lawyers," but as winter's grip starts to loosen in South Peacham he and his wife show a genuine affection for their tomato seedlings. "It's a passion," he says, "that I've never had with anything else."

Peter grew up in the suburbs of New York and those of Minneapolis with expectations that he'd get a job and a profession. "But," he says, "I always saw myself as a farmer. I worked through the University of Minnesota as a produce buyer in a health food store and started a community garden. That's where I began my education in affordable farming."

Following college Peter stepped through, what he calls, an "open door" to law school, and

there he met classmate Maryellen.

Maryellen was a Harvard graduate and a product of the outer suburbs of Boston. She was a VISTA volunteer in Oklahoma for a year working with farmers and issues relating to poverty and housing before returning to New England and Yale. "I had this idea that I'd get a job as a lawyer and buy a farm," she says. "I had a Halloween party at the time, and I asked people to come dressed as what they'd be if they weren't a lawyer. My costume was that of a farmer."

After law school both Peter and Maryellen found work in Legal Aid offices in southeastern Connecticut, but the call of farming was strong. "We had compost and worms in the basement of our apartment building, and we were driving an hour each way to our garden," she says. "We spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to do what we really wanted."

In the fall of 2001 Peter spotted a real estate listing for a farm in the Northeast Kingdom, and they tracked down an old friend practicing law in St. Johnsbury. The friend described a staff opening with the Legal Aid office in St. Johnsbury, and Peter and Maryellen hit the road for Vermont.

Maryellen was hired for the Legal Aid job and started working part time. Peter found work doing legal research and writing, also part time, and they resumed their quest for land. In September, a year later, they saw the South Peacham property known as the Old Shaw Farm, and after appealing to the seller's concern for its 158 acres and conservation easement, they made a "very low

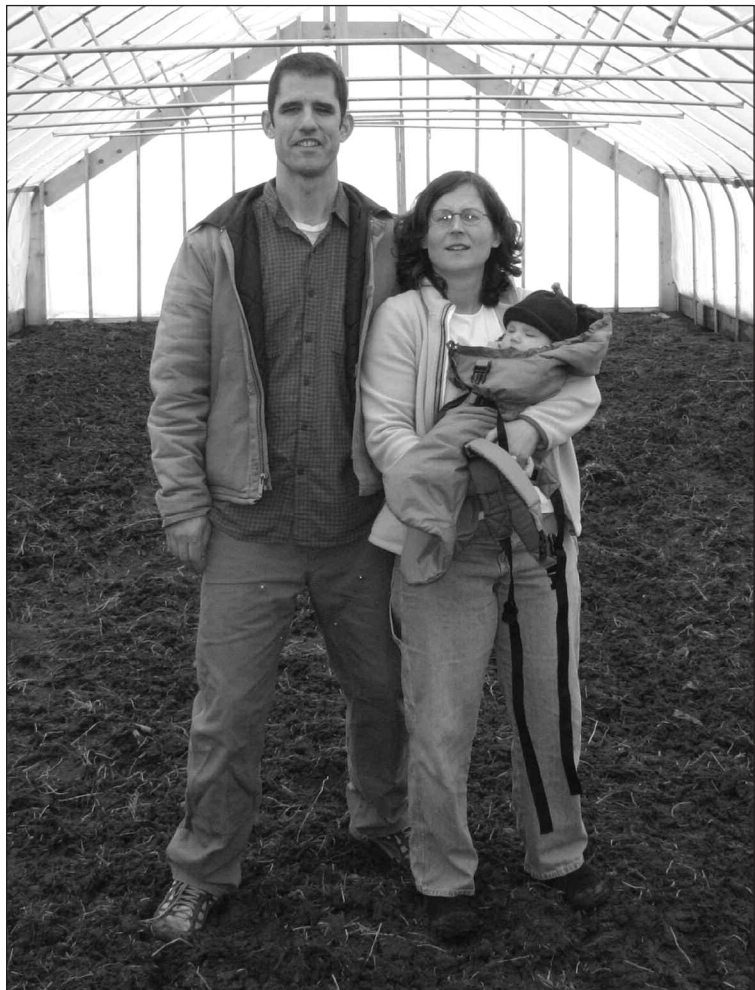


Photo By: North Star Monthly

Peter and Maryellen Griffin (with son Henry) look forward to keeping the Old Shaw Farm in agricultural use.



The Old Shaw Farm has always been a family affair.

offer," and it was accepted. Maryellen says, "The seller cared about the future of the land and appreciated that our vision was agriculture."

Peter speaks with great appreciation for the quality of their South Peacham soil and the fact that they have 20-acres of well drained, gently sloping land for

vegetables. Since 2002, they have expanded from selling a few vegetables from the porch of their home in 2003, to a one member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in 2004, to 19 members in 2005. This year they will sell at the weekly farmers' markets in Danville and Waitsfield and expand their CSA



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Kay (Shaw) Johnston, Maryellen Griffin and Agnes Shaw compare mental notes and family photographs of the Old Shaw Farm.

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Still known as the Old Shaw Farm, the Griffins sell certified organic vegetables with no small amount of reverence for the Shaw family, which bought the South Peacham property in 1871 and kept it an active farm and popular tourist home for more than one hundred years.

Agnes Shaw and Kay (Shaw) Johnston live in Montpelier. There were four children. "We were all born at the house," Kay says, "and we always had a good time. We did our share of farm work, and my mother started taking guests in 1924 after Gilbert, the oldest, went off to college. She said that if we gave up our rooms we could take in guests,

and it was just part of what we did. There was always somebody staying there."

"We didn't have toys, but we played outdoors and we made our own entertainment," says Agnes.

Kay says, "Mother always said this land was too good for development, and we always hoped it would stay in agriculture. My father said he could cut more hay per acre than any other farm around."

Agnes says, "My mother would be so happy - so would Dad."

Maryellen says, "That's a



Last year there was a bumper crop of winter squash.

wonderful heritage, and we don't take it lightly. It seems that our members care about family farming and they care about the history of this place as well. We've expanded each year and our hopes are high. There's a long tra-

dition and we'd like to carry it on."

For information about the Old Shaw Farm, the Griffins or Community Supported Agriculture see www.oldshawfarm.com or call (802) 592-3349. ★

membership.

Peter says, "I like the diversity of 30 to 40 different products and juggling the schedule. Planning and rotating has an intellectual side to it that I like. Choices we have made are about interacting with people and selling freshness, taste and a relationship with the grower. We think

that has real value and people will seek it out - and pay for it." Peter has reason to think it will work. As he adjusts the lights over his tomato seedlings he says, "I saw a man bring 1,200 pounds of organic tomatoes to the Waitsfield farmers' market in early July last year, and at \$3 a pound by 11 o'clock they were gone."

Peter and Maryellen planted their first seeds this year on January 21. They made a second planting on February 13, and they will move the young plants into one of three heated greenhouses in March.

Peter says, "It's a steep learning curve, but we'd like to double our memberships and ultimately do this full time as a sustainable enterprise that works for our family and is good for the community, too."

"When we were students at Yale Law School we stuck out like sore thumbs."



Griffin Family Photograph
Waverly Griffin is dwarfed by tomato plants last summer.

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Danville Service Center Changing Hands

After 33 years Arnie Foster (center) is passing the wrench at the Danville Service Center to Dan Augeri (left). Dan has been Arnie's employee for 20 years.

