

# THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

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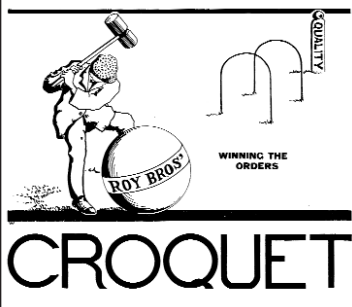
GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

AUGUST 2006  
Volume 18, Number 4

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**They Are the  
Stewards of Great  
Wealth not the  
Owners**

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of the World**



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**Vanna Takes on  
Summer with  
Cold Gazpacho**

## ONE NIGHT IN AUGUST 1826 ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE OVER CRAWFORD NOTCH

FLOYD W. RAMSEY

At the dark hour of 3 o'clock in the morning on Monday, August 28, 1826, ominous clouds settled over the area known today as Crawford Notch. A deadly summer storm was gathering. Before the storm shed its fury, it would claim nine lives in a nightmarish disaster. It is a tale that still tugs at the heart and chills the spine 180 years later.

The wild and desolate 15-mile cut through the mountains was known as "The Notch" or "The Pass of the White Mountains." A steady stream of horse-drawn carts and wagons passed through on a narrow turnpike, which was incorporated in 1803 at a cost of \$40,000. The route was an important link between northeastern Vermont, northern New Hampshire and the City of Portland, ME. Three buildings dotted the sparsely populated road. They functioned as inns, and they were especially important in winter.

At the northwestern end of the Notch, Ethan Allen Crawford's establishment sat in  
(Please Turn to Page 8)

## The Promised Land of California Isn't for Everyone



Photo By: North Star/David Ballou

Ali Youens and Tom Markewinski had had quite enough of southern California when they decided to pack up their bags and head for Vermont. On this beautiful hillside in Danville they raise vegetables and flowers for sale at the Farmers' Market. Tom says, "There is satisfaction that I have never known before in doing what I like and being appreciated when people reach out for our products at the Farmers' Market and then they want to take our picture." Ali agrees. She says, "There's just no turning back."

TERRY HOFFER

When Ali Youens and Tom Markewinski pulled up stakes in Hollywood, CA and moved to Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, some people were more than a little skeptical. But this pair had a pretty clear idea as to what they were doing.

Ali is from Australia. After 10 years in Europe she found her way to southern California and a series of jobs in retail management and custom framing. After 24-years in Hollywood, she realized it was time for a realignment.

Tom was raised in Pittsburgh, PA but followed the siren's call of the music scene in Los Angeles and played guitar as an aspiring rock musician. "I was hoping to express myself," he says, "but I just couldn't find my voice or whatever it was I was looking for."

Tom likes to tell of sitting in an apartment in southern California, flipping through pages of a travel guide. His attention was captured by an article and description of Vermont's Route 100, the two lanes of blacktop that follow the Long Trail and the ridge of the Green Mountains through the state. He says, "In the fall of 1996 we set out to see what it was really like."

Even as a young boy Tom had been a backyard gardener, tending the family vegetable garden, and, he says, he loved it. "When I was only 10 or 12, everyone else would be headed for the house, and I'd be there pulling up weeds and tending my pumpkins." Pumpkins became

almost a signature for Tom, and over the years he experimented with any number of varieties. "Everywhere I've lived, I've grown stuff. Even in Hollywood I had tomatoes on the balcony, and the landlord just didn't appreciate it when he found them floating in the swimming pool."

Tom and Ali were fascinated by Vermont, its agriculture and its multiple approaches to working the land. They were captivated, and it wasn't long before Tom had a job on a Starksboro vegetable farm, and they left the bright lights of Hollywood for the second floor of a Vermont farmhouse and a balcony looking over the Breadloaf Wilderness. They were hooked.

There was another farm in Waitsfield, and as Tom says, "I was asking questions and paying attention to everything. These were great farmers with visions, the kind of people who invent their own equipment and make things grow when others have given up. I was getting a serious education, and I found myself wishing I had been a plant and

(Please See "If I'd taken the short route..." on Page 6)

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## St. Johnsbury, Essex Jct. and Danville

Community development is all about shifts in momentum. Throughout the history of New England there are all kinds of examples in which new businesses opened or old ones expanded and, in a chain-like reaction, the vitality of the community was ignited and people found new pride and businesses saw surges in prosperity.

Of course, it was the Fairbanks brothers, Erastus, Thaddeus and Joseph, who in 1830 started turning the wheels of industry in a primitive scale factory in St. Johnsbury. That activity led to the quiet village straddling the Passumpsic River becoming a busy community with pride and a reputation that was known around the world. St. Johnsbury and the Fairbanks name were synonymous, and there are still conspicuous landmarks from their heyday.

In the mid 1950's Tom Watson was IBM's president and CEO. He was attracted to northern Vermont as a skier and urged his directors and facilities planners to open a microchip plant in Essex Junction. In 1957 they did, and the changes were profound. Ever since Vermont's economic development specialists have spoken about "... the next IBM."

Everyone likes standing among winners, and there are all kinds of stories about the economic ripples that spread out and away from the Fairbanks Company and from IBM. New businesses opened and others expanded, residential development picked up, and interest in education and even in the arts and sciences expanded. For the Fairbanks the railroad arrived, for IBM and Essex Junction it was the Interstate highway. Times were good, and people smiled.

A few days ago I had the opportunity to stand on the rebuilt porch of the building which faces the Danville Green between Hill Street and the Danville Town Hall. The building is on the site of the old Eagle Hotel. In the days before US Route 2 was paved people knew it as Dole's Store. In more recent years it was the building from which Lane Vance announced the Grand Parade at the Danville Fair or the Caplis Block. This past spring Marty Beattie and his son Plynng bought the building and launched a massive project of rehabilitating the building, which was constructed soon after the Eagle Hotel burned in the great fire of 1889.



For many years the narrow pockmarked sidewalk, the crumbling concrete steps, the sagging timbers and a general deterioration in the condition of the building made it an eyesore. Today the result of the rehabilitation of the building is wonderful. Commercial spaces on the Hill Street side are inviting. The real estate office and variety store facing the Green have had a facelift, and their occupants and their customers can come and go now with ease and satisfaction instead of picking their way over uncertain footing and through a maze of building decay. The upstairs of the building has been gutted, and it is bright and airy. It, too, will be desirable space for tenants.

I don't really believe the impact of the rebirth of this building on the Danville Green can be compared to the invention of the Fairbanks Scales or Watson's ski vacations and his microchips, but as I stopped and looked out across the Green from the new porch, I smiled.

Marty and Plynng, it is great. You've done a heck of a job, and that building will make a difference. Twenty years from now we'll all look back and think of the momentum shift in this community's development. The resurrection of the building on the corner will be an important part of the Danville that lies ahead.

Terry Hoffer

## Is It Really Misplaced?

Although not precisely measured, estimates are that we spend, some would say waste, 15 minutes to 1 hour every day looking for things. Car keys, wallet, earrings, shoes, TV remote, tools, cooking utensils, magazines, books, letters — you name it and we misplace it or forget where we put it. Cell phones and pagers, with their audible locator signals, are usually exempt from the daily search and rescue operations. Although I question their truthfulness, I enjoy the sensational news clips about outrageous "misplacings," such as when a military tank is somehow misplaced. If you conservatively estimate a daily hunt of 15 minutes, that adds up to about 4 days a year spent in looking for stuff (assuming you search 24 hours a day). That's a lot of time flipping sofa cushions, checking pockets and petting dust bunnies in search of mislaid objects.

I've no facts or research to support my claim, but I suspect that compulsion helps separate the 15 minute from the 1 hour a day searches. Ritually placing keys, tools, letters and so forth in the same place can simplify finding them when next needed. Compulsion can only go so far, however. Everyone is fully capable of mislaying objects, no matter how compulsive. Objects are relocated during well-intentioned efforts to organize or clean. Borrowed objects may not return to the original resting place.

Many have written on the unexpected benefits of looking for misplaced objects. Serendipitous discoveries may occur during the search. True as this may be, as a goal-oriented time miser who even hoards seconds, rummaging for mislaid items is, for me, a good first step toward a crabby mood. I do not like to spend time looking for stuff.

A few weeks ago, I had to repair the rope starter of our lawn mower. This was an unplanned, and unwanted, add-on to my "To-do" list for the day. Within the starter mechanism are two tiny springs, smaller than the springs in a ballpoint click pen. Of course, when removing this part of the starter, and despite (perhaps in spite) of chanting to myself, "Do NOT lose the springs," one of the springs sprang. I scoured the workbench, scuttled around on the floor and patted a warren of dust bunnies under the bench—no spring. I called in reinforcements to expand the search. Two pair of eyes and 20 fingers did no better. Figuring the spring had gone the way of missing socks, I unsuccessfully tried to modify the spring from a click pen (that's how I learned the missing spring's relative size). Grousing about time wasted, and about to set off to the hardware store in search of a new spring, I took a last look over the bench top. There was the spring, not more than two inches from the rest of the disassembled parts.

It may be self-flattery, but I consider myself a rational person. And the rational part of me knew that the spring was on the bench top all along, probably just blending in with the dust or under some other part of the gutted starter. Nevertheless, I thought I had thoroughly examined the work area. Did some force outside conventional understanding play keep away with me? For a brief prickles-down-the-back moment, I contemplated guardian angels or time travelers at work. Would some horrible event have happened to my co-searcher or me if we had not been occupied with the

(Please See *The Greatest Loss is the Time* on Page 4)

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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.



We are always interested in old photographs of the Northeast Kingdom (or beyond) that relate to our interest in the people, places and examples of change that make this part of New England so interesting. If you have such photographs please consider letting us publish them as our space permits. Generally we can scan photos in our office and will not need to keep them for more than a few minutes.

# P. & O. Railroad Line Completed Through White Mountain Notch Dakota Sioux Indians Willing to Sell Little Big Horn

**The North Star**  
"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"  
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**THE NORTH STAR**

August 6, 1875

The Canadian Rubber Company at Montreal has been forced to shut down on account of American competition as goods from this market were sold lower than they could be manufactured in Canada. This throws 1,000 hands out of employment.

Railroad Items - The Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad will be opened through White Mountain Notch to the Fabyan House next Monday. The Passumpsic Railroad directors have voted not to declare the usual three percent dividend for the past six months. It has been many years since the company failed to pay a semi-annual dividend. Two new parlor cars have been placed on the Passumpsic road, splendidly furnished, supplied with pivot chairs and admirably adapted to travelers of taste and lovers of ease. The trestle work at Quechee Gulf on the

Woodstock railroad has been completed and erection of the bridge is in progress. When finished, this bridge, it is said, will be the highest in New England.

Death of Ex-President Johnson - On the morning of the 31st ex-President Andrew Johnson died of paralysis and heart disease at the residence of his daughter some forty miles east of Nashville, Tenn. He had been complaining somewhat of ill health during the past month but felt no serious apprehensions. The funeral was to be attended last Tuesday at Nashville with Masonic honors, and extensive preparations were made by civic and military organizations to attend the funeral, where they will be joined by citizens of all the neighboring counties. There is now no other ex-president of the United States living.

Pleasant summer weather until last Tuesday when a cold rain set in. It has been quite too cold lately for corn to grow rapidly. The rain however was needed and will do much in starting the fall feed of the new mown fields.

August 13, 1875

Railroad Completed Through the White Mountains - Last Saturday at 1:15 p.m. the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad was completed through the difficult, and by some pronounced impossible, White Mountain Notch to its connection with the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad at

Fabyan's by the driving of the last spike at James' Cut in the gateway of the Notch. The city government of Portland, the road being largely constructed with city funds and owned by the city, with reporters took the regular train at noon reaching the gateway at the Notch, close by and above the spot where the famous Willey family were killed by a mountain slide, and stopped while the workmen laid the last rails. Three cheers were enthusiastically given for General Anderson, president of the railroad, and the last spike which completed the railroad that pierces the everlasting hills. For the occasion, General Murray had loaned a field piece, which followed on a platform car, and shots were fired that roused mountain echoes after repeated discharges. The train went on to Fabyan House where it connects with the Concord and Montreal road and returned to the Crawford House where the company dined. A dense fog prevailed all morning but cleared off brightly at noon, and the ceremony was welcomed with bright skies.

The peach market in New York City is glutted. Whole crates of peaches sell for a mere trifle.

The festival at the vestry of the Free Baptist Church in North Danville was a decided success. The supper was excellent, the time enjoyable and the proceeds about \$35. The sum will be expended in fitting up the church vestry.

August 20, 1875

The constitutional amendment making the gubernatorial term biennial instead of annual in Connecticut is certain of ratification. If so the governor chosen next spring will serve only until January, when his successor, to be elected in November will enter upon his office for two years.

Professor Ward of Syracuse has received a turtle weighing nine hundred pounds, which he intends to stuff and place in a museum.

The Black Hills - Spotted Tail with eleven warriors and one squaw of the Brule band arrived at Custer's Gulch on Sunday. Spotted Tail has come to see for himself if the whites are washing out gold. He was glad the exploration was going on so that the Great Father can learn the value of these hills and so be induced to buy them. Spotted Tail wants to sell the hills but will, he says, ask a big price to be paid in annual installments. He is also willing to sell the Big Horn County.

August 27, 1875

A yoke of three years old steers belonging to Wm. Sulham of West Danville got on the P. & O. railroad track Wednesday afternoon where the mail train ran over them.