A fixture at the Danville Service Center since 1973, Foster looks forward to a well-earned retirement. "I want to thank our customers for their support and patronage and I look forward to Dan carrying on," he says. "Dan is a top quality ASE certified mechanic and he has Jared Gamble (right) who joins him as the best second man we've ever had."

Photo By: North Star Monthly



No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

Spring is reason to rejoice. The astrological events of Easter, Passover and the Vernal Equinox renew our confidence in the sun shining on us every day. And, no matter what your celebration, there are foods that hail the end of winter and, more importantly, the end of Lenten fasting.

The Italian tradition I grew up with celebrates this season and the holiday of Easter with a great deal of cooking. You not only cook for yourself, but the tradition extends to gifts of food for friends and relatives. Over the years 'who cooks what' becomes an unspoken entity. Aunt Mary always makes the ham pie, Aunt Rose does the cheesecake and everyone waits for Aunt Jo's Sweet Rice Pie to appear at the front door. Italian cooks are busy at this time of year.

I share a few memorable dishes that I looked forward to each Easter season. Don't be afraid of the rich ingredients – after all we have just finished our Lenten fast.

Easter Meat Pie

This savory dish is also called Pizza Rustica or Easter Pizza although it is more like a quiche than a pizza. All the recipes that have ever been given to me for this dish make enough to feed all of Rome. You didn't just make this for your family but everyone you knew. I have cut it down to one pie, but don't hesitate to double or triple the recipe and share the wealth. You can also substitute the meats in this pie. The ham is essential, so add more if you don't have prosciutto. Cooked, drained and crumbled Italian sausage can be substituted for the salami.

This crust recipe, with its hint of sweetness, is classic in this dish, but you can use any piecrust you are familiar with.

- Crust:**
 2 cups flour
 2 eggs slightly beaten
 Pinch of salt
 1 stick (¼ lb) of butter – cut into small pieces
 Scant ¼ cup sugar

3 tablespoons ice water

Mix all the ingredients in the food processor fitted with the steel blade, and pulse until it all starts to come together in a dough. If you don't have a processor – mix the ingredients and knead them just till they have formed a dough. Shape it into a single ball and refrigerate it for at least an hour.

- Filling:**
 ¼ lb Genoa salami or Sopressata – sliced and coarsely chopped
 ¾ cup baked ham – small cubes
 ¼ lb prosciutto – thin sliced and coarsely chopped
 ¾ cup grated parmesan cheese
 1½ cups ricotta cheese
 ½ lb farmers cheese (can substitute more ricotta)
 ¼ lb mozzarella cheese – grated
 5 eggs – slightly beaten
 ½ cup heavy cream
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 pepper

Preheat the oven to 400°. Chop and measure all ingredients for the filling. As you measure you can put them all in the same large mixing bowl. Take the dough out of the refrigerator and roll out to fit the pan you are using. I make this

recipe in a large (14") au gratin pan, but you can make two 8" pies with it or more traditionally one large (9"x14") baking pan. The bottom crust will have to be cut to fit the entire bottom and sides of the dish used. It might take some piecing together.

Roll out a top crust for the pie.

Mix all the ingredients in your bowl till well combined, and empty them into the crust. Put the top crust on and pinch to seal.

Bake at 400° for 20 minutes and then turn the oven to 325° for another 20 minutes. The crust should be golden brown and well cooked.

This dish is really a dinner unto itself. A salad is all that is needed.

Foods that hail the end of winter and, more importantly, the end of Lenten fasting.

dough. It might require a little extra milk or a little extra flour to reach this stage. Knead the dough on floured surface for about 10 minutes. Put in a lightly oiled bowl with a towel over it for about an hour or until it has doubled in bulk. It may take longer depending on how cold the ingredients you used were.

Color the small white eggs. Heat 3 cups of water and ¼ cup of white vinegar to boiling. Put an egg in a small cup and add the water to cover – put in a few drops of food coloring and let the egg sit for a minute. Take out to dry. Repeat with different colors.

Punch the risen dough down gently and knead it into a long 1½" rope. Put it on the baking sheet you will use and fold into a horseshoe shape. Starting at the top - place one of the colored eggs in the dough. Then twist one side over the other, place another egg in the semi braid and keep going in this fashion to the end. This is a little tricky and may not come out perfect the first time, but the cooking and rising processes hide a multitude of sins, and the taste will always be wonderful. Put a towel over the braid and let double in size again. Brush the top of the dough (avoid the eggs) with an egg wash and cook in a 350° oven for about 45 minutes to one hour. It should be nicely browned on top and not push down too easily. Cool before trying to move it or wrap it.

Braided Easter Bread

This is a rich bread resembling a challah with the added adornment of colored eggs peeking out of the braid. It makes a great hostess gift and truly speaks to the season. Double this recipe and freeze one without the colored eggs.

- 3½ cups flour
 ¼ lb butter (1 stick) soft room temperature
 ¾ cup sugar
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 4 eggs
 4 egg yolks
 ½ cup milk
 2¼ tablespoons active dry yeast
 zest from ½ lemon (fresh grated)
 zest from ½ orange (fresh grated)
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 5 small white eggs for coloring

Measure the flour and set aside in a large mixing bowl. Cream the butter and sugar together lightly and then add salt, eggs and yolks, milk, lemon and orange zest and vanilla and mix ingredients by hand. In a cup mix the yeast with a little lukewarm water to dissolve it and add to these ingredients. Stir until all is combined. Make a well in the flour, and pour the mix into the center. Mix until you have a soft

Sweet Easter Rice Pie

This is a simple and delicious recipe that can be made any time of year. The recipe makes 1 large (9½" deep dish) pie or 2 smaller (8" shallow dish) pies.

Crust:
 I use the same crust as the recipe above for the meat pie but
(Concluded on Next Page)



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The Cork & Bottle

Gerd Hirschmann

There is actually no such thing as 'organic wine', but rather there are wines made from organically grown grapes. Growing grapes is much like growing any other fruit or vegetable, but the vine can be a particularly fussy plant. Depending on where the vines are planted, a grower can be faced with a multitude of pests and diseases, and without the use of pesticides will have to find different ways of protecting the plants. But it is the way he cultivates his vineyard that determines whether his wine will qualify as organic, not the way he produces the wine.

Organic viticulture prohibits the use of chemical pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers - any treatments must be natural. The chemicals used in conventional vine growing can potentially end up in the wine as residue, and ultimately in the drinker, so why isn't all wine organic?

Soil is one reason. Depending on where in the world (and even where in the vineyard) the vines are grown, the soil will vary in its make-up. A holistic approach to organic farming that works with, rather than against natural systems is believing that the driving force

behind sustainability and environmental preservation comes through a healthy living soil.

The commercial viability of working an organic vineyard is also largely dependent on climate. While organic wines are produced in most major wine regions, it is only those areas with a warm, dry climate with less risk of fungal diseases - and therefore less need for chemical sprays - that can hope to regularly produce commercial quantities of high-quality grapes. Organic vineyards tend to result in a reduction of crops, and together with labor-intensive production are less profitable for most wine-makers.

Working with natural fertilizers and pesticides and doing away with herbicides is recognized by innovative producers as a way to achieve higher quality. The lack of use of chemical compounds, such as weed-killers, fertilizers, etc maintains and increases the soils biological activity. It is based on the concept that all living organisms of the ecosystem are allies to the labor of the organic farmer. Consequently, they should not be ill treated or attacked.

Vines growing within a bal-

anced organic eco-system are harmonious, healthy and low production plants. Small grain grapes are obtained with a nice relationship between surface, skin, and pulp, resulting in wines with good concentration in tannins, nice alcoholic level and an excellent bouquet and flavor complexity, expressing the typical character of the varietal and the native soil.

One country that is particularly suited for organic viticulture is Argentina with its dry climate and soil. Its global remoteness keeps many pests and diseases from affecting the grapes, but adds to the logistics of getting the wine to global markets.

Historically, Argentina has produced large volumes of high-yielding vines liberally fed by Andean irrigation water. But as the sights of producers have turned from the thirsty domestic consumers towards lucrative export markets, an effort has been made to raise the standard. In fact, exports have increased tenfold over the last four years, with most going to Britain and the US.

What Argentina really needs is an image such as currently enjoyed by Australia and New Zealand. It does not help that Argentina really is an unknown quantity in the US. Few visit Argentina, and it seldom gets into the consciousness of the average citizen. The danger is that Argentinean wines end up fighting it out at the lower price points instead of being sold on the basis of their 'Argentinean-ness'.

Argentina has more to offer than run-of-the-mill Chardonnays and Cabernets. In particular the likes of Malbec, Torrontes, Bonarda, Sangiovese, and

Tempranillo offer the opportunity to produce tasty wines with some uniquely Argentinean character. Adding to that character could be low-cost organic wines that attract attention. A successful combination of organic and Fair Trade certificates would also greatly

improve the image. The Fair Trade label enjoys particular popularity among those that care about organic practices and social fairness.

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

Vernal Pool

While walking in the woods
We found the vernal pool.
Dark and silent water,
Despite sun gleaming through budding branches.

Stems of emerald grass
Rose above the surface in clusters.
Oases of green, miniature islands,
Relieving the sensation of remoteness.

Beech saplings with smooth gray bark,
And branches showing delicate new leaves,
Gave a sense of grace and light.
Evoking a magical Spirit of Spring.

From a distance, no sign of life.
But days before, a mallard settled there
Searching for food,
Or maybe peace.

We did not look beneath the surface,
But pools like this are transient nurseries
For many forms of life.
Vanishing as spring gives way to summer.

In all, the pool was mystical.
Never quite the same from hour to hour,
Or spring to spring.
Returning to serve its purpose in the complexity of life.

Isobel P. Swartz

No Small Potatoes

add some grated lemon and orange rind and double the sugar.

It makes a little more than you will need for 2 pies - cut the recipe in half or freeze some for future use.

Filling:

- 1½ cups ricotta cheese
- 4 oz softened cream cheese
- 4 eggs separated
- ½ cup sugar
- zest of ½ lemon
- zest of ½ orange
- small pinch of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup well cooked and cooled rice (I like a soft rice like sushi rice or Arborio rice)

Preheat oven to 350°.

Line two small or one large pie plate with the crust you are using. Set aside.

Beat the ricotta cheese with the cream cheese until smooth. Add the yolks, zest and sugar - mix until well combined and smooth.

Beat the egg whites until stiff and fold into the mixture. Pour into the pie shell and bake for about 30 minutes for the large pie and 20 minutes for the small ones. When they appear set in the middle and the crust is browned they are done. Do not overcook.

Let cool and serve with whipped cream. ★

David Toll, M.D.

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This Potter Is in a World of Her Own

TERRY HOFFER

This is beautiful old farmland in Passumpsic with views that fade away over the valley of the upper Connecticut River. It's the kind of place that makes you stop and admire whatever Mother Nature is throwing at you and smile. But here in her pottery studio Donna Marshall is in a world of her own.

Marshall and her husband bought this property in the 1960's following their stints in the Peace Corps in Morocco. And finally after careers in education that included positions at St. Johnsbury Academy, the Peacham School and Applewild School in Fitchburg, MA, they found the chance and the opportunity to return to the old farm full time. In 1990 Donna



Donna Marshall has taught pottery, but the experience she most likes to talk about is that as a student. She worked with potters like Betty Gilson, a potter for many years in Danville. Marshall says, "Betty taught me resiliency - to be patient and recover from failure. There's always the element of hope that when you open the kiln all will be well. Betty would often say 'Don't let disappointment get you down.' And that's the way pottery is."



Photos By: North Star Monthly

Centering is an expression known to all potters. It's a reference to turning the clay in a spinning unwobbling form, and centering, too, is a metaphor for being focused and undistracted.

Marshall created this pottery studio with space for two potter's wheels, an electric kiln, her books and emerging design ideas and shelves for works-in-progress. It's a compact and efficient space, and the broad windows invite you to look outside, but Marshall is intent on the process of pottery.

Centering is an expression known to all potters. It's a reference to throwing the clay onto the spinning potter's wheel and bringing the lump of clay into a spinning, unwobbling form, which will then be free to take on any number of shapes as potter and clay press against each other. The pressure takes as much as it gives. There is a sort of mysteri-

ous music that takes place between clay and hands, and as the wheel spins the composition - sometimes a simple tune and sometimes a complex symphony - emerges in the form of a vase, a cup or a bowl.

Potters talk about centering, too, as a metaphor for being focused and undistracted. Centering is the act of letting your experience and self confidence take over to the point of, as Marshall says, "going beyond the cognitive stuff."

Marshall has taught pottery in the past, and she has a delightful ability of being able to articulate the details of the process even while seemingly focused and undistracted. It's a privilege to

watch and to listen.

Pottery is about chemistry and physics and no small quantity of art. There is the clay, as Marshall says, made of tiny disk-shaped particles. When the clay is dry the particles are like dusty powder, but add water and press them and knead them together and the tiny particles cling together like wet playing cards in a deck. Slowly the dusty powder turns to smooth, pliable, (she uses the expression "plastic") clay.

Marshall buys dry clay, and following her own time-tested formula, she mixes it with water and grog (that's crushed once-fired clay) and strains the muddy mixture to remove any remaining irregularities. Then the clay rests as the water and clay particles become one. When Marshall is ready to use the soft muddy material she cuts it into thin slices allowing them to dry to optimum consistency.

With a piece cut and weighed to suit the object she is making (a small cup would require less clay and hence a smaller piece than, for instance, a large bowl) she "throws" the clay on the wheel and begins the process of centering.

Marshall says, "It's like learning to ride a bicycle. It seems terribly difficult at first, but once you get it - you get it." With sun from a south window shining on her shoulders she demonstrates by making a coffee mug.