A Family Feud - There has been considerable excitement over a shooting affair that occurred on August 13 in the

Bear Swamp neighborhood about four miles from Montpelier. Mrs. Richard Dodge, who on account of her roughness is called "Old Bruin," shot her husband's brother Joel Dodge, with the intent to kill him. She used an old horse pistol, loaded with buckshot, and inflicted severe wounds to his head and face, but it is believed he will survive although his face is badly mangled. They are about 50 years of age and have been in a quarrel for the last year or so. Mrs. Dodge has been arrested and is now in Montpelier jail awaiting trial and the results of the injuries. She claims to have shot in self defense. Mr. Dodge is able to speak and swallow, but about three quarters of an inch of his tongue was shot off. If gangrene does not set in the chances are he will recover.

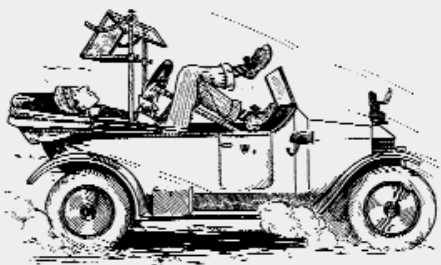
Corruption in Indian Affairs - There appears to be plenty of corroborative evidence of corruption in the management of our Indian affairs. We are glad to see it being unearthed. The darkest blot in our history is our treatment of the Indians. The feeling of the country is now to do them some sort of justice. We trust Professor Marsh will let us know the uttermost of his business and that if the present committee of investigation is morally incompetent for its work he will not hold back until the requisite power is conferred and a proper committee appointed.

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## The Greatest Loss is the Time

(Continued from Page 2)

hunt for the missing spring, a frustrating but benign event? Then I dismissed these thoughts as products of too much science fiction and Hollywood, reassembled the starter and got on with the day.

Searching for misplaced objects has not made it to my Favorite Things list. However, the missing spring incident has provided an option for attitude adjustment. When I begin to feel frustrated over time lost in searching for the mislaid, I now consider this activity may be keeping me from some other, more malicious, fate. Who knows, might moose and I have tried to occupy the same place on the road at the same time, were I not delayed searching for my car keys?

Tim Tanner

**David Toll, M.D.**

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## Small Step for L.L. Bean and a Giant Leap for Mankind

Summer is a time to relax and let one's imagination soar. If it flies high enough, perhaps one (such as I) will be a fool in the eyes of the public, but in the meantime there should be some fun. Readers might have fun, too!

I already had made notes on a subject dear to my heart – buying more American products and the outsourcing of jobs, which reduce employment here in the United States. I am a believer in free trade but only when it makes for a level playing field in world competition.

For one who knows so little about economics in general, I wasn't getting much beyond the emotional appeal of the subject. I was not prepared to inflict my ideas on the good readers of this paper. And then I struck gold, and this is the result.

President Clinton's Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin is considered to be one of the best such secretaries in modern times. I read "Born-Again Rubinism," in the July 31 edition of the *Nation*, by William Greider attributing some ideas to Mr. Rubin that were relevant to my concerns about free trade.

Rubin believes that income inequality is a "deeply troubling fact of American economic life." He also believes that this inequality threatens the trade system, even the stability of our "capitalist, democratic society." This is tough talk, but he joins other economic experts and planners with this kind of thinking.

Rubin is concerned about the role of globalization, which has contributed to what he describes as the "30-year stagnation of wages and squeezing of middle-class families."

Now for the details (to date) of the flight of my imagination as I sought to bring jobs back home, improve the environment and slow needless development. It starts with China. As I see it, China is the miraculous economic engine that is fueling the drive to outsource jobs and to pollute the environment. Most factories built in China are fueled by an inexhaustible supply of coal. The pollution spreads far beyond the mainland of China. We should welcome any change that would reduce the resulting environmental damage.

China is the principal "offender" in stealing American jobs. Other poor countries, such as Pakistan, contribute to the problem, and the idea is attracting higher-paying jobs to India as its educational system improves. But it is our China "problem" that must be solved.

With its ever-expanding population, China needs all the jobs it can get and keep. The country won't change its policies by itself. The only way that change can come about is for western countries, with their massive buying power, to buy less from China – much less.

As far as China is concerned, it would slow development and, with less coal-fired generation of pollutants, its environmental damage at home and abroad should be reduced.

If western countries bought substantially fewer goods from China, jobs would return or never leave home, and there would be more funds to help solve our own environmental problems. We would pay more for goods, but it would be worth doing so.

Easy to accomplish? Of course not. It will require the involvement of international cooperation and planning. It would be the kind of planning and action needed to solve world-wide problems, such as our worrisome concerns about the future of the world's oil supply. As I see it, there would be a long-term win-win result.

I interrupted the writing of this column with a call to L. L. Bean in Freeport, ME. I asked to speak to a marketing executive and only getting an answering machine I left the following question: Would Bean's consider publishing a separate catalogue listing only American-made products for the benefit of those who prefer to buy American even if it costs more? It would be a small step in the right direction. The answer will be included in this column when I get it. (Two days later there was no reply. I will keep after them!)

John Downs

My sincere thanks to the many friends who came to my birthday party and for the many cards I received. Also thanks to my wonderful family, which planned the party and did all the work.

It was a memorable occasion, and I was overwhelmed by the response to the invitation.

Sincerely, Margaret Ide

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## A Truce in the Battle of the Sexes

Every now and then a new skirmish takes place in the Battle of the Sexes. Movies, books, magazines and TV shows keep this war alive. In early June a friend gave me a *New York Times* article entitled "The Weaker Sex." This was the second *Times* article I had read recently that was devoted to concerns about men. Of course Fathers' Day was looming close, so no doubt that had something to do with it.

The first article, by David Brooks, entitled "The Gender Gap at School" was about education and how boys are generally falling behind girls in school and are becoming less interested in reading. Brooks attributes this to three causes. First, the brains of males and females differ in many ways, including how they process information and emotions. The brains of the sexes connect the perception of negative emotions with the verbal center of the cerebral cortex in different ways, making it easier for women to express and discuss emotions. Planners of school curricula do not take these differences seriously enough. Most of the reading assignments in high school are based on the classics of English literature or modern juvenile literature and involve emotional situations.

Brooks' second cause relates to the gender gap issue; the teaching profession is becoming predominantly female. This gives a female bias not only to the selection of reading materials, but also to how those materials are taught. His third cause is that recess time has been greatly reduced, as pressure is placed on schools to achieve certain mandatory educational standards. This used to be a time for all students to "run off steam," particularly boys. Exercise helps to refresh the mind and makes it more ready to learn.

Brooks argues for curricula changes that encourage boys to read the type of literature they can relate to and enjoy. He also points out that consciousness-raising educational techniques, to make boys more sensitive, have not helped to change basic gender differences, but instead have discouraged many boys from reading!

An article by Marianne J. Legato entitled "The Weaker Sex" concerns men's health. A 1985 report from the U.S. Public Health Service criticized the medical research community for focusing its studies of health problems, common to men and women, predominantly on male subjects. Since that report, there has been a concerted effort to use more women subjects for research on common health problems, and also to study more diseases of women. As a result, surprisingly, it has become clear that males are the physically weaker sex, starting even before birth.

Nature has made an attempt to address this weakness by causing more males than females to be born, but even this natural compensation is changing for reasons not yet understood. More male fetuses than female are miscarried, and some industrial countries are seeing a decline in the male to female birth ratio. There are so many risk factors that adversely impact more on males than females such as environmental, psychological, immunological and medical. It appears that now we should be studying male and female health issues equally and separately, so as to understand the unique qualities and vulnerabilities of each sex.

As a woman I find a certain vindication in some of the findings described in these articles. After centuries of male-dominated western society where many women were not allowed an education; where women were a useful, hardworking commodity, easily replaced on death by a younger, healthier version; where women were denied access to many professions and even the right to publish literary works under their own names, it seems only fair that the real value of women biologically and intellectually should be acknowledged. But these fleeting thoughts led me to other considerations.

As a biologist I find such contrasts in male/female viability fascinating. I have to wonder why our species evolved in such a manner. Is nature weeding out our gene pool, leading our evolution in a direction we do not comprehend; or sending us a warning about changes in our environment that are dangerous to our species?

Did women evolve as the stronger sex because that is a necessity for childbearing and rearing in a large-brained species? A proportionally large infant head to body ratio means that our young must be born very physically immature. Even before colonial times, it was necessary for a man to replace a deceased wife with a strong, healthy one. Without a woman to care for existing children; to cook and preserve food; to tend livestock and garden, a family could not survive.

Whatever flights of fancy may be conjured up by new information about our species, it's time for all of us, male and female, to understand and value each other's differing biological, intellectual and psychological gifts, as well as vulnerabilities. A world without an equal balance of male and female qualities would destroy society as we know it. When one sex is repressed, deprived or misunderstood, we all lose out. When the sexes within our own species compete we waste creative energy that is needed so much for the survival of our planet.

Isobel P. Swartz

## An Inconvenient Truth - A Sign of Hope

VAN PARKER

Like many others who read this paper, we saw the Al Gore movie *An Inconvenient Truth* last month. The movie was well researched, and it was sobering. If trends continue, the Netherlands, which we recently visited, would be under water. So would large sections of Florida and New York City. Not to speak of Bangladesh and other low lying parts of the planet. If glaciers and the north- and south-pole ice caps continue to melt, the water will keep on raising ocean levels. As the earth warms and gases are trapped, rising temperatures will create more areas of drought, more hurricanes and typhoons and more areas of excessive rainfall.

It's a pretty bleak picture, but I didn't feel bleak when I left the theater. Perhaps it was because of the light touch with which Al Gore handled this very heavy issue. Certainly it had to do with the "it's not too late" and "you can make a difference" ending to the film. I went home with a resolution to take at least some of the many simple suggestions which were offered. One easy one was to start buying light bulbs that use less energy. Another was to become a bit more intentional about recycling. We're not in the market for a car now, but energy efficiency will be high on our list when we look for one.

But there is another side to this movie that impressed me as much as the movie itself. It was the change in Al Gore. No longer is he the wooden, programmed figure we saw running for president. He was loose, able to laugh at himself and, in the words of one friend, "comfortable in his own skin."

Over the past few years, Gore has had the opportunity to get off the Washington merry-go-round, to do some teaching, some reflecting and some thinking about who he is and where he is going. Caring about the environment isn't a new cause for him. A number of years ago he wrote a book about it. When in Congress he tried to get others to focus on the issue with little success.

Gore's exile from public life did something for him. Periods of quiet and listening often seem to do that for people. They have a chance to sort things out, to see what matters and what doesn't. They become more real, more authentic - more themselves.

*An Inconvenient Truth* is a well-named film. It's a stop sign warning us that if we fail to change our collective ways, our children and grandchildren may not be able to enjoy this beautiful and unique planet. And behind this movie is the story of a man who has found new energy to proclaim something that has always been close to his heart: a message that, at last, more of us may be willing to hear.

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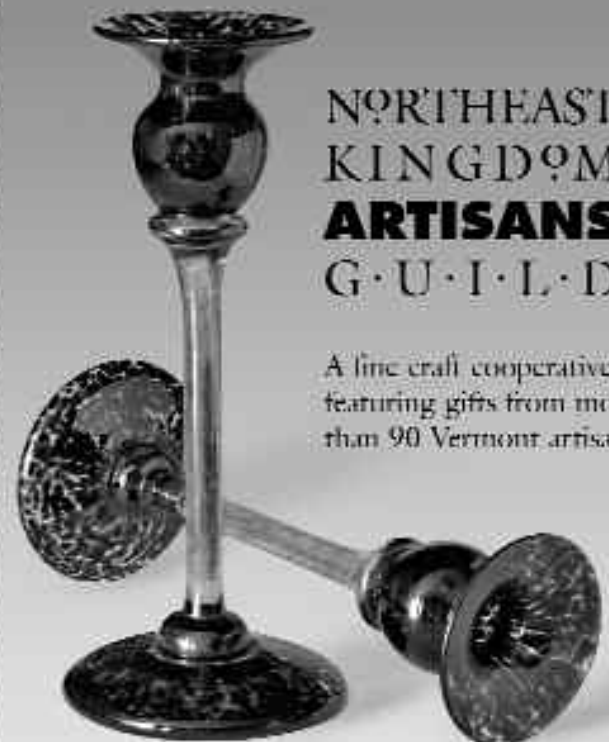


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# “If I’d taken the short route I never would have appreciated this as much as I do.”



Photos By: North Star/David Ballou  
Ali Youens sets up their display for the weekly Farmers' Market on the Green in Danville.

(Continued from Page 1)

soils major in college instead of a music major. At times I wished that I'd turned to the soil sooner instead of music, but - " he admits, "if I'd taken the short route I never would have appreciated this as much as I do."

In November 2002, after three years of hiring out on vegetable farms, Tom drove through Danville and Peacham, places they had visited many times in their tourist days. He says, "With no means to buy land at any price, I kept thinking that somewhere there must be an acre or two

where we could rent space and at least get a start with the investment of our labor."

At the real estate office on the Green in Danville, Tom met Realtor Barb Machell, and with his hand on the door knob ready to leave he asked "... , to which she replied, "We have land."

Two months later, in January 2003, Tom and Ali met with Barb Machell and her husband on one of the snow-covered fields of the Machells' Pumpkin Hill Farm in Danville, and there they agreed to an arrangement for Tom and Ali to raise organic vegetables on

three acres of the old dairy farm.

This is the fourth year for Tom and Ali and their "Hollow Wood Farm." Tom says, "I'm sure people thought we'd floated in here on the wind, but they had no idea of our resolve. Some must have been asking, 'when are they leaving,' but now they ask, 'what are you growing.' There may have been skeptics, but some people have been tremendously helpful, and they seem to understand and appreciate the dedication. We like to think that those who figured we'd be gone in a few months have been proven wrong."