"You bring the form up as you shape it ... you work with your hands supporting each other ... as the form grows in height you open it up to a cylinder ... if you want a flair as you might on a bowl you let it out from the center ... I like to have a beaded edge around the top of the mug ... it feels better when you drink from it ... And when the shape is complete you give it the final surface texture, the complexion - and there is the mug and you're



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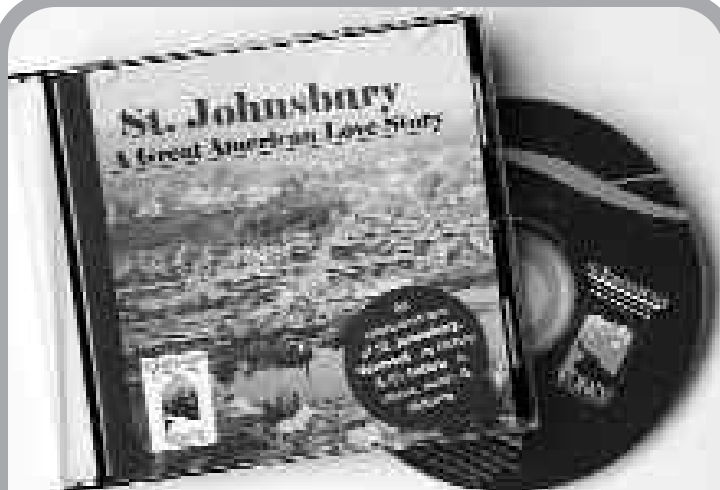
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Some of Donna Marshall's pottery is fairly traditional in form but unusual in its patterns of glazing. These mugs and vases are decorated with shapes from the natural environment.

of the finish that inspire and prompt a second look and a third.

Another series she is creating is a group of apples. Not turned on the wheel but formed by hand they are solid and captivating for their realism. They will be glazed green or yellow, and when fired they will be nearly as appealing as those pulled from a branch on a tree.

Marshall's work is striking, and it is fitting that it is derived from this studio setting surrounded by sunny windows. "I put a lot of feeling, a lot of care into each piece," she says. "If people find it to be beautiful and useful and it adds to their lives - that's my gift."

Marshall likes to credit her mentor Betty Gilson, a potter for many years in Danville. "She taught me resiliency - to be patient and recover from failure. There's always the element of hope that when you open the kiln all will be well. Betty would often say 'Don't let disappointment get you down.' And that's the way pottery is."

Donna Marshall's pottery is on display at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild in St. Johnsbury. ★

beyond the notion of its form. She likens it to a woman wearing heavy perfume, and smiles at the comparison. "Women never want to hear, 'What is that perfume?'" But the subtle essence - the undertone of a hint of perfume - might prompt someone to say, "Who is that woman?" It's a fine line but an important one, and people who admire Marshall's work are likely to understand the subtleties of her forms from nature and the textures and colors



Marshall's apples are surprisingly heavy and absolutely engaging in a fruit bowl or simply on display on a shelf.

done."

To anyone who has ever dabbled in this process and tried feebly to make it work, it is clear that this is easy for Marshall to say and to do, but for the struggling common sort this is really hard.

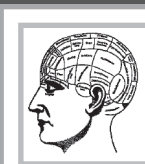
This mug will be set aside to the point that Marshall describes as "leather hard" or partially dry. Then the mug's handle will be attached, and it may get an underglaze for final color considerations and dry to be greenware. A group of greenware items will be bisque-fired or baked together slowly brought to a temperature of 1,800° for six hours and slowly cooled. Then a final glaze, a liquid suspension of ground minerals, is applied, and the mug will be fired a second and final time for 10 hours at 2,200°. Then cooled overnight the mug will be retrieved from the brick lined kiln and be ready for sale.

Marshall's clay, because of its blend, is a stoneware clay, which makes a more durable final product than lightweight pottery.

Her work, she admits, is inspired by the natural world, and she offers a glance at her sketchbook with emerging ideas from beach walks or wandering in the woods of Passumpsic. Marshall has a group of bowls into which she has pressed ferns and painted over their feathery leaves with glaze. After the glaze dries she pulls the leaves out leaving a negative image of the fern. When finished the form of the ferns seem to float around the inside of the bowl in an imaginary dance of the forest.

Another small vase suggests a sea urchin. Marshall says, "I saw that shape one day on the beach." She hesitates, and then she says, "I'm giving my due to the sea urchin. I hope that little animal appreciates it."

Marshall describes the decoration of her work as a compliment to its form, and she doesn't want her glaze to lift the final product and put it somewhere



Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

I'm writing you for me and my brother and my sister. I'm 14 years old and they are 11 and 8. Ever since Christmas time Mom and Dad have been having terrible arguments almost every day. Dave's school grades are going down and Cindy has started having bad nightmares. We are all scared our parents are going to get divorced.

We don't know if or how you could help, but we had to try something. Please help.

Scared in Caledonia

Dear Scared,

We'll try to help in two ways: first we'll write about the situation that your parents seem to be in, and then we'll offer some suggestions.

Start by realizing that all couples have to fight sometimes. (Although you wrote of terrible arguments, it doesn't sound like anyone is getting physically hurt or threatened. If that is the case, you have to tell another adult you trust right away.) It is important to also understand that there are many different styles or ways of fighting. We are quite sure that something about the style of your parents' arguing has changed or their arguments would seem normal to you and not scary. When adults change their style of fighting it often means that one of them wants to change the relationship in some pretty basic way and that the other wants things to go on as usual. From what you have written, we have no idea what the issues or reasons are that are causing your parents' arguments. Perhaps the fights are about jobs, money, moving or not moving or another person. We can only guess.

While it may be true that your parents are heading toward a divorce, the heavy fighting is a pretty good indication they are still trying to work things out. It would be much better for them to find another way or another place to do this working out so that the level of fear your kids are experiencing decreases.

We suggest you leave a copy of this letter out where both your parents will see it. If that doesn't work, perhaps there is another grownup living near by to whom you could explain the situation. An aunt, an uncle or grandparent might do, even a minister, priest, rabbi or a school counselor would probably be glad to try to help. At the very least another adult could listen and evaluate what is going on and have some more suggestions for you.

We hope this frightening time will soon be over for you. We know it is painful to be very frightened all the time. Let us know how you are doing and if we can help with anything else. Good luck.

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

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Not as Cuddly as Bunnies or Ducklings but There Is Nothing Like a Summer Pig

BRUCE HOYT

As the land first appears from under its long burden of snow, it brings on an impatience to see things growing again. For some, that impatience turns toward planning for a garden. For others, animal husbandry beckons. Chicks and lambs and even dairy replacement calves can lure the otherwise sensible person into small-time agriculture.

Not to be overlooked in this hierarchy of choices comes the summer pig. Not as cuddly as bunnies or ducklings, a baby pig lined up with its suckling siblings on the contented sow has an attractiveness of its own.

Homer Johnson, a fellow employee where I worked, kept

hogs for breeding. He convinced me that a small investment in the spring would yield a good return in the fall, so I went to visit his small barn in Lyndonville where

another pen so a little shoat came home with us in a cardboard box to our Joe's Brook home.

We kept him in our barn for a time, feeding him on a grain store mix. The vet came and made necessary changes because meat of an ungelded male would have a less desirable taste. As warmer weather came the pig was provided a pig house with a burrap door in an electric fenced area behind the house. The thought was that the he would root out weeds in what could become next year's garden. It didn't take long. A pig's nose has the digging power of an army entrenching tool. In fact, a clothier of the early 20th century bragged "Fincks Work Garments: Wear like a Pig's Nose." The idea was revealed to be less clever than planned: In the clay soil laid down in some ancient lake bed, the pig's nar-

row hooves were like spike heels on a hefty lady; the proposed garden plot turned solid as airport tarmac.

Pigs are smart. Ours soon learned to short out the electric fence by pushing his feeding trough up against the wire and then escaping to root in nearby gardens. Enticed to return for supper each time, this game went on until a knock-down, high voltage fencer was purchased.