On this bright summer morning with a clear view into the high peaks of New Hampshire and the sloping hillside that falls away to the Water Andric, the Passumpsic and the valley of the Connecticut River in the distance, this place is spectacularly beautiful.

"I started on a shoestring," Tom says, "but I broke even the first year. My father was the cheapest cheapskate I ever met, and some of that rubbed off on me. I'm frugal." He looks at the dirt on his bare hands, and he says, "These are my tools. I have a truck and two small plastic-covered greenhouses, a rototiller, a couple of rakes, 4 or 5 hoes and the rocks." He laughs. Tom hires a neighbor to plow, furrow and till the nearly three-acres of garden and to help roll out a long black cover of plastic mulch.

Ali works at the Diamond Hill Store in Danville and joins Tom whenever she can at the garden or tending their booth at Farmer's Markets. "I like seeing what Tom pulls out of the ground," she says.



As the morning light breaks in the east Tom Markewinski rolls up the sides of his greenhouses where tomatoes are nearly ready for market.

"We're both happy, and there's just no turning back."

Tom and Ali are far from turning back. The scale of it all is small, but Tom thinks and talks like a businessman. "I am my own overhead, but it took me a year to learn that I can't give stuff away." He watches the state's published market prices, but he knows that his costs are lower than those at bigger and, perhaps, more sophisticated organic farms. He says, it's not unusual to see products from larger farms selling at higher prices, and as a result he's been asked if he knows what he's doing. But when he sells out and calls the day profitable, he's more than satisfied.

Tom looks down across his

garden bounty as the dew disappears from the leaves on carefully thinned plants. "It's so quiet here, that I honestly think my senses have been heightened after leaving the din of Los Angeles. My hands are in the soil every day. Often it's just me and the birds and the deer. There is satisfaction that I have never known before in doing what I like and being appreciated when people reach out for our products at the Farmers' Market and then they want to take our picture."

It's so quiet here, that I honestly think my senses have been heightened after leaving the din of Los Angeles.

Tom turns serious again. "The meaning of life to me is a place like this when the days turn cool and crisp in the fall - when the frost is on the pumpkin. To be able to do what you want to do and have people appreciate it - that's about as good as it gets."

Tom and Ali's vision for the future? They agree this is pretty close, but having it on their own

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# Riverside School Rolls Up Its Sleeves

Generosity is in bloom this summer among the iris and petunias at The Riverside School in Lyndonville.

An anonymous donor has given \$50,000 to benefit the student scholarship plan as well as to fund the position of director of community service. The money comes at a time when the school faces a crossroad. Open to the elements of the 21st century in the Northeast Kingdom, the 25-year old school was in need of financial support. An enormous gift of this kind has rekindled the spirit and life of the 1864 Victorian home used for the school. An alumni scholarship program has seen pledges and donations of hundreds of dollars from a group of satisfied students, all in their teens, pledging \$100 for each of the next 10 years.

Donations and pledges are a welcome sign that the small independent school is moving in a positive direction with the aid of newly-appointed Head of School, Laurie Boswell. With personal donations of incalculable hours and much needed building upgrades, there is little Laurie hasn't done and no idea she won't listen to, for the benefit of the school.

Established by a group of parents who wanted to see art, languages and hands-on learning, The Riverside School is committed to developing active learners, patient leaders and engaged citizens in a supportive community.

This mission statement, visible in each classroom, is a reminder to teachers, students, parents and visitors that the focus of the school is more than academic. The world will always have bright individuals, but intelligence is not enough. Society needs leaders who possess an ethic of care, who listen well and are patient in their deliberations.

Society needs informed citizens who are willing to serve the community. At The Riverside School students are prepared for their future roles in society.

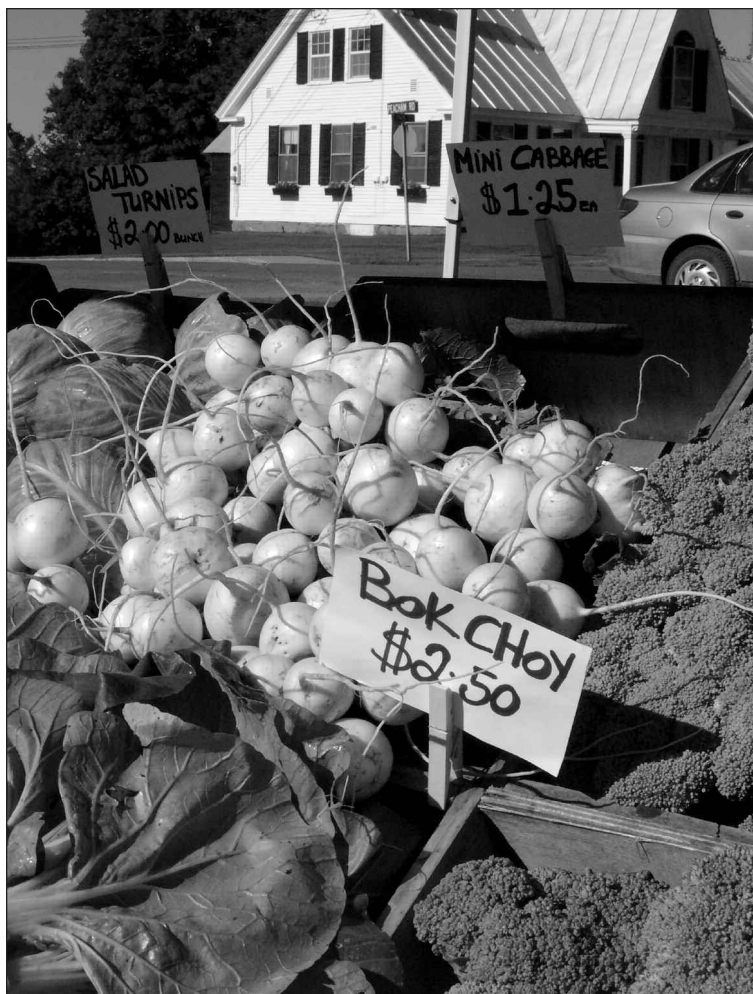
"Classrooms" of Riverside are re-modeled rooms in the old house. Classrooms are also the circle of cedars in the front yard, the barn where Morning Assembly takes place, the overnight field trips throughout New England, the nursing home where students interact with residents and the GPS (global positioning system) scavenger hikes that may lead anywhere. Riverside students are active

learners in these classrooms and other settings as well.

At a time when children need individual attention, The Riverside School provides that with small class size and dedicated faculty.

The 2006-2007 academic year is looking wonderful thanks to the support of so many friends of the school. With patience all things are possible. Cum patientia omnia possunt confici. So true in education as in life.

Visit The Riverside School at [www.trsweb.org](http://www.trsweb.org) or stop by for a tour.



The Hollow Wood Farm display is arranged with a flair that draws the browsers eyes across mountains of fresh broccoli and this bountiful arrangement of beets, cabbage and bok choy.

land would clearly make sense. Tom says, the size is adequate, but an irrigated, weed-free, garden chock-full of vegetables with a roadside farm stand would be perfect. He'd like strawberries and blueberries, and he'd really like to give the apple tree that he started from seed in Hollywood a permanent home.

And you can be sure there will be pumpkins. Tom says, "I don't know what to say about fate, but some of this started with a travel guide in California. Then we decided to move to Vermont, we decided to farm and here we are raising pumpkins off the beaten path in Danville on a place called Pumpkin Hill." ★



If you've never had peas straight from the garden and you think that they grow in the boxes sold in the supermarket freezer case, you are missing one of the true privileges of summer.



Riverside School Photograph

Laurie Boswell is the new Head of the School at The Riverside School in Lyndonville.

**modern woodmen of america**

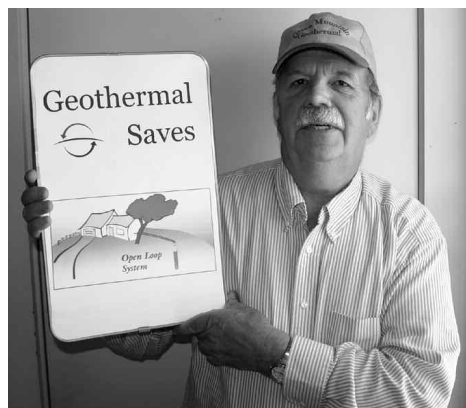
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|---|--|

# The route was an important link between northeastern Vermont, northern New Hampshire and the City of Portland

(Continued from Page 1)

an interval near the Ammonoosuc River, four miles above the narrow place called the Gateway of the Pass. His father, Abel Crawford, operated the Mount Crawford House nine miles south of the Gateway.

Between them, Samuel Willey Jr. of Bartlett was the new owner of a one-and-a-half story farmhouse called the Notch House. Built in 1792, the house was abandoned for several months and badly in need of repairs. Willey and his wife, Polly Lovejoy, had five children. From oldest to youngest, they were Eliza, Jeremiah, Martha,

Elbridge and Sally. They also had raised David Nickerson, who later became one of their hired hands.

Willey moved his family into the abandoned house during the autumn of 1825 and set to work to secure the buildings against the cold of New Hampshire's winter. When winter did arrive, the howling winds, intense cold and blinding snowstorms were unlike anything the family had experienced in Bartlett. It was for that very reason that the traveling public welcomed the accommodations.

Encouraged by profit made through the first winter, Willey

enlarged the inn for his guests. Helping him were Nickerson, 21, and David Allen, 37, a powerfully built man, who had a wife and four children in Bartlett.

By early summer the renovations were progressing, and the area had taken on a conspicuously attractive appearance. In front of the house was a beautiful meadow, which stretched to the base of 3,875-foot-high Mt. Webster. Fringed by maples, the open area added beauty to the tranquil setting of the inn.

Directly behind the house Mt. Willey rose to a height of 4,260 feet. (The mountain was so named 19 years later, in 1845.) Between the house and the foot of this mountain Willey planted wheat in a field totaling less than an acre. Because of the restrictive nature of the Notch, there was barely enough room for buildings, and because the meadow was small, it was only enough forage for the cows, sheep, two oxen and two horses. The only other animal on the premises was a family dog.

As travelers "put up" at the

Willey House, as it was known, they spoke of the kindness and attention extended them by their hosts. In this vein one guest wrote, "Despite the presence of the children, order, peace and cheerfulness also pervade the house."

It was often noted the children were "intelligent, well behaved, contented and happy."

The first hint of trouble came early in the summer of 1826 while Abel Crawford and a road crew were repairing the turnpike. A sudden and heavy rainstorm forced them to take shelter at the Willey House, and while they were there, a slide with prodigious power came down Mt. Willey missing the barn by about 50 feet. Debris covered several hundred feet of the road, and a second but lesser slide followed soon after.

The Willeys were frightened. Because the larger slide came so close to the house, Mrs. Willey tried to leave with two of her children. Abel Crawford calmed her by saying, "Don't be alarmed. You are much safer here than you would be on the road. Besides, there may be other difficulties in the way caused by other slides. And, if swollen waters have carried away some of the bridges, they cannot be crossed."

Crawford and the road crew left, and shortly thereafter Samuel Willey sought out a safer location should a similar emergency occur in the future. A few hundred feet south of the house he established a shelter from a large, overturned cart body, and as a further safeguard, he placed a 25-foot log behind the house as protection from rolling rocks.

Improvements on the property continued, and as summer wore on the weather remained

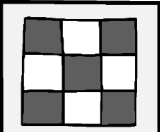
**Ethan Allen Crawford discovered the storm had destroyed his crops, drowned 14 of his sheep, washed away a 90-foot shed and buried the best of his land under sand and gravel.**

hot and dry. By August, the earth had turned to a powdery dust that was ankle deep, and vegetation became parched and lifeless. Toward the middle of the month, a wind blowing in from the south brought a promise of rain. Showers sprinkled the area, but they offered little in the way of relief.

On August 28 the storm struck with fury. High winds and torrential rains lashed the valley throughout the day. There were flashes of lightning, peals of thunder, reverberations and echoes of landslides, and the Saco River went on a rampage. Just before midnight the storm ceased, the clouds cleared, and the remainder of the night was calm.

Early Tuesday morning Ethan Crawford was awakened by his young son. "Father," he called, "the earth is nearly covered with water, and the hogs are swimming for life!"

Leaping from bed, Crawford discovered the storm had destroyed his crops, drowned 14 of his sheep, washed away a 90-foot shed and buried the best of his land under sand and gravel.



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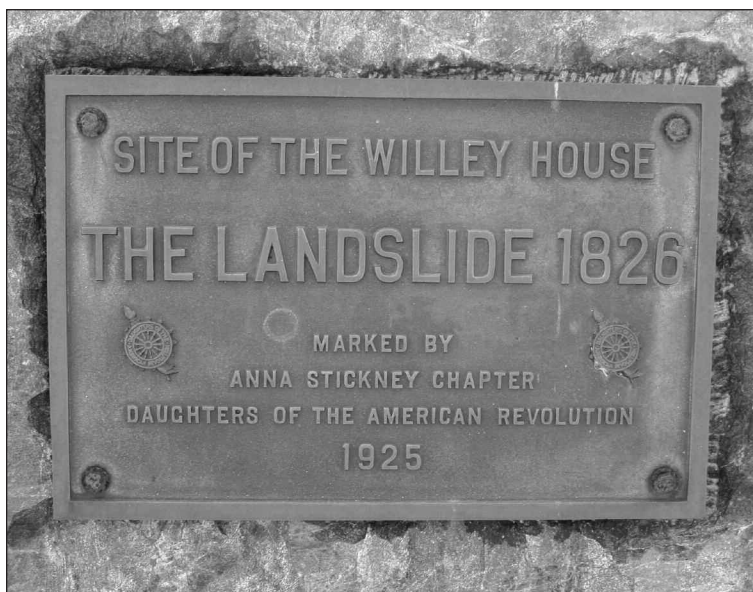
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Fun nights are free.





Photos By: North Star Monthly

The Willey family was lost in an August rainstorm and mudslide in Crawford Notch 180 years ago. Their house, which survived the devastation that night, was destroyed by fire in 1899.

At its peak, the flood had come within 18 inches of his doorway. No matter which direction Crawford looked, he saw devastation beyond belief.

Later there were estimates that more than 100 mud slides had washed down during the storm, most of them centering around the range of Mount Washington.

Below, Abel Crawford had also suffered heavy losses. He had been away when the storm struck, and his wife was alone with the children. When the river began to flow through their house, she hustled the youngsters to an upper floor. She spent the night at a window with a pole fending off floating trees that were threatening to knock the house from its foundation. As lightning flashed, she watched crops destroyed, their sheep drowned and their freshly cut lumber wash away downstream. She saw the destruction of their new sawmill, and like Ethan Crawford, they lost some of their best land.

The greatest tragedy was yet to be discovered. Because of its isolation, no one had any way of

knowing what the situation was at the Willey House. The full horror would unravel slowly.

By Tuesday morning warnings were spread throughout Bartlett and Conway to remove all surviving cattle, sheep and horses to higher ground. Unbelievably, the Saco River had risen 24-feet.

At midday, a lone traveler named John Barker appeared at Ethan Crawford's. With apparent urgent business south of the Notch, Barker told Crawford he had to continue on. Crawford urged patience, particularly since the bridge across the Ammonoosuc River was out.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon after the river had somewhat receded, Crawford used a horse to swim Barker to the other side, and Barker headed on for the Gateway. With most of the road destroyed, he found it slow going. While scrambling down the steep pitch of the tortured Gateway, he discovered washouts 20-feet deep. In the valley it was no better. All he could see were piles of debris, exposed boulders and the remains of trees that had fallen

from the steep walls of the Notch.

Just before dark he reached the Willey House. Not only was it hauntingly quiet, but he was shocked to find the house surrounded by rubble from a landslide, which had come down directly behind it. Behind the house, he discovered a large boulder had divided the destructive mass into two streams. Though the northern stream had destroyed the barn, the house and a connected woodshed were intact. On the other side of the house, Barker found the divided slide had merged back together.

Barker passed the family dog and entered the house. Inside he found doors open, beds unmade, clothes scattered and Samuel Willey's spectacles beside an open Bible. Barker concluded the family must have fled to Abel Crawford's place. He decided to stay the night.

At daylight, Barker ventured to the site of the demolished barn. There he uncovered two dead horses and a pair of oxen, one of which was pinned beneath a fallen timber.

It was noon before Barker reached Abel Crawford's. His arrival was delayed because of the bridges on the turnpike washed away. Finding the Willeys not there, Barker and the others suspected the worst.

Barker continued south spreading word that the Willey family was missing. Later an anxious Ethan Crawford reached the Willey House and found sev-

eral men already there. One of his brothers was among them. This brother assured Ethan that Abel's family had survived the storm, but the group agreed there was little hope for the Willeys. Ethan became too upset to remain any longer and wearily groped and stumbled his way home.

Meanwhile, more able-bodied men were headed for the Notch.

On Thursday morning, August 31, while James Willey, Samuel Jr.'s elder brother, directed the search through the rubble, Samuel Willey Sr. and his sons Benjamin and Stephan and other relatives, friends and neighbors, made their way up the road from Conway.

Going on noon, as they neared the site, they could see three slides that had come off Mt. Willey. The southernmost left its tangled debris 30-feet high in the interval. The northern slide, which was the longest, had notched the skyline and come down directly behind the house. The third slide completely

destroyed the cart body, which Samuel Jr. had thoughtfully planned as a refuge.

With about 50 men gathered to hunt for the bodies, the search turned southward and toward the debris that had been washed along by the flood, and in response to a call for his help Ethan Crawford arrived again.

Shortly after noon, Edward Melcher, following the southern division of the slide, brushed against a twig and disturbed a cluster of flies around an opening in the debris. Working his way into the opening, he discovered a man's hand jammed between two logs. Stephan Willey and Thomas Hart came with shovels, and their digging exposed the body of the hired man, David Allen. The find meant that there was a new widow with four children living in Bartlett, penniless and at the mercy of charity.

Mrs. Willey's body was directly behind Allen. When the bodies were uncovered, they were found to be nude and terribly mangled. It appeared as

(Concluded on Page 10)

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# The Willey House tragedy still haunts the high walls of Crawford Notch

(Continued from Page 9)

though he had been guiding her up to the moment of death.

Soon Richard Barnes found Mr. Willey's body about 70-feet farther down the brook. It was not only pinned under a timber from the barn but was entangled in the top of an uprooted tree. Willey was fully clothed except for a torn-off coat sleeve. His injuries were much less severe than those of his wife or David Allen.

As night came on, the search stopped. The three bodies were wrapped in sheets and placed in hastily constructed coffins. They were set in a temporary and common grave close to the house, and there they would remain until winter.

The next morning most of the searchers left, leaving only a few to search for the other six bodies. Before he departed, Ethan Crawford constructed a simple monument for his deceased friends. With a piece of red chalk he printed on a planed board: "THE FAMILY FOUND HERE." He nailed the board to a tree and returned home, where he was badly needed. Five children

and one hired man were still missing.

The search for the others continued through the rest of the week with no success. By Sunday, September 3, the only searchers remaining were Benjamin Eastman and a small boy named George Nickerson. Nickerson's brother, the other hired man, was still missing.

About noon, as Eastman and the boy worked below the area where the others had been found, they uncovered the body of Sally Willey, 3, and that of the oldest child, Eliza Ann, 13. In less than two hours the youngest and the eldest of the children were found.

On Tuesday, a week after the disaster, David Nickerson's body was located four feet below the area where the first bodies were recovered. His was the last to be found.

In December the four Willey bodies were buried in upper Conway, known today as Intervale. The father, mother and two children were laid to rest in a single grave. The slate headstone, which is in the small



The site of the Willey House near the base of Mt. Willey is identified by a modest state park office and a commercial gift shop. The state park office has a few photographs of the house before it burned in 1899 and a fragment of wood identified as from a table in the house.

Willey cemetery behind the Moat Mountain Inn in Intervale, is inscribed with the names of the three missing children as well.

David Allen's body was taken to the Bartlett cemetery. His headstone, which is no more than a rough red granite boulder, is located in the far northwestern corner. The location of Nickerson's grave is unknown.

The Willey House was destroyed by fire on September 24, 1899.

Today, there is no way of knowing exactly when the Willey family and the two others left the house hoping to find safety from the storm, but the plan to escape to the overturned cart as a refuge proved to be their downfall. No doubt the sound and the fury of the storm were terrifying, but had they remained in the house they would have survived. The tragic ending of the Willeys and their hired men

still haunts the high walls of Crawford Notch, and today, 180-years later, one can only wonder at the powerful forces of nature and the fragile condition of human life. ★

Floyd Ramsey's account of the Willey tragedy has been excerpted with his permission from a pamphlet published by Bondcliff Books of Littleton and from his *Shrouded Memories* also published by Bondcliff Books.

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August 10 might be a good time to think about the "increase and diffusion of knowledge."

**The Smithsonian Institution**

With the school year about to be upon us, August 10 might be a good time to think about the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." Thanks to a wealthy English scientist, who died with no heirs, we've had a national institution dedicated to that purpose since August 10, 1846.

James Louis Macie Smithson, whose fortune made the Smithsonian Institution possible, actually died in 1829, but the first part of his will left his estate in trust to a nephew. When that nephew died childless, the last sentence of Smithson's handwritten will suddenly became significant.

In the event that Smithson had no surviving heirs, his will, in what seems like an idealistic afterthought, bequeathed everything "to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase & diffusion of knowl-

edge ..."

Smithson's fortune, when it was shipped across the Atlantic and reminted into American coins, amounted to \$508,318.46. From that nest egg, the Smithsonian has grown into 16 museums and galleries plus a zoo in Washington, D.C., two museums in New York City and several research stations elsewhere.

One of the oldest of the Smithsonian's collections, and the one that would have been of most interest to Smithson himself, is housed in the National Museum of Natural History. This collection includes over 100 million specimens, only a small percentage of which are on display. The rest are stored behind the scenes for scientific study and reference.

Some of the natural history treasures that Smithson, who was a chemist and mineralogist, would have especially enjoyed are the world's oldest fossil, some moon

rocks and the Hope Diamond. There are thousands of plant and animal specimens collected by some of our earliest naturalists plus several game animals shot by Theodore Roosevelt specifically for the Smithsonian.

One of my own Smithsonian favorites is the external architecture of the original building, the Castle, which was completed in 1855. In 1977, a pair of Barn Owls, named Increase and Diffusion in honor of Smithson the great patron of human knowledge, nested in one of the towers. Today the Castle houses offices, including the Information Office, which I still sometimes call to ask questions.

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



**Willey Family Cemetery**

Four of the Willey family were buried in Intervale, NH in a small family cemetery, now obscured from US 302 by the Moat Mountain Inn. The cemetery can be reached by means of a parking lot located to the north of the inn. The slate marker includes the names of the four who were found and of the three missing children as well.

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**Wednesday, August 23**

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Gates Open at 7 a.m. Judging of 4-H Exhibits, Poultry, Rabbits and Wildlife.

Cattle Judging - Youth Dairy Show Water Slide Opens Midway Opens Pig Paddling Porkers Scrapbooking Demos Ice Cream Eating Contest Horses, Horses, Horses Racing Pigs Chicken Calling Contest Figure 8 Race - Autos & Trucks

**Thursday, August 24**  
**Senior Citizens' Day**  
**Honor Our Troops Day**

Gates Open at 7 a.m. Antique Tractor Pull Cattle Judging - Open Dairy Show Pig Paddling Porkers Horses, Horses, Horses Midway Egg Hunting Contest Racing Pigs Sugarhouse Specials Starship with Micky Thompson Pony Pull - 1400 lb.

**Friday, August 25**

Gates Open at 7 a.m. Cattle Judging - Youth and Open Sheep & Goat Show Pony Pulling - 1800 lb. Midway Racing Pigs Ice Cream Special at Dairy Center Horses, Horses, Horses Native American Basketmaking Cattle Judging - Yoke Show Horse Pull - 3300 lb. Volleyball Pig Paddling Porkers Pony Pull Charlie Daniels Band

**Saturday, August 26**  
**Family Day**

Gates Open at 7 a.m. Volleyball Rug Hooking Model Dog Show Horse Pull - 3100 lb. Cattle Costume Contest Midway Racing Pigs Horses, Horses, Horses Grand Cavalcade Horse Pull - 3500 lb. Sheep Shearing Demo Pig Paddling Porkers Tractor Rodeo Horse Pull FFA Big Rig Truck Pull



**Sunday, August 27**

Gates Open at 7 a.m. Volleyball Horse Show Gymkhana Youth Ox Pull Rug Hooking Racing Pigs Midway Horses, Horses, Horses Ox Pull - 2400 lb Ice Cream Eating Contest Pig Scramble Pig Paddling Porkers Ox Pull - 2800 lb Ox Pull - 3200 lb Ox Pull - over 3200 lb Demo Derby



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# Walden Hill Journal



Photo By: Jeff Gold

The Danville Town Band lit up the sky for a summer concert on the Danville Green.

**ELLEN GOLD**

**August 1, 2005** - On this first day August is delightfully cool with plenty of moisture to keep things green. We're watching a late afternoon thunderstorm moving through. Cooler air is

dropping into the valley forcing warmer air to rise in white, misty, rolling clouds, which rapidly change as they meet the dark storm clouds behind. Occasional lightning bolts streak through the cloud layers, accompanied by distant thunder.

**August 2, 2005** -

We discovered a large area in our field loaded with blueberries. Our neighbor alerted us to good pickings near their yard, and a casual walk through the grass from there led to bushes in all directions. Large clumps of succulent berries were appearing

under every branch. It was more like picking grapes than berries. We easily filled and froze three pints and will go exploring again in the next few days.

**August 6, 2005** - Danville Fair, the beginning of the end of summer. With a day like today, we'll be sorry to see summer wind down. The weather was perfect for outdoor festivities. Temperatures stayed in the 70's with low humidity and bright sunshine. The mountains have been crystal clear all day. Jeff ran into a grinning, 90-year-old Thelma White who had just

come from riding on the rather formidable Ferris wheel. She said that that's one of the three things she looks forward to at the fair each summer and that the view from the very top was spectacular on this clear day. Had a good morning of raspberry and blueberry pickings yesterday and found that a bear had wandered the same path. We made sure to keep up a continuous chatter in case the bears were still among the berries and not just wandering through, leaving piles of poop.

**August 9, 2005** - The steady, high-pitched, rhythmic chirping of cicadas has arrived, filling the summer silence. Goldenrod is showing hints of yellow, and local sweet corn is on the farm stands. Blackcap raspberries have joined the harvest. Morning haze erased our view as more hot and humid weather sets in. Monarch butterflies have arrived in much reduced numbers but full in beauty.