Pigs are also companionable. One family up in the county brought theirs home and let it stay in the house but soon learned that there are no doors that will convince a housebroken 200 pound hog that it should live outside in the cold. Although most pig husbands don't keep their animals as pets, there is satisfaction in talking to an appreciative and attentive pig that is enjoying a few scratches behind the ears.

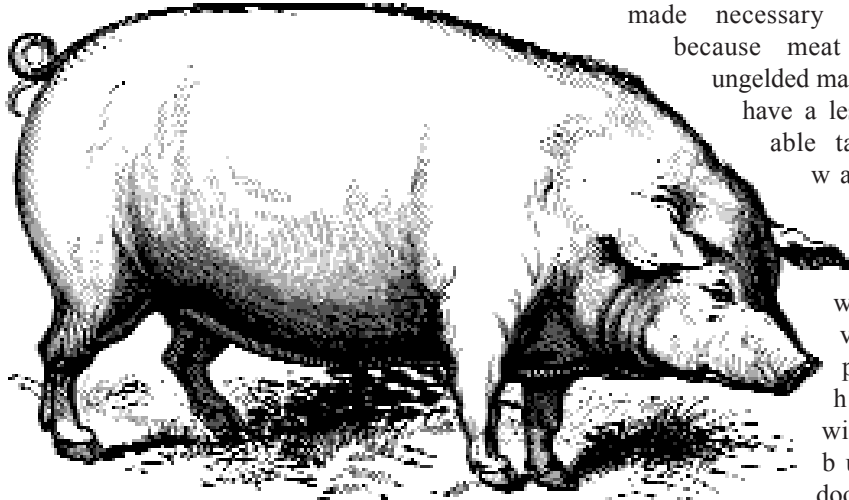
There is a story - perhaps only the product of a mischievous imagination and a long winter— about an old bachelor who enjoyed talking to his pigs but found that their attention spans were shorter than the topic of conversation. He began interspersing his talk with whistling to keep them focused on what he had to say. According to legend, he even kept this habit when he came to town to buy groceries.

A summer pig changes garden vegetables, like excess zucchini and raccoon damaged corn, into pork chops. To express appreciation for this marvelous transformation most owners name their pigs in a way that lets

them know how much they are valued. Names like "Pork Chops" come to mind ("filet de pore aux pruneaux" or other gourmet names might be too long). We gave our pigs names like "Copious" and "Bountiful." One summer, however, our pig seemed to especially enjoy lounging in his muddy pen. We named that one "Primary Standard" and invited our friends to come and see if they were happier or less happy than a pig in a wallow.

My grandparents raised pigs on this same farm. Their wooden sty dissolved long ago, but some of the seeds in the last apples they threw into their pen are a too-dense orchard with fruit suitable only for the deer that venture close to the farmstead.

In addition to the apples and garden leftovers, these pigs grew fat on skim milk. The main product of this eight-Jersey farm was rich creamy milk to be made into butter. An important step in this manufacture was accomplished by the Delaval Separator, an ingenious centrifuge device of enclosed, spinning, stacked



farrowing pens kept individual sows and their offspring. In each pen, a grating with piglet-wide spacing allowed escape to an adjacent space as a precaution against accidental crushing by the sow. Weaned pigs from an earlier litter were for sale in

cones that sent the more dense skim milk out to one spout while the cream floated out another. Cranked by hand, the device required no more power than that of a 10-year-old boy.

A summer pig changes garden vegetables, like excess zucchini and raccoon damaged corn, into pork chops.

The skim milk would have been a waste product but it was fed, with a bit of grain, to pigs. "Stopping the pigs" was certainly the correct phrase for emptying a bucket of this mixture into the trough. At times there was an excess of skim milk, and it was poured into a wooden barrel near the separator, where it gradually

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	11 A.M. What, What... Don't Tell Me!	
Performance Today	Noon Interlude	A Prairie Home Companion
Fresh Air with Terry Gross	1 P.M. Saturday Afternoon at the Opera with Peter Fox Smith	All The Traditions with Robert Resnik
All Things Considered with Neal Chamoff	2 P.M. Weekend All Things Considered	
Marketplace	3 P.M. A Prairie Home Companion	From the Top
(Wed) Living on Earth (Thu & Fri) Switchboard (Wed) Sing Traveler (Fri) Mountain Newsstand	4 P.M. The Blue & Green	Can't Help Fallin' for You
Riverwalk	5 P.M. My Place	The American Life
The NPR 100	6 P.M. Hearts of Space	Sound and Spirit
Jazz with George Thomas	7 P.M. Classical Music	
Classical Music	8 P.M. My Place	
	9 P.M. Hearts of Space	
	10 P.M. Classical Music	
	11 P.M. Hearts of Space	
	Midnight	

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April 2 Half Magic by Edward Eager
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Cobleigh Library Wants Everyone Reading - Travel Far, Pay No Fare

Cobleigh Communities Read has launched the next community-wide read for people of all ages with the book *Travel Far, Pay No Fare* by Anne Lindbergh. Thanks to a generous donation of 500 books by Reeve Lindbergh, adults and children who want to join in the community read can pick up a free copy of this book. Books may be found at elementary schools in Burke, East

Haven, Granby, Lyndon, Newark, Sheffield, Sutton and Wheelock. Riverside, LEARN, Lyndon Institute, Lyndon State College, Granby, Green Mountain Books, Books on Wheels II and the Cobleigh Public Library in Lyndonville will have copies. Read a copy, sign it, if you wish, and pass it along for someone else to enjoy! *Travel Far, Pay No Fare* was

published in 1992. Anne Lindbergh, the author, lived in the Northeast Kingdom raising her family, teaching and writing until she passed away in 1993. The book is dedicated, "For the children at Riverside School, who went inside this story and changed a few things." It would be interesting to find out what those children changed and how they influenced the story. The

book is a wondrous tale about two families that meet, one from the city and one from Vermont, and how the children learn they can literally travel into stories by using a magic bookmark.

Best of all, members of the committee understand the pleasure of meeting people in the grocery store, at a game, in school or at the nursing home and talking about the same book.

The community-wide read was formerly called Lyndon Reads. Previous books read by the community are *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt, *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo and *The Great Gilly Hopkins, Bridge To Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson

Some say the best part of reading a book community-wide is discussing it. Join us and the other readers for a celebration of this great book during National Library Week on Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Lyndon Institute Cafeteria. Frank Green will lead the book discussion, and Reeve Lindbergh will talk about her sister the author. Audience discussion is welcome. There will be door prizes given away and refreshments served. For more information call the Cobleigh Library at (802) 626-5475. ★

A committee of adults and, this year, children, was established to bring this program together. The Cobleigh Library seeks to share the joy of reading and talking about books and hopes this will inspire others to read aloud to children and adults.

They Wear Like a Pig's Nose

formed into a cottage cheese, which floated to the top. This, too, became part of the porkers diet. Always covered with flies, it was not attractive fare.

become lard for all baking and frying needs in the farm kitchen. A crispy and delicious by-product called cracklins was spread out on brown paper bags to drain and cool before being sprinkled with salt and consumed.

exchange by remembering that the patient listener had lived a summer life, free of stinging sleet and bone chilling cold. He might even be reincarnated as next year's summer pig.

Vermont Tourism Goes Deep into 19th Century

Rural Vermont and its historical relationship with tourism go back more than a century to the Gilded era following the Civil War when the urban rich started coming to Vermont and sometimes settled here. Tensions resulting from this mix of urban and rural societies and politics were a major element in Vermont's evolution.

The pigs started their lives in the barn early in the spring. Two or three were selected, and the other shoats were sold. When fall turned cold, each massive hog was roped on a hind leg and led

Some time in the fall, before deer season, our own summer pig chores came to an end. An appointment was made. The fairly cooperative animal was coaxed into a borrowed, slatted crate and for the second and last time taken for a ride. Ever calm and expert at his work, charcutier Bub Dresser dispatched the animal and dispersed the carcass to ham smokers, sausage makers and others, who returned the meat in labeled and wrapped white packages conveniently sized for a home freezer.

Of course a summer pig is not for everyone. As with any animal, except those out to pasture, feeding is required morning and evening, disallowing vacations and interrupting day activities. When chore time comes, one has to leave. My grandmother, even late in life when she lived in town, used to imitate a neighbor, saying "I've got to go home now and feed my 'kashaw'." Years later I realized her acknowledgment of daily chores referred to a pig. Her neighbor had brought along a remnant of French when he came down from Quebec and was saying "couchon" - as in pig. ★

LSC History Professor Dr. Paul Searls covers that era in his new book, *Two Vermonts: Geography and Identity, 1865 - 1910*. Searls will speak at LSC's Samuel Read Hall Library about that era and the evolution of Vermont society and politics.

The discussion will be on Wednesday, April 12 at 3:00 p.m. at the college library. The event is sponsored by the LSC Bookstore and the Samuel Read Hall Library. Copies of *Two Vermonts* will be available for sale at the event. For more information, please call Garet Nelson at the Library or Steve Rheume at the LSC Bookstore. ★

up to the main floor of the barn where a barrel of water steamed menacingly. I never saw the next step because my grandmother took me on a walk up the road. But I heard it. When we returned the slaughtered hog, stuck and bled, was hanging by a leg chained to a block and tackle on a beam over the hot water, and the men were standing on the bloody floor scraping bristles.

The meat was preserved by smoking hams, making and canning mincemeat, preparing sausage, putting strips of pork fat down into large crocks with layers of salt where they became salt pork. Much of the remaining fatback was "tried out" by heating in a kettle on the wood stove to form the melt that would

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Dag Hammarskjold, *Markings*

April 13 Maundy Thursday at the Danville United Church of Christ, 7:30 p.m.
 April 14 Good Friday at the Danville United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m. with 12 noon-3 p.m. Meditative Music in Sanctuary at Danville United Church of Christ.
 April 16 Easter Sunrise Service on the Green, 7:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship and Fellowship 8:45 a.m.
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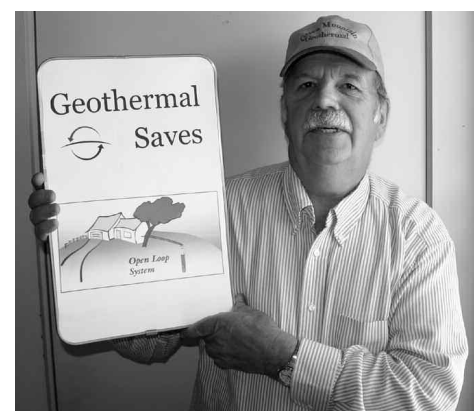
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Click & Clack Talk Cars

What Are the Downsides of Hybrids

Dear Tom and Ray:

I am currently living in Taiwan, and I don't have access to your radio show. But I can get your column! I'm hearing a lot of hype about how great hybrids are, and since I love road trips and hate expensive gas, I'm considering buying one. However, no one seems to be talking about the downsides of hybrids. If they are so great, wouldn't we have had them 20 years ago? So, what are the negative aspects of these vehicles? Thank you for your always expert advice!

- Angela

TOM: You must be getting a poor translation of our column in Taiwan, Angela. You refer to some sort of "expert advice."

RAY: Anyway, one reason we didn't have hybrids 20 years ago is that we didn't have the cheap and miniaturized computer power we have today. Computers in hybrids assess the power needs at any given moment and then switch seamlessly between the gasoline engine and the electric motor, or some combination of the two. Twenty years ago, you would have had to tow a U-Haul full of computers to get that kind of computing power. And the weight of the trailer would have halved your mileage.

TOM: So, hybrid technology has come a long way in 20 years - thanks, in large part, to the Japanese, who are doing most of the innovation. But there still are downsides to hybrids. The most obvious one is the cost. You pay a premium to drive a vehicle with a hybrid powertrain. Yes, there are

tax breaks and feel-good points for doing it. But will you make that money back in lower gasoline costs? Not quickly. Our quick, back-of-the-brake-pad-box calculation says you might save \$500 a year if gasoline is \$2.50 a gallon. But the premium for hybrids still averages several thousand dollars.

RAY: There's also the cost of the batteries. While most hybrid manufacturers are warranting their batteries for a long time (Toyota - eight years, 100,000 miles, for example), eventually the batteries may need to be replaced by the owner. It could cost you several thousand dollars to buy a new battery pack for a car that - by that time - is nine or 10 years old. That's a little different from getting a \$79.95 DieHard at Sears.

TOM: And the other potential downside is that your mileage depends a lot on precisely what kind of driving you do. Hybrids get their best mileage in stop-and-go traffic. Because the most common hybrid powertrain systems (Toyota's and Ford's) are designed so they can run on batteries alone at lower speeds, they can get higher mileage in the city than they do on the highway. So those who do a lot of highway driving (like road-trippers) might not find hybrids much better than high-mileage gasoline cars.

RAY: All that said, however, they're fabulous, Angela. And if you do a lot of city driving, a hybrid is a particularly great option. It cuts down on pollution, it helps move us toward energy independence, and it allows you to smile smugly at SUV owners when you pass a gas station while

they're loading in another 75 bucks' worth of regular.

There's More to the Story of Motor Mounts

Dear Tom and Ray:

I had my 2001 Acura TL in to an Acura dealer for the 45,000-mile check. I am not currently having any problems with the car. The dealer noted that my front motor mount is broken, and a side motor mount is damaged. The repair was quoted at more than \$600. I decided to take the car to a private shop I've used before. That mechanic told me there was nothing wrong with my motor mounts and said the car is in good shape. I always trusted the dealer prior to this incident, but now I am concerned. I do not want to be taken advantage of, but I also want a safe automobile. Would it be wise to get a third opinion? Are bad Acura motor mounts only diagnosable by Acura dealers? What is your opinion?

- Sharon

TOM: Actually, this car does have unusual motor mounts, Sharon.

RAY: What do they have? Leather seating surfaces and mood lighting?

TOM: No, they're vacuum-operated. So, when the car's computer detects certain acceleration conditions, for example, it can change the amount of vacuum acting on the motor mounts and make them stiffer. I know, that sounds like something from late-night TV, but it's true.

RAY: Actually, it's possible for an independent shop to test these mounts. The problem is, most non-Acura shops wouldn't even know there's anything unusual about them to test.

TOM: If they know how these Acura mounts work, they can use a vacuum pump to apply suction to the mounts to see if the mounts hold the vacuum. If the vacuum leaks out, they'll know there's a problem.

RAY: But just performing a traditional, visual test on them might not provide the complete story.

TOM: So the dealer probably IS a better judge of the condition of your motor mounts in this case. Whether they're actually broken or damaged, we can't say. But since you have your doubts, take the car to another Acura dealer and ask them to have a

look.