**August 14, 2005** - Light but steady rain on this cool, overcast day. Mist continues to rise from the disappearing valley. Gardens are getting a much needed gentle soaking. It's a good day to put up more zucchini pancakes and a batch of hermit zucchini cookies. Last night we had zucchini stuffed with curried chicken sausage. So all-in-all it's been a profitable weekend as five more zucchini bite the dust.

**August 16, 2005** - It's a misty, moist morning and as the nursery rhyme goes, "cloudy was the weather." Spider webs are heavy with dew and stand out on the bushes and in the grass. Intricately woven patterns, separated by moisture are much larger and more open than usual. The sun is gradually burning off the morning fog and bringing back our mountain view. Goldenrod in various shades, shapes and sizes fill the fields and our golden globe perennial heliopsis have stalks which reach up and above our lamp poles, with bright, nodding, yellow heads straining to stay upright. I discovered today that a clicking sound that I had attributed to chipmunks and

squirrels is the sound an aggressive hummingbird makes to guard his territory. They sure can be bossy and intimidating to unwanted rivals or intruders. Hummers vigorously defend "their" feeder and the surrounding flowers.

**August 23, 2005** - It's 49° this bright sunny morning, with thick valley fog not yet warmed sufficiently by the late rising sun to dissipate. Even Mt. Moosilauke still wears his cottony nightcap. Students are back to school next week and as usual, the very first signs of fall color have appeared. The occasional maples, especially swamp maples, have dipped a leaf or two into mother nature's paint can to sample the available autumnal hues. Meanwhile we continue to feast from the garden and field. An added treat to picking blackberries are the beautiful monarch butterflies floating through the field and the unusually large, graceful dragonflies seining the air for mosquitoes. Went for a late morning walk and picked some blackberries for lunch. I surprised or I guess more accurately was surprised by a flock of grouse grazing on the choke cherries. There were some also feeding by the blueberry patch when I was picking a few days ago. I'm not sure if they're actually eating berries or other fruit on trees nearby.

**August 25, 2005** - Took an afternoon walk around the reservoir loop. The streams along Kittredge Road are into their late summer trickling mode. Yellow butterflies were "flocking" near the mud puddles, lapping up salts and minerals. Huge dragonflies were gracefully hovering above Matte's pond. A breeze helped keep this full-sun day comfortable. Non-threatening clouds hung picturesquely in a haze-free sky. It should be a perfect evening for Danville Town Band's final summer concert on the green. Apple trees are weighed down with a bumper crop of red and green apples. After two seasons of low yield, this year's abundance is a welcomed sight. The thermometer is

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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.

barely tipping 50° tonight. I had a brief glimpse of an extremely bright Venus dropping below the western horizon with Jupiter close behind.

**August 26, 2005** - A gentle pastel ocean sunrise this chilly autumnal morning. Our usual river of mist has overflowed to form an ethereal sea with mountaintop islands floating above it. About 6:30 the sun finally made its presence known, rising just below our lower drive. The sun's southward journey into winter is underway. Long shadows and a few wispy clouds complete the morning scene in what the weatherman calls "chamber of commerce" end-of-summer weather. While we're enjoying the early morning calm, south Florida is being blasted by hurricane Katrina. We'll no doubt be feeling its diminished power in a week or so. Dahlias are just beginning to open, adding their rich, dark red to our fall-blooming flowers. Hopefully they'll have a chance to mature before our first frost hits. It's a stunning star night, the perfect bookend to the serene start of the day. There's no moonlight to obscure the constellations as well as all the unnamed pinpoints of light sparkling in their infinite intensities. The Milky Way sends a long, arching, steamy plume

from the spout of the teapot Sagittarius in the southern sky to Cassiopeia on the opposite northern horizon. The gentle sound of rustling leaves, insistent pulsating katydids, the shrill of chirping crickets and the sweet fragrance of phlox permeate the night air. Only the hardiest of mosquitoes set up the occasional whine on this cool night. One rapidly moving satellite and an orange burning shooting star bring the day to a close.

**August 31, 2005** - We're ending August with torrential rain and blustery winds. The remnants of hurricane Katrina may be weakening but she's still blowing a mighty wind. Big news; Danville now has its very own "Moose Crossing" signs, which I believe are the town's first such warnings. One posting is on a wet, low section of Route 2 and looks like good moose habitat to me. I've never seen a moose there except for the metal moose at the mini-golf course on Route 2, but I will keep my eyes peeled. ★

## The Cork & Bottle

Gerd Hirschmann

The tried and proven method of selecting wine is to buy only that with which you are familiar. You know it, and you like it. The risk of not enjoying it is negligible to the percentage of ending up with a spoiled bottle.

However there is a whole other world out there worth exploring offering a multitude in flavors, aromas and tastes. This is really the reason I write these articles, to encourage experiments in wine, to try a wine never tried before. I hope to give our readers a few guidelines and hints to help making a more educated choice about something new.

There are thousands of different wines available from all over the world. The choice is daunting, and it's no wonder people tend to play it safe. But do you remember the first time you tried that particular wine you like so much, the excitement you felt, almost like a first date? It might have been at a friend's house, maybe someone who likes experimenting and every so often buys a different wine, just to see what

it tastes like. When was the last time you introduced a new wine to your guests?

Before you go "experimenting" with a new wine, take a look at the wine you like: Which region does it come from? Chances are there may be others from that area featuring enough of the characteristics you like but offering new flavors that are distinct. How about a different choice on your favorite grape, there are plenty of chardonnays, merlots and pinot noirs out there. It's also worth taking a look at the label, it is a reflection of the winemaker's taste. You might like another wine with a label that attracts your interest.

Price is a good indicator of quality. Any bottle for about five bucks is what it is: cheap. It probably tastes that way, too. Good values can be had for just under \$10, but most quality wines tend to be at the \$15 to \$20 level. Above that it usually means you are paying extra for the name or the rating.


There is an often told story about the person that buys a case

of wine, but does not like it after the first bottle and returns the remainder of the case. Then Robert Parker or the Wine Spectator gives it a big rating, so the person goes back and buys the case again at almost double the price. This really does happen, although most likely no one will admit to it. Ratings of 90 or more are sure to increase the price by more than its worth. It seems a wiser move to buy an unrated wine at \$15 than a highly rated one at \$25.

Mr. Parker tastes an average of 130 wines a day, you can imagine how exhausted his palate gets after a while. Mine gives up after about 30. Only big, bold wines stand out in such a crowd. The more subdued, elegant wines get lost. They may be the bargain worth trying. After all winemaking is an art, it plays to a lot of individual tastes. Would Picasso have scored 90 points?

At last, follow your intuition, ask questions and try something new every so often, you might find a new wine to share with your friends.


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### A Sonnet on My Birthday

Oh, the rage I felt when I was young  
 To see a codger sporting by in Jaguar  
 XK120 or other sexy open car,  
 With blowing hair and long, lascivious tongue.  
 Some innate male thing I guess made me  
 Upset to see that ancient cruising chicks,  
 Immoral - yes, illegal too - to steal  
 The nubile gals from spot-faced guys like me!

But now today I'm turning 65.  
 The top's down, and all's well with the world  
 As I drive my bright red, paid-for Sunbird  
 Down country lane where nature's sounds survive.  
 The utter joy I feel with wind through hair!  
 This codger's cruisin' on without a care!

Robert Swartz

### Seduction By An Automobile

When he bought "The Car"  
 I thought he'd lost his mind.  
 And maybe he had,  
 At least the one I knew!

Mid-life will do that to a man,  
 Or so they say.  
 My experience is, thankfully,  
 limited,  
 And so I went on strike!

"What? Ride in that tin can?"  
 No way, it's so embarrassing,  
 I know what folks will say,  
 "There goes another idiot  
 experiencing senescence."

But after all my older female  
 friends  
 Had raved, nay gloated,  
 Driving through the town beside  
 MY man,  
 I changed my mind.

Now when I am driving up the  
 Interstate  
 With wind in my hair (white of  
 course),  
 The Asplundh men, in orange  
 trucks,  
 Joyfully toot their horns at me!

Isobel P. Swartz

### The Gleaner


I want it so much when  
 I see it out there  
 Little red berry, so prized  
 and so rare.  
 My footsteps unsettled by a  
 logger's debris,  
 Will this temptation extract  
 a crippling fee?  
 Through tangle and pricker  
 onward I thrust  
 Toward on bright berry -  
 get I must

Joy Kauper

### Almost Generous

I bought these shoes  
 for a funeral she said  
 and it sounded so casual  
 the shoes  
 instantly too black  
 I wore them only once  
 she says  
 as if to convince me  
 of their worth  
 She blows the dust  
 off the top  
 They're yours if you like.

Paula LaRochelle



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## the ARTS around

### August

- 28 - August 3 *Wordplay* (2006, US) [PG] Director: Patrick Creadon. An affectionate documentary about *The New York Times* crossword puzzle, the constructors who make it and the word nuts who love it. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 4 *The Mammals*, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 4 Northeast Kingdom Music festival, Albany, VT.
- 4-10 *Water* (2005, India) [PG-13] Director: Deepa Mehta. Part three in Mehta's "Elements" trilogy, celebrates the lives of women who have, and continue to, resist marginalization by Indian society. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 5 *Perfect Train Wreck*, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 5 *Gordon Lightfoot*, Flynn Theatre, Burlington.
- 6 *UmbrellaFest* featuring Toubab Krewe, Burke Mountain.
- 9 John Hiatt with David Stockhausen, Higher Ground, Burlington.
- 10 *Bela Fleck, Natalie MacMaster and Del McCoury Band*, Shelburne Museum.
- 11 *Glengarry Boys*, Middle

- Earth Music, Bradford.
- 11-17 *Sketches of Frank Gehry* (2005, US) [PG-13] Director: Sydney Pollack. Documentary on the architect, Frank O. Gehry, the film explores Gehry's process of turning abstract drawings, first into three-dimensional models, then into finished buildings of titanium and glass, concrete and steel, wood and stone. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 12 *Nobby Reed*, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 12&13 *Baystock Music Festival* with Dr. John, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, deSol, Blues Traveler, The Saw Doctors and more. Portland, ME. (207) 842-0800.
- 13 *Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon*, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 16 *Guster with Ray Lamontagne*, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex.
- 18 *Bill Morrissey*, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 18-24 *Russian Dolls* (2005, France) [R] Director: Cédric Klapisch. Sequel to Klapisch's 2002 megahit *L'Auberge Espagnole*, *Russian Dolls* is a charming French waltz through the mysteries of love. The cen-

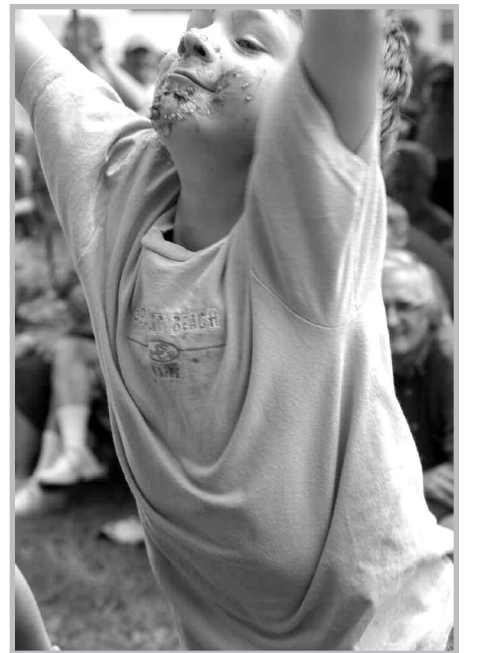
- tral character, Xavier, dreams of writing a novel but makes a living churning out scripts for television soaps and lets the notion of the perfect woman cloud every relationship offered him. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 19 *Jeremy Lyons*, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 25 *Session Americana*, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 25-31 *The Road to Guantanamo* (2006, England) [R] Director: Michael Winterbottom. A searing portrait of the US prison camp in Cuba, the film uses interviews and re-enactments to tell the true story of four British Muslims who were captured by the Northern Alliance and handed over to the US government, flown to the prison camp in Cuba and never charged but held for two years. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 26 *Keith Urban with Little Big Town*, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex.
- 26 *Hunger Mountain Boys*, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 28 *Jesse McCartney and Teddy Geiger*, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex.



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The kids' parade always leads off with bicycles, wagons, tractors, costumes and just plain signs, but who can forget their kids' first parade through the village of North Danville?

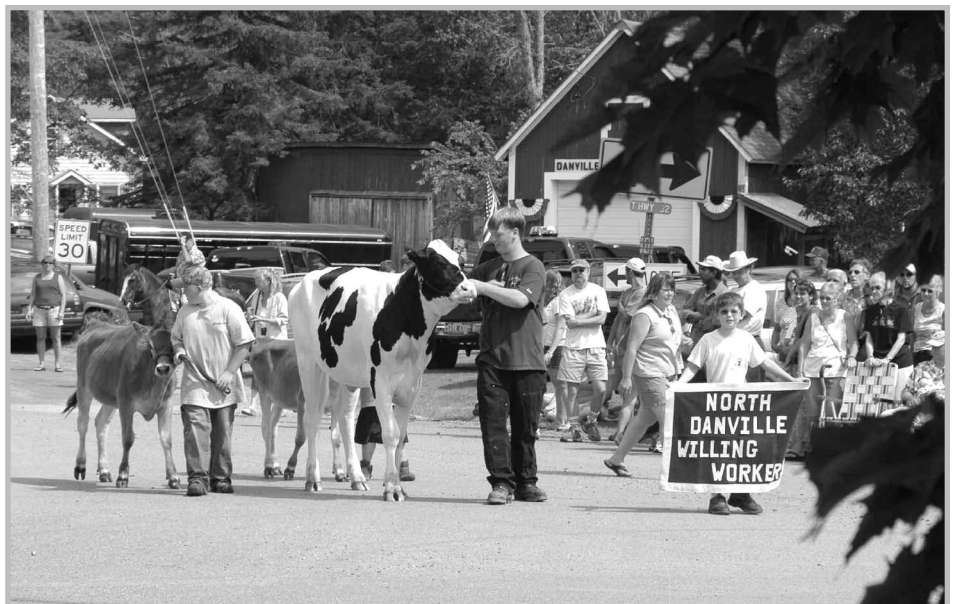


How sweet it is to enter the pie-eating contest and know you've won.

**Everyone Loves  
a Parade  
and the  
4th of July  
in  
North Danville**

Calkins cousins Lyndsay and Abbie set a tough pace for the road race.

North Star Photos By: Jim Ashley



The Danville High School marching band directed by Matt Clancy led the way, and all kinds of patriotic celebrants tried to march in step.

# \$ Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

**The Charity of Business, the Business of Charity"**

Bill Gates recently announced his inclination to spend more time giving away his money than making it. In this he follows a long line of capitalists and entrepreneurs who have created some of capitalism's greatest success stories and then endowed America with many of its greatest artistic, cultural, educational and scientific institutions: from Carnegie Hall (Andrew Carnegie) to Brown University (Nicholas Brown) to our own St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Academy, and the Fairbanks Museum, all given by the Fairbanks family.

Gates' career, and this most recent choice, parallels none more closely than that of John D. Rockefeller, the founder of Standard Oil, now Exxon Mobil. Like Rockefeller, Gates created a fortune by seeing the potential of a new product and making it useful and affordable to the masses. Like Rockefeller, Gates acquired a reputation for being a ruthless business competitor, the preeminent capitalist of his day. Like Rockefeller, Gates, now in his 50's, prefers to focus his entrepreneurial energies on charity.

John D. Rockefeller's product was oil, although when oil was first discovered in the U.S. in 1859, it was not the universal fuel so demanded today. At that time its value was as kerosene, providing affordable light. Rather than get into the risky, and expensive, business of drilling for oil, Rockefeller built refineries and pipelines. He made crude oil useful to the masses, and he created a transportation infrastructure to deliver it to them. Kerosene was relatively cheap, but Rockefeller made a fortune on the volume sold through mass distribution, and as more uses for oil were developed, that distribution system gave Rockefeller a powerful competitive advantage in a growing industry.

Bill Gates' product was the operating system for computers. Just as refining makes crude oil useful, the operating system makes the computer useful for the masses. Gates, rather than get into the riskier and more competitive (at the time) business of designing the hardware, or the computer itself, he marketed the operating system. He made his operating system inexpensive, he actually gave it away at first, to achieve mass distribution and to

create the industry standard, which gave him a dominant market share and then tremendous leverage in the growing industry.

**Rockefeller expressed a sense of public stewardship for his wealth, that he was not so much its owner but its caretaker.**

Rockefeller retired from business in his 50's, and used what he had learned about effective corporate structure to mass produce philanthropy, to make it more efficient on a larger scale. His interests focused on education (endowing the University of Chicago, Spelman College, Rockefeller University, and others) and health care, helping to eradicate yellow fever, rickets and hookworm, among others. He created the Rockefeller Foundation, so that his work would continue in perpetuity. While he was not the first wealthy American entrepreneur to give, the size of his gifts and his application of corporate management models made him an innovative entrepreneur of modern philanthropy.

In his day, Rockefeller was criticized as being the embodiment of the dark side of capital-

ism, accused of suppressing competition while amassing obscene wealth, but he started giving his money away long before the Federal tax laws made it advantageous to do so. He expressed a sense of public stewardship for his wealth, that he was not so much its owner but its caretaker. He saw little philosophical difference between creating wealth and caring for it: a devout man, he believed that he did God's work by giving Americans kerosene, corporate jobs and stock dividends, just as he did by creating universities, hospitals and research centers.

Gates has long been criticized for the ruthlessness of Microsoft's tactics in stifling competition and for amassing his own outsized fortune. His charitable activities will be enormous; the Gates Foundation will soon have assets of about \$60 billion, or about 12.5% of the total assets that are charitably directed (controlled by foundations) in the United States.

Historically, we have always had an uneasy relationship with

the success of capitalism. We are skeptical that extraordinary gains can be anything but ill-gotten. We worry that corporate behemoths, with dubious motives, may play too big a role in our economic lives. Should we worry that any one foundation controls so much of our charitable resources, and has so much say in how they are directed?

Let us hope that Gates, like Rockefeller before him, will not only persist in his charitable endeavors, but that, like Rockefeller, his demonstrated entrepreneurial talents evolve philanthropy to the next, more innovative, efficient and effective level. Let us hope that our long tradition of capitalists-turned-philanthropists continues.

*Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy, and on accounting and tax dilemmas. She has an MBA from Yale University; she is a Professor in the Business Administration Department at Lyndon State College.*

## Wanted – Book Donations!

The Cobleigh Public Library in Lyndonville is accepting donations of clean, used books for its annual book sale at the town offices in October. The sale is put on by Friends of the Library.

Please call (802) 626-5475 or bring donations to the Library.

We do not accept *Reader's Digest* condensed books, text books or encyclopedia sets more than 10 years old. Some newer donated books will be added to the Library's collection. This is a great way to share materials with your community and for the Library and the bookmobile to raise additional funds! We appreciate your help.

For further information please contact Cindy Karasinski at (802) 626-5475.



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# Childhood - The Coolest Common Denominator of All

JO-ANN SHERRER REED

"The hand that reached out to me in fifth grade is still there."  
— Susan Allen Toth

Picture this: Eleven 50-something women gathered around a dining room table. Conservative, liberal, married, not married, widowed, working, retired; all joking, poking and periodically asking, "Is it hot in here, or is it just me?" The common denominator? Only the coolest thing of all.

Childhood. Our own.

From elementary school through junior high until our 1970 graduation from St. Johnsbury Academy, we played in each other's yards and stayed by each other's side. Put us all together and the memories swirl like pink cotton candy at the Kiwanis Carnival '67.

But, we go back even further than that. Weaned on Captain Kangaroo, by the time we'd stompered and bompered Our way through the Romper Room School, we could A-B-C you 'til the cows came home.

In 1963, after a raucous recess playing kick ball (in dresses, thank you very much) we careened back into class only to be told that we'd be going home early that day. President Kennedy had been killed. Fast forward six years and we're together again, with boys, at Suzy's house on School Street witnessing that one small step for man, one giant step for mankind. And then, we stacked up the 45s, turned on the record player and rocked and rolled the night away to the music of the Association,

Beach Boys and Diana Ross and the Supremes.

And in June of 1970, we graduated.

We kept in touch during college, marriage, births and deaths, and we saw each other for sure every five years at our high school reunion. But since 2002, that first weekend in June has become sacrosanct.

We gather together in Colchester from Vermont, Massachusetts and sometimes from as far away as North Carolina and Washington for food, fun and menopausal dos and don'ts. No boys are allowed. We entertain ourselves well, but there have been some tense moments, too, especially this year during — The Test.

You can't delve into the deepest recesses of your mind when just anyone asks you a question. You might even have forgotten you have deep recesses in your mind. But, when an old friend asks you just who sang and danced to "Indian Braves and Pilgrims" in the third grade play, well, you better put your thinking cap on.

What was Vicki's dog's name? (*Sooty*)

Who broke his leg right

before graduation? (*Turk*)

What did Kathy's mother call soda? (*Tonic*)

What color was Susan's refrigerator? (*It was black! The first one in town.*)

Tough stuff, and it didn't stop there. We resurrected tales of first love, first heartache and the year we absolutely had to wear granny gowns to the school dance. Faster than you could say Ba Ba Ba Barbara Anne, we covered it all, from Firebirds to Fosamax.

On this one special weekend a year, we cackle, crow, and we knock ourselves out on the collective minutiae of our Vermont childhood 50+ years ago. How lucky we were. How lucky we are.

"Cherish is the word ..." ★

There's a lot of knowledge in universities. The freshmen bring a little in. The seniors don't take much away. So knowledge sort of accumulates.

- A. Lawrence Lowell

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## Speaker Series Presented by St. Johnsbury Historical Society

Three outstanding authors who explore New England history will give public talks in St. Johnsbury this summer and fall, in a series crafted by the St. Johnsbury Historical Society.

On July 27 Amy Belding Brown, author of *Mr. Emerson's Wife*, opened the series introducing her book and her work with the lives of American Transcendentalists, especially Ralph Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

Katherine Towler, whose *Snow Island* and *Evening Ferry* make up two parts of a World War II fiction trilogy, brings her writing and research to her talk at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum on Thursday, August 17, at 7:00 p.m.

The third author, Nat Tripp, has published a memoir of the Vietnam War and the death of his own father, a children's picture book and written for public television. His talk on Thursday September 21, at the former St. Johnsbury Railroad Depot (the location of the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce), is "On the Train: St. Johnsbury and the Railroad, Then and Now."

Each of the three authors has strong connections to the area. Amy Belding Brown, married to a United Church of Christ minister and working in Concord, MA, is the daughter of Elinor Belding of St. Johnsbury and the late Robert French Belding, assistant headmaster at St. Johnsbury Academy.

Katherine Towler, lives with her husband in Portsmouth, NH. They have a camp on Lake Willoughby. Her master's degree in English literature is from Middlebury.

Nat Tripp is a long-time railroad buff and a producer of public television programming. He is married to author Reeve Lindbergh. They live in Barnet.

All three of these events are free and open to the public. Shara McCaffrey, president of the St. Johnsbury Historical Society, hopes the events will bring fresh knowledge and enthusiasm to those who enjoy history. Donations to support the events are gladly accepted. For information call (802) 748-8291.

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On the evening of July 12, the Walden Home Demonstration Group celebrated its 60th anniversary. Gathered at the Danville Inn for the occasion were Front: (L-R) Alice Blair (one of the Elsie Cahoon, Francese Cochran, Gertrude Hale and Margaret Brown. Rear: Erlene Loura, Carol Entriken, Kay Fay, Alberta Cochran, Robbie Hammond, Linda Brennan, Pat Ainsworth, Kay Fay, and the one who travelled the farthest was Ruth Smith from California. The group supports many community organizations and continues to meet on the first Wednesday of every month for Conservation Camps. Ann Cochran is sure to clarify that the Home Demonstration Group does not do the hot dish suppers or the annual Game Supper at the Walden Church, but



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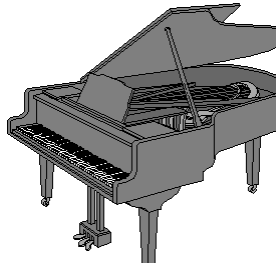
(the early Caledonia County Extension Service Home Demonstration Agents to meet with the group), Anne Greaves, Ruth Smith, Betty Hatch (the only president the group has ever had), Marie Batchelder, Hazel Greaves, Joanne Foster, Diane Cochran and Ann Cochran. According to Ann Cochran the oldest member attending was Margaret Brown. The youngest was [name obscured] by month. The Home Demonstration Group is responsible for organizing the fall foliage festival in Walden. It makes generous donations to the town library for books and provides scholarship [name obscured] at she says, "It's all the same people."

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# What's Happening at the Town Hall?

## Barnet

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

June 26, 2006

**Comerford Dam Road Bridge** – Board discussed bids for repairs to Comerford Dam Road bridge in East Barnet Village: R.C. Contractors – total bid \$234,300; deck repairs only-\$120,800; Hansen Construction - total bid \$266,020; deck repairs only-\$136,020. Board voted to do just deck repairs this year and undertake painting in 2007 and award contract to R.C. Contractors. Board will amend grant agreement with the state to show the change.

**Harvey's Lake Dam** – Board discussed request for engineering assistance for improvements at Harvey's Lake dam to include work on hydraulics, hydrology study and permits. Board voted to advertise for bids to be due by August 11.

**Blaine Drive** – After review of petition from property owners on Blaine Drive, the access road to Roy's Campground, Board agreed that unless it amends the speed limit ordinance any posted changes lower than 35 mph are unenforceable. Board was not in favor of making changes but suggested lower limit signs could be posted anyway.

**Passumpsic Village Store** – Board reviewed report of water sampling tests

at site of former Passumpsic Village Store. Several petroleum compounds continue to exceed Vermont ground water standards. There is no change in plume size or distribution of contaminants in or near area across Route 5.

**Health Officer** – Board reappointed Ted Faris as town health officer.

**Highway Access Permit** – After discussion Board approved access permit for Timothy McGee on Brook Hill Road.

**Overweight Permit** – Board approved overweight permit for Connecticut Valley Trucking.

July 10, 2006

**CALEX Ambulance Service** – Jay Wood and Celina Wright met with Board and reviewed strategic planning for emergency ambulance services.

**Tax Rates** – Board approved 2006 tax rates of \$2.2533 (homestead rate) and 2.2513 (nonresident rate). Last year rates were \$2.0752 and 2.1035.

**Reappraisal Agreement** – Board reviewed proposal from Automated Property Assessment Services for a reappraisal of property starting in July of 2007 to be completed in June of 2008 for \$64,000. Work will involve updating all properties and detailed inspection of all buildings constructed since 2001 reappraisal. Board approved agreement.

**Town Garage Groundwater** – Board reviewed groundwater monitoring report for conditions at town garage. Report

recommends continued annual sampling.  
**Clara Brock Cottage** – Board will visit Clara Brock cottage at Harvey's Lake beach area to inspect its condition.