RAY: If they tell you that the vacuum portion of the mounts is faulty, ask them if it's safe to drive on them as is. I've never worked with these particular mounts, but it's possible that even without this vacuum assist, they might be perfectly safe to drive on. It may just make them nonadjustable, which you might decide is fine.

TOM: On the other hand, they could be broken in some way that is integral to their safety, and you might be forced to replace them.

RAY: But no matter what, getting the opinion of another dealer will give you some more information and ultimately peace of mind with whatever you decide. And who knows, you might even get a better price, because \$600 for this job sounds like it's at the high end of the scale.

Car Warm-ups Just Waste Gas

Dear Tom and Ray:

I live in San Jose, CA, where the weather is almost always beautiful. The temperature rarely drops below freezing, even in the winter. Yet, when I walk my son to school in the morning (any morning, not just in the winter), I often see cars sitting in driveways running, without any driver or passengers. It seems like a waste of gas to me not to mention the fact that the cars in question are often huge SUVs used to drive a child two blocks to school. I also find myself wondering how often cars are stolen when people get in the habit of doing this. My question is this: Why do people leave their cars running in the driveway for several minutes in the mornings? Does it serve some useful purpose?

- Linda

TOM: No, it doesn't, Linda. My first thought is that you shouldn't do anything. These knuckleheads are just wasting their money by burning expensive gasoline, reducing their already lousy mileage from 10 miles per gallon to nine and a half and slowly going broke. Don't interfere.

RAY: Well, that's a little harsh. You might take a kinder approach, Linda, and just move the car randomly to someone else's driveway. That'll mess with

their heads.

TOM: Actually, they probably just don't know that warming up a car is completely unnecessary. Modern cars don't need to be warmed up at all - even where there IS real winter. You start the car, you put it in gear, and if it goes - and doesn't stall it's ready to go.

RAY: Right. Driving the car at a moderate speed, without hard acceleration, for a few minutes is the fastest way to warm up an engine. You don't want to jump right on the highway and floor it; three to five minutes of "in town" driving is all it needs.

TOM: If it's bitterly cold out, like 10 degrees, you might let the engine idle for 30 seconds or a minute, just to allow the oil to fully circulate and heat up a bit. But otherwise, warming up a car is a complete waste of time and gasoline.

RAY: Now, these people might be more concerned with heating up the passenger compartment than warming up the engine. In which case, there's not much you can do, except let them go broke.

TOM: But let's assume that these folks just don't have up-to-date information. In which case, leaving a copy of this article on their windshield might be a kind way of spreading the news.

Danville Senior Action Center

April Meal Schedule

April 4 - Pasta with Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Oatmeal Cookies, Orange Juice.

April 6 - Chicken Picatta, Rice, Peas & Carrots, Wheat Rolls, Sweet Potato Pie, Tomato Juice. Library Day.

April 11 - Strombolis with Pepperoni, Ham, Salami and Vegetables, Caesar Salad with Croutons, Cantaloupe.

April 13 - Cheese and Sausage Strata, Rolls, Coleslaw with Pineapple and Raisins, Strawberry Shortcake.

April 18 - Guest Chef:

PAULA BYSTRZYCKI.
April 20 - Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Mandarin Orange and Spinach Salad, Fortune Cookies.

April 25 - White Vegetable Lasagna, Salad, Mark's Bread, V-8 Juice, Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Sauce.

April 27 - Meat loaf, Mashed Potatoes, California Vegetables, Jell-O Salad, Apple Crisp, Orange Juice. Library Day.

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.

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The Eye on the Sky Heads for Danville

Mark Breen, one of the *Eye on the Sky* meteorologists at the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium, wants you to see stars ... and planets and meteors and far away galaxies. As director of the Museum's planetarium, Mark has been studying the night sky for many years, and on April 24, he brings his experience and expertise to the Pope Memorial Library in Danville.

The Pope Library will host the first in a series of workshops, developed by the Museum, which turn to the visible constellations and phenomena that light up the night sky. Breen will help to map major star groupings, showing how to find direction, tell the seasons and look for familiar objects. His focus is on opening possibilities for people of all ages to become famil-

iar with the patterns and groupings of stars and planets, a skill that was essential for travelers before the compass was invented.

"The visible night sky offers a fascinating and ever-changing dimension to our natural world," says Breen. "For centuries, really since people started telling stories, the stars and planets have been part of the way we look at our place in the universe." In Vermont, where few streetlights mean vast visibility, the stars and planets are a joy to observe.

The Pope Memorial Library will be the first of 20 libraries across the state to host a teacher training workshop and public presentation about the night sky. A portable, interactive exhibit will stay in each library for a month after the workshop.

The workshops launched this month in Danville are part of a new partnership between the Museum and Vermont Public Radio, called "Eye on the Night Sky." This collaboration grows out of the 25-year "Eye on the Sky" partnership by keeping watch on the changing skies during both daylight and night hours. This new dimension is a pilot program funded by the new Partnership for a Nation of Learners, a collaboration of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The Museum received additional support for *Eye on the Night Sky* from the MetLife Foundation.

Please contact Shannon Anderson at the Museum (802) 748-2372 for more about Night Sky programs.

Green Mountain Youth Symphony Anniversary Concert on April 9

The Green Mountain Youth Symphony (GMYS) will perform its fifth anniversary concert at the Barre Opera House on Sunday, April 9 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will include *The Great Gate of Kiev* by Mussorgsky, *Hungarian Air and Dance* by Elliot del Borgo, and music from *Star Wars*, *Carmen*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Cats*, *Les Miserables* and *Harry Potter*.

In 2001 several parents and community members had a dream of establishing a youth orchestra in Central Vermont for young local musicians. They hoped to begin with a good conductor, a dozen or so kids and slowly grow from

there. Forty-three young musicians showed up for auditions! And within a year, the orchestra had 70 players.

Now in its fifth year with Music Director Robert Blais, GMYS includes nearly 100 young musicians from approximately 25 towns throughout central and northern Vermont. The symphony is comprised of three separate orchestras for students of all skill levels, ages 6 to 18.

The Green Mountain Youth

Symphony has performed at Farmers Night, First Night Montpelier 2005 and 2006 and at St. Johnsbury Academy. The orchestra has been featured on WCAX TV and on Vermont Notes on WCVT radio.

For information about the Green Mountain Youth Symphony or our fifth anniversary concert, please contact orchestra manager Sarah Madru at (802) 229-4129.

Photos By: Peter Nielsen



West Barnet Senior Action Center

April 2006 Menu

- April 5 - April Fool's Day Lunch.
- April 7 - Buffet.
- April 12 - Cook's Surprise Soup, Tuna and Egg Salad Sandwiches, Carrot and Raisin Salad, Rice Pudding.
- April 14 - Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Homemade Rolls, Broccoli, Cole Slaw, Pineapple Upside Down Cake.
- April 19 - Salmon Pea Wiggle, Pickled Beets, Biscuits, Peaches and Cream.
- April 21 - Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Biscuits, Chocolate Pudding.
- April 27 - Chipped Beef with Gravy, Copper Penny Carrots, Boiled Potatoes, Biscuits, Pumpkin Bars.
- April 29 - Turkey with Stuffing, Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Homemade Rolls, 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.