July 24, 2006

**Harvey's Lake Dam** – Board discussed proposed work at Harvey's Lake Dam with engineers from DuBois & King.

**East Barnet Bridge Repairs** – Board met with bridge contractor Royce Conley, VTrans representative and town engineer to review recommended additions to work in progress on East Barnet Bridge totaling an additional \$38,240. Board agreed to accept recommendations and have them added to project.

**Access Permit** – Board approved access permit for George & Dorene Mears on Somerhill Road.

**Storm Damage** – Board agreed to visit school property and fire station site to see tree damage following July 18 wind-storm.

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

## Cabot

Town Clerk: Chris Kaldor  
Selectboard: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and Ted Domey

July 5, 2006

**Grand List** – On recommendation of listers Board voted to seek a second 30 day extension of deadline for filing 2006 Grand List.

**Sewage Permit** – Board voted to hold a public hearing on July 14 to consider Randy Rouleau's petition for revocation of the Cabot sewer ordinance.

## Danville

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

July 6, 2006

**Mobil Methadone Clinic** – Alan Aiken provided a tour and description of mobile methadone clinic van. Aiken will look for areas in town to park the vehicle and report back to Board.

**Insurance** – John Blackmore explained \$1,367 increase in town's insurance as due to increased building replacement costs and additional worker's comp for additional payroll. Board accepted policy as presented, without terrorism coverage.

**Crosswalk Signs** – George Baxter asked Board to reconsider approving a permit to allow crosswalk signs in road.

**Road Matters** – Harry Gorman requested spreading of chloride in front of his house on Joe's Brook Road. Road foreman reported work is underway cleaning

ditches and culverts on class 3 roads and grading as weather permits. Winter sand has been hauled, firewood cut and trees cleaned up. Jeremy Withers and Troy Cochran are certified flaggers. Merton Leonard has agreed to be in charge of road crew when foreman is away.

**Town Hall** – Sprinkler system installation is almost complete. After reviewing bids for paving parking at town hall lot Board approved low bid submitted by Norris Paving of Barton for \$6,250.

**Pope Library Appropriation** – In response to Pope Library request for 1/2 its appropriation this summer Board agreed to wait until November after taxes are paid.

**Employee Compensation** – Board discussed a town employee receiving a payment in lieu of health insurance. Total payment is usually made in November. If employee was to quit Board agreed the payment would be prorated for months worked since November.

**Road Crew** – Board discussed document representing new road crew agreement.

July 20, 2006

**Town Hall** – On recommendation of Jeff Frampton Board agreed to discuss further its decision to paint town hall "off-white." Frampton suggests white should be the color. Board will look at paint chips to determine color it had in mind. Final inspection of second floor and sprinkler system is scheduled for August 3.

**Planning Commission** – Planning commission will advise Board as to progress with zoning bylaws.

**Tax Collection** – John Blackmore asked for clarification on tax collection policy and presented a letter outlining procedures he has followed. Board agreed policy is still valid and will follow provisions described for tax sales.

**Crosswalk Sign** – Board voted to file application for mobile crosswalk sign in front of town hall.

**Road Work** – Road foreman reported crew is cleaning ditches, grading roads and that chloride is applied only after roads are graded.

**Ward Cemetery** – CVPS hired a crane and crew to cut trees at Ward Cemetery. Road crew chipped brush and hauled off round wood.

**Sugar Ridge** – Board noted letter from district environmental commission indicating that Hillside Avenue and a portion of Highland Avenue are to be One Way after last lot is sold in Sugar Ridge. Board voted to leave roads as they are.

**Personnel** – Board noted a notice of a wage dispute filed with Vermont Labor Relations Board. After executive session Board voted to accept resignation of Scott Palmer as second in command of road crew.

**Tax Rate** – On recommendation of listers, Board voted to set tax rate for residential properties at \$1.3872 (\$.1606 for municipal, \$.2769 for highway and \$.9497 for school) and \$1.4975 for non residential properties (\$.1606 for municipal, \$.2769 for highway and \$1.0600 for school.)

**Road Crew Agreement** – Board completed review of road crew agreement and voted to accept the new procedures

effective September 1.

## Lyndon

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

July 10, 2006

**Highway Report** – At 50% through year, total budget is 39% expended.

**Access Permit** – Board approved access permit for Matthew Fournier onto Birchwood Terrace.

**Gilman Housing Trust** – Board approved a resolution for Gilman Housing Trust grant programs to combine single-family residence and home improvement grant programs into a single program.

**Excess Weight Permit** – Board approved excess weight permit for Northern Gas Transport.

**Perpetual Care Agreement** – Board approved perpetual care agreements for Bishop/Voller Estate, Jackie Degree and Helen & Sherb Lang.

**Lily Pond Road Bridge** – Board approved application for grant funds for rehabilitation of deck on Lily Pond Road Bridge. Project is eligible for 90% funding up to a total award of \$88,000.

**Design Review Board and Planning Commission** – Board is seeking volunteers to serve on the design review board and planning commission.

## Peacham

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

June 7, 2006

**Transfer Station** – Board discussed trash compactor under trial at transfer station. Dick Blair reported unit is working properly. Board acknowledged the need to budget for improvements to construction dumpster and compactor if it is purchased.

**Cemetery Regulations** – Board discussed cemetery regulations.

**Village Plan** – Board discussed village plan and agreed to develop a work plan for action items and a timeline, for both short and long term planning.

**Tree Board** – Board voted to adopt tree board charter and appointed Neil Monteith, David Jacobs and Julie Lang, chair of tree board. Cemetery sexton and administrative assistant will be ex-officio members of tree board.

**Personnel** – Board requested that administrative assistant provide Board for its review personnel reviews and any changes in personnel pay rates.

**Speed Limits Signs** – McKay presented a map with his recommended locations for speed limit signs in accordance with new traffic ordinance.

**Bills** – Without invoices for review, Board voted to defer payments until they were available but authorized Richard Brown to make payment on Board's behalf.

**Town Energy Officer** – Tim McKay and David Magnus reported their review of town buildings and library with Alison Hollingsworth of Efficiency Vermont and that there will be recommendations for energy efficiency forthcoming.

**Road Classification** – Board reviewed



Thresher Family Photograph

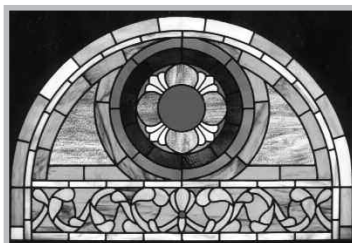
On Friday, May 19, Technical Sergeant Hollis Thresher retired from the U.S. Air Force. Thresher is a 1986 graduate of Danville School and served in various locations in the United States, Iceland, Turkey and at Diego Garcia in the British Indian Ocean Territory as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. His primary experience included munitions handling associated with B-52 aircraft and equipment maintenance. Above: At a ceremony in Minot, SD, Thresher was joined by his wife Angela (Broome) and his father, Allen Thresher of Peacham, who participated in his son's retirement ceremony. Hollis and Angela Thresher have relocated to Holland, VT.

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

town-wide road classification and voted to schedule a site visit and hearing to consider re-classification of all or portions of East Hill Road, Fosters Pond Road, Gracie Drive, Penny Street, Lamprecht Lane and Deweyburg Road.

**Memorial Day** – Board voted to express appreciation to Mel and Rod Reis for organization of Memorial Day celebration.

June 21, 2006

**Old Town Hall** – Board met with Town Attorney John Marshall and voted to convey, as agreed, Old Town Office property to Peacham Community Housing for one dollar.

**Transfer Station** – Board discussed trash compactor and comparison of costs with dumpster removal. Board discussed ways of encouraging recycling, including informational handout. Board will consider building a roof over and installing concrete pads under dumpster area in next years budget.

**Cemetery Regulations** – Board discussed cemetery regulations and agreed to review comments to regulations.

**Village Plan** – Board voted to adopt Peacham Village Work Plan as revised.

**Tree Board** – Board appointed Marj Swenson to tree board.

**Village Pathways** – Board voted to establish a Village Plan Pathways Implementation Committee and appointed Jeff Berwick and Sharon McDonnell, chair, to the committee.

**Village Plan Funding Committee** – Board appointed Ed Stretch, Charlie Browne, Gib Parrish and Barry Lawson, chair to Village Plan Funding Committee. Tim McKay is ex-officio member.

**Insurance** – Board voted to procure appropriate insurance for town salt shed and roller barn.

**Road Relocation** – Board discussed Dr. Schmidek's proposal for moving road away from his house. Browne directed administrative assistant to discuss requirements for open farmland and other concerns with Dr. Schmidek.

**Liquor License** – Board approved liquor license renewal for Peacham Store.

**Personnel** – Board discussed personnel manual.

**Budget Review** – Board asked town treasurer to collect information from town groups and organizations for upcoming budget review.

July 5, 2006

**Transfer Station** – Board discussed operations at transfer station. McKay spoke with waste management representative about providing signs for compactor. Board discussed compactor odor. New shed will be painted.

**Cemetery Regulations** – Board discussed cemetery regulations.

**Bayley Hazen Road** – Phil Jejer reported filling sink hole on Bayley Hazen Road in the village. Future work has been previously discussed.

**Better Back Roads** – Jejer a Better Back Roads grant will help in planning for road projects, problem areas and budgeting.

**Town Garage** – Major repairs to back wall of town garage are partially com-

plete. Chimney and siding were replaced. **Access Permits** – Board discussed access permits for loggers.

**Village Plan** – Board discussed Village Plan, particularly Main Street and Peacham village intersection. No plan was approved. Public will be kept informed of future planning.

**Community Forum** – Community Forum invited Board to attend an informal meeting with the group. Date will be determined in near future.

**Fire Station** – Board approved payment of \$18,333 in principal and \$3,109.67 in interest for fire station loan of \$73,334.

**Legal and Personnel Matters** – After executive session, no action was taken. Board did vote to refer certain correspondence from Mark Moore and Karen Stawiecki be referred to town counsel.

**Auditors** – Board discussed town auditor training and request from auditors for \$500 for CPA training in accrual accounting. Board suggested auditors consult VLCT about specific needs.

**Peacham Village Road Reconstruction** – Kathy Schauer discussed concerns about reconstruction of Bayley Hazen Road in village including protection of historical homes. Board agreed to forward Schauer's suggestion to legal counsel.

**Budget Planning** – Board discussed budget planning and asked that proposals from all town organizations be reported by August 1, 2006. Board asked to have a year-to-date funds balance at next meeting.

**Town Septic Lines** – Board requested map of town septic lines.

**Policy Review** – Board discussed policy for snowmobiles and liability insurance.

**Traffic Ordinance** – Board discussed traffic ordinance and asked administrative assistant to post speed limit signs at his convenience.

**Cemetery Deed** – Board signed cemetery deed for Corinne Atkinson.

**St. Johnsbury**

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

June 26, 2006

**Property Tax Due Date** – On recommendation of Sandy Grenier, Board voted to set November 17, 2006 as tax due date.

**Delinquent Taxes** – Town clerk reported on delinquent taxes due. Total for all previous years is \$102,092.70. \$11,057.21 are in bankruptcy, and \$14,364.72 are represented by good partial payment agreements. Balance of \$76,670.77 remains due and payable with no good agreement. Board discussed existing tax collection policy and will review possible changes at next meeting.

**Pandemic Flu Presentation** – Board met with representatives of state department of health, emergency management and NVRH and reviewed preparation for response to an epidemic or outbreak of pandemic disease.

**CALEX Board** – Following executive

session, Board appointed Matthew Choate to CALEX Board.

**Recreation Board** – Board appointed Jim Audette and Leo "Rocky" Lacroix (alternate) to recreation board.

**Subdivision Comments** – Board discussed comments submitted by town manager and department heads relative to North Slope subdivision including performance bond, utilities, roadways, sidewalks and street lighting.

**Street Lights** – After discussion, Board agreed to request that CVPS convert the current mercury vapor street lights to high pressure sodium.

**Passumpsic River** – Town manager reported State approved St. Johnsbury Rotary Club Passumpsic River Clean-up Project as an allowable supplemental environmental project but did not approve installation of flood monitoring equipment in St. Johnsbury Center.

**Safety Policy** – After presentation by town manager Board approved draft safety policy.

**Summerworks** – Board approved closing of Maple Street for Ping Pong Grand Prix on July 8.

**Fire Station Site** – Board agreed to have David Brown review proposed fire station sites and develop comparisons for Board's consideration.

**Industrial Park Board** – Board appointed Reg Wakeham to a two-year term on St. Johnsbury-Lyndon Industrial Park Board.

**Ride-to-Work** – Board voted to participate in the Ride your Motorcycle, Scooter to Work program.

**Water Filtration Plant Inspection** – Board agreed to schedule an inspection of water filtration plant.

**Railroad Tie Clean-Up** – Board noted progress in cleaning up old railroad ties from the Lamoille Valley Railroad line.

**Bike Signs** – Board noted Bike Route signs are up on Portland Street.

July 17, 2006

**Water Plant** – Dan Gray, chief operator of water filtration plant, provided a tour of town filtration system.

**Delinquent Tax Policy** – Town manager referred to a copy of existing delinquent tax policy and after brief discussion Board agreed to eliminate a section on small claims and enforce revised and otherwise existing policy.

**Solid Waste Update** – Priscilla Messier described town's encouragement of private property clean-up, including 28 letters to property owners and help with volunteers and costs of waste disposal. Messier is working with some property owners on junk car removal, and, although some oppose town helping people in any manner of clean-up, Board

agreed to continue.

**Town Plan Award** – St. Johnsbury Town Plan, "Avenue to the Future," has been selected by Vermont Planners Association as Vermont Plan of the Year and is being sent on for consideration in a New England regional competition.

**Downtown Parking** – Mark Desrochers, Linda Fogg and Roger Damon from St. Johnsbury Works offered recommendations for downtown parking including considerations for parking regulations, fees and fines. They urged town to turn parking program around so that revenues meet expenses. Recommendations include maintaining parking meters with increased rates and increasing fees for permits. Once the parking lot loan is paid, surplus revenues should be used for downtown parking and pedestrian improvements. Committee suggested downtown improvement district commission might be the appropriate body to oversee parking issues as no single person is currently responsible for management. Board asked to have recommendations circulated among merchants and downtown property owners for feedback.

**New Boston Road** – Marcel Dionne requested various improvements to New Boston Road including 1/2 mile of paving, centerline painting, better traffic control signs, heavy truck traffic restrictions and speed enforcement. Several neighbors expressed similar concerns. Mike Welch indicated that with 50 miles of gravel road and 50 miles of paved road to maintain, the New Boston Road is not of high priority for paving. Board will investigate the safety concerns before the next meeting.

**Railroad Street Trees** – Town manager provided an estimate for pruning and cabling of three trees located just outside town right of way on Railroad Street at Highland Travel. Board voted to obtain at least one more quote, and pay up to 50% of cost of pruning and cabling for these trees.

**Combined Sewer Overflow Monitoring** – Mike Welch presented proposal for monitoring current CSO's. The intent of proposal is to provide town with an evaluation of effectiveness of CSO construction work to date and determine where next CSO construction dollars should be spent to generate the greatest impact for overflow reduction/elimination. State officials have reviewed two-year cost estimate (\$109,000) and approved scope of work. Board agreed to move forward with the program.

**Utility Permit** – Board voted to authorize a utility pole at Goss Hollow.

**Property Complaint** – Ed Gallagher Jr.

asked Board to investigate an incident at his Pearl Street apartment building while he was away with National Guard. Board asked police chief to investigate and report to Board.

**Walden**

Town Clerk: Lina Smith  
 Selectboard: David Brown, Perley Greaves and Douglas Luther

June 27, 2006

**Road Improvements** – Board agreed to go ahead with road work on Coles Pond Road and Ferguson Hill as part of Better Backroads project. Road foreman will schedule work after road crew returns from vacation.

**Roadside Mowing** – Perley Greaves reported he was not able to find a tractor for rent and offered use of his tractor for roadside mowing in exchange for six loads of sand. Board will consider this at next meeting.

**Dog Complaint** – Town clerk reported a dog complaint. Board directed her to contact constable. Board discussed bill sent to dog owner for costs incurred for another dog incident. Bill was mailed, but it remains unpaid.

**Water Test at Church** – Diane Cochran asked if water had been tested at the church. Doug Luther explained that due to heavy rains test was postponed.

July 11, 2006

**Culvert Repair** – Joe Engel requested town assistance to repair or replace a culvert at the end of Eastern Avenue. Board agreed to talk with road foreman about helping with repair when road crew is in the area and the possibility of replacing the 15' culvert with one in stock. Perley Greaves relayed resident's request for reimbursement for property damage from a culvert on railroad bed on VT 215. Board agreed this was not town's responsibility.

**Road Work** – Board discussed work on Ferguson and Houston Hill and voted, if work is not finished as planned in July, to authorize road foreman to rent Doug Luther's excavator during week of August 6 in addition to excavator rented for the work.



**Perley Greaves Equipment** – After discussion Board voted to give Perley Greaves six loads of winter sand in exchange for use of his tractor to do roadside mowing.

**Church Water Supply** – Perley Greaves reported that he contacted Mike Southworth to examine church spring and water supply located on Southworth property.

**Fuel Costs** – Dave Brown reported he has contacted school board and suggest-

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# East Barnet Was the Croquet Capital of the World

LOIS FIELD WHITE

Years ago ladies in long white gowns and wide brimmed hats, gentlemen in summer suits and straw hats and their fascinated children all gathered outdoors to play croquet. The game of croquet was a summer pastime in Vermont, genteel enough that women and girls could join in the play (unlike baseball and other more "manly" sports).

A croquet set, consisting of either four or eight varnished and

brightly-striped maple mallets and balls, two stakes and nine sturdy wire wickets, all in a wooden box or rack, could be purchased for a few dollars. Junior sets were available for less.

Croquet sets were sold in mail-order catalogs and stores and included pamphlets describing rules of the game.

Officially an area 72-foot long and 36-foot wide was established on a fairly level part of lawn. Two stakes were set into the ground, one at each end of the "court," and

wickets were set in a specific pattern. Players, sometimes in teams, sometimes alone, alternated smacking their individual balls through the wickets in a prescribed path while trying at the same time to prevent opponents from proceeding through the course.

*CROQUET-Rules and Regulations with Instructions*, a 16-page booklet, set forth the rules, the pattern for placement of the wickets and directions in which the balls were to be struck. The pamphlet included hints for play and subtle suggestions for strategy, including: "when two or more balls are in friendly proximity, rush down and break up their union at all hazards, for such a gathering always denotes mischief ahead."

Croquet originated in ancient Gaul, where the game was known as jeu de mail. It was played in long promenades, or mails, adjoining large towns. The game emigrated to England during the Restoration and the reign of Charles II. There it was played on the long avenue in front of Buckingham Palace known as "the mall."

Side avenues beside the Boston Common, also called malls, derived their names from croquet. The game eventually made its way to the United States

and grew popular in the 1880's and became "the rage" by the early 1900's.

But where were croquet sets made? One needed only hitch up the horse or crank up the automobile and take a drive (or the train) to the Roy Brothers Croquet Factory in East Barnet or Inwood.

The Passumpsic River meets the Connecticut River just below the Comerford Dam at the foot of what was known as Fifteen-Mile Falls. The village there was first called Stevens Lower Falls, then McLeran's, then Norrisville and finally East Barnet. The railroad station was called Inwood (because the Roy Brothers company worked "in wood") to differentiate it from the other depots in Barnet.

By 1923 a mill privilege had been in constant use there for more than a century. Records show the dam was established between 1800 and 1810. Several millers owned and used the site. Properties on either side of the river went through various owners, and the Norrisville Manufacturing Company deeded property on the east side to Alexander Roy and Alexander Moore in 1881. In 1889 they deeded the property to brothers John G. and Elmer E. Roy. The Roy Brothers took over the large

building and continued the bobbin-making and other wood-turning work and began manufacturing croquet sets and an expanded line of wooden items. Elmer E. Roy retired in 1918 and sold his interest to Dan W. Fulford, but the company continued operating under the Roy Brothers' name.

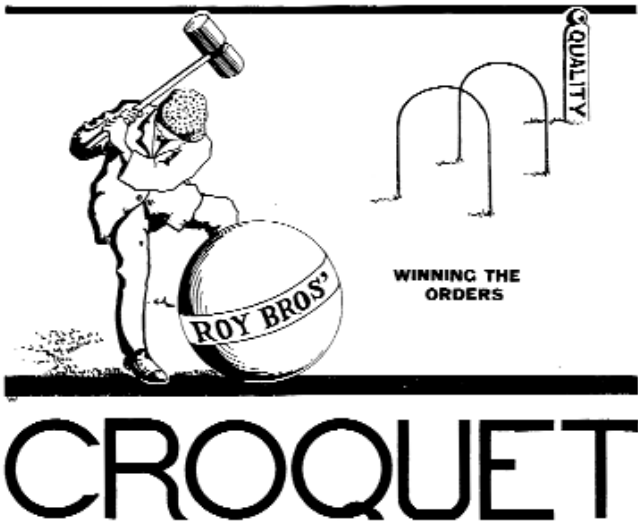
As many as 40,000 croquet sets a year were shipped across the United States and to Canada and beyond.

By the 1920's the Roy Brothers was probably the largest manufacturer of croquet sets in the United States, perhaps the world, employing up to 50 workers in the factory and more in company-owned woodlots, which supplied the factory with raw materials. As many as 40,000 croquet sets each year were shipped across the United States and to Canada and beyond. Roy Brothers made boxes and racks for the croquet sets, cattle stanchions, sled runners, rolling pins, butter-boxes and -prints and other items.

The first floor of the building was probably devoted to the water-powered machinery: saws, grinding wheels, lathes and other equipment. A large drum in which the wooden balls were tumbled to make them smoother was located in the building. Duncan McLaren remembers going on a field trip there with his 4-H group led by Mae Adams. The balls rattling inside the drum, he says, "sounded like thunder." The mill was noisy.

In other areas of the factory, workers cut and twisted wire into U-shaped forms for the wickets.

Varnishing and painting took place on the second floor. Women as well as men were involved in the task. Assembly of the handles and mallets, packing the sets into boxes and racks and storage of the sets took place on the third floor. No diagram of the layout of the



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Photo and Drawings Courtesy of Dave Warden

The 1927 flood seriously damaged the Roy Brothers factory, but repairs were made and business continued until a fire destroyed the building in 1938.

factory has been found.

In September 1925 the big Roy Brothers shop was struck by lightning and burned. A nearby house was destroyed by the fire, but the covered bridge was saved. After the fire the company built a new L-shaped mill, where operations continued and the company prospered until November 1927 when the great flood hit Vermont.

The Passumpsic River overflowed its banks, and water rushed through the lower stories of the factory. Three million feet of lumber stacked on the meadow north of the village surged down the river, some lodging against the railroad bridge. Twenty thousand feet of lumber continued into the Connecticut River and washed ashore on the Gleason meadows above McIndoe Falls. More lumber drifted on to McIndoe Falls and the Newbury meadows. There must have been serious arguments as to the ownership of that stranded lumber.

The East Barnet covered highway bridge floated over the dam, and buildings other than the factory and those owned by Roy Brothers were heavily damaged. Raging flood waters pushed through the lower stories of the factory destroying machinery, but after the waters subsided repairs were made, and the company resumed production.

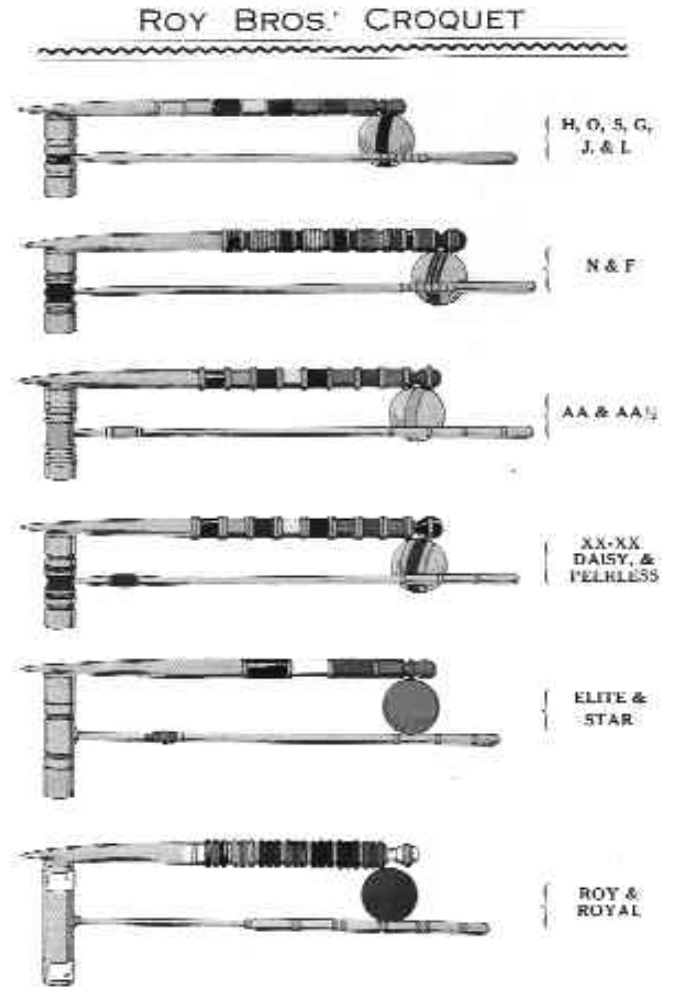
In September 1938 disaster struck the Roy Brothers factory again. The building burned, and the company never rebuilt.

post office, the railroad depot from which the Roy Brothers shipped their products, a library, a Congregational Church, which was filled to overflowing on Sundays, a two-room schoolhouse with students from the village and surrounding areas and a boarding house owned by Roy Brothers and occupied by their employees.

The Capron family had a big garden and sometimes raised a pig, but the East Barnet stores provided all their other needs. They burned pieces of wood from the shop and used seconds or unsaleable stakes for firewood. The family never had a full croquet set, but they often used rejects and played their own brand of the game. Marion Capron Newman says that the kids left the wickets and stakes up all summer, and it was a wonderful place to grow up. She remembers being rescued from their house by row-boat during the flood of 1927.

East Barnet is a quiet place today with a small hydroelectric plant on the rebuilt dam that once furnished power for the factory. The general stores, the post office, the covered bridge and the depot are all gone; there is no school in the schoolhouse, and only a handful of families live in the village. Interstate 91 passes to the west, and the only traffic on US 5 is local. Nevertheless croquet lives on.

Serious croquet is still played on the lawn of McIndoes Academy



in McIndoe Falls on Route 5 the first Sunday of every August. Members of the Barnet Historical Society set up courts and provide croquet sets and instruction. This year the event will be on August 6 beginning at 1 o'clock. The public is welcome to come

and watch, to play or to inspect the vast array of historical materials on display. You can wear your long gowns