ML#206416 This is the newest home in Peacham Village, walking distance from the church, post office, library and town hall. It features an open floorplan with a central woodstove for those crispy winter nights. All the rooms you need are on the first floor, plus there is another bedroom, a loft/craft room and a full bath upstairs. There is a nice sundeck, and a detached 2 car garage provides workshop space and overhead storage.

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Moran Family Photograph

Danville Middle School student Molly Moran worked her way through the qualifying rounds of the annual Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Competition in St. Johnsbury and Orleans and competed against the best in Vermont at the Hartford High School in White River Junction on March 25. Moran sank 17 out of 25 winning first place for her age group. Molly is the daughter of Karen Moran, who played on four state championship basketball teams from Chelsea and was later captain of the women's basketball team at the University of Massachusetts.

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AROUND THE TOWNS



April

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mondays - Story Time, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Youth Library, 10:30 a.m. (802) 748-8291.

Mondays - Story Time, Pope Library, Danville, 10 a.m. (802) 684-2256.

Mondays - Just Parents meet with concerns for drugs and kids, Parent Child Center, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. (802) 748-6040.

1st & 3rd Mondays - *Six O'Clock Prompt*, Writers' Support Group, 6 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 633-2617.

2nd Monday - Cancer Support Group, NVRH Conference Room A, 4 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Last Monday - Alzheimer's Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. (802) 748-8116

Tuesdays - Baby & Toddler Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Tuesdays - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 6:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

2nd & 4th Tuesday - Bereavement Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 5:30 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Wednesdays - Preschool Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays - Read 'n' Stuff, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays - Ordinary Magic. Meditation for Life, St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Avenue, 6-7 p.m.

3rd Wednesday - Cardiac Support Group, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7401.

Thursdays - Introduction to Computers, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Thursdays - Danville Town Band Rehearsal, 7 p.m., Danville School auditorium. (802) 684-1180.

Thursdays (through Apr 27) Evening Baby & Toddler Storytime, 5:30 p.m., Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. (802) 626-5475.

3rd Thursday - Caregivers Support Group, Riverside Life Enrichment Center, 10 a.m. (802) 626-3900.

Fridays - Read and Weed Book Club,

Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Saturdays - Spring Heritage Craft Classes - rug braiding, knitting, quilting, soap-making, dowsing; Old Stone House, Brownington. (802) 754-2022.

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 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

3rd Saturday - Breast Cancer Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury, 10 a.m. (802) 748-8116.

April

1 Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.

1 Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

1 Peacham School All Fools Auction, Peacham Town Hall, viewing at 5 p.m., Auction at 6 p.m. (802) 592-3037 or (802) 592-3126.

1 AARP Defensive Driving Course, NVRH, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (802) 748-3833.

2 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

3 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award Pizza Party, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Children's Library, 6 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

3 Northeast Kingdom College Night, Stannard Gymnasium at Lyndon State College, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (802) 751-2401.

3 First Wednesday Series with Frank Bryant and *The Impossible Presidency: Presidential Greatness in the Post Modern World*, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

5 *5 Little Monkeys in the Tree*, performed by the Lyndon Children's Center, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 10:30 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

5 Cobleigh Communities Reads, A town celebration of *Travel Far, Pay No Fare* with Reeve Lindbergh and Frank Green, Lyndon Institute Cafeteria, 6 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

5 Lenten Film Series with *Stranger in the Kingdom*, dinner and movie, 6:15 p.m. Danville Congregational Church.

6 The Threat of terrorism and the Future of US Intelligence with Tom Twetten, retired CIA worker, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, 6:30 p.m.

(802) 586-7711.

6 *You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*, Film and discussion sponsored by North Country Coalition for Justice and Peace, 7 p.m. North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-3663.

7 *The Literary Education of an Unwitting Restaurateur: Five Books That Taught Me How to Run a Restaurant Before I Even Knew I Wanted To*, with Keith Chamberlin at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

7 Danville Old Time Contra Dance with Union Suit Hull's Victory String Band and Caller Chip Hedler, Knights of Pythias Hall, Danville. 8 p.m. (802) 563-3225.

8 First Day of Trout Season.

9 Palm Sunday Service 10 a.m., Danville Congregational Church.

12 Granite Workers of Barre with John Johnson, 7 p.m. Burke Mountain Clubhouse, East Burke. (802) 467-3291.

13 PASSOVER

13 *Art by the Yard*, Vermont's Painted Theater Curtains with Michael Sherman, 1 p.m. St. Johnsbury Center Grange Hall, (802) 626-5135.

13 Maundy Thursday ecumenical service, Danville Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m.

13 Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.

14 Good Friday ecumenical service, Danville United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m.

14 Meditative Music, Danville Congregational Church, Noon - 3 p.m.

14 *North Woods Ways*, Alexandra Conover presents the traditional approach to wilderness travel and living, 7 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

14 Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.

16 Easter Sunrise Service on the Danville Green, 7 a.m.

16 EASTER SUNDAY

20 Long Term Recovery of the Arctic Tundra Following Fire with Chuck Racine, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, 6:30 p.m. (802) 586-7711.

20 *Confessions of Economic Hit Man*, Film and discussion sponsored by North Country Coalition for Justice and Peace, 7 p.m. North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-3663.

20 Facts & Myths of Vermont's Current Use Program with Bill Snow, Vermont Director of



Photo Courtesy of Bob & Sharon Fuehrer
Easter Island is the most remote inhabited island on Earth. Halfway between Chile and Tahiti, a five hour flight from either one, the island is famous for its mysterious stone statues weighing as much as 100 tons. On a recent expedition, including a visit to Antarctica and this wonderful place, Bob and Sharon Fuehrer from Peacham found time to read The North Star.

Current Use, 7 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

22 100th Anniversary Celebration, Lake View Grange of Barnet, 1-5 p.m. (802) 695-1349.

24 Northeast Kingdom Legislative Breakfast, 8 a.m., Black Bear Tavern, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-3678.

26 National Poetry Month Open Poetry Night, 7 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 748-8291.

27 Bow to Life - The Mind Body Spirit Connection with Joseph Cordello, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, 6:30 p.m. (802) 586-7711.

27 Kroka Expeditions Vermont Semester with twelve high school students enrolled in Kroka's 600-mile wilderness expedition, 7 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

28 Vernal Chorus: Amphibians Inside and Out. An introduction to north woods amphibians and a

search for spotted frogs and salamanders, 7 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

28 Graham Highlanders Pipe Band and Dancers to benefit Barnet Junior Historical Society Trip to Scotland, 7:30 p.m. St. Johnsbury School Auditorium. (802) 633-4880.

29 NEK Audubon trip to Coventry, Lake Memphremagog and Wenlock Wildlife Management Area. Meet at 7 a.m. at White's Supermarket parking lot at exit 23, I-91 in Lyndonville. (802) 626-9071.

29 Life in the Yukon with Polly Mahoney. Subsistence living in the Yukon Territory with her huskies, 7 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

See also the **Arts Around the Towns Calendar** on Page 14.

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Nichole Ruggles, West Burke
"We ate so well all summer with the Old Shaw Farm. The only downside is now we have to face supermarket lettuce again."
Tom Forster, Danville

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- Vermont Life Magazine

"Comfort food taken upscale ... everything [owner/chef] Adam Coulter creates ... is worth going out of the way for."
- Yankee Magazine

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Open: Tuesday-Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. for lunch and 5-8:45 p.m. for dinner.

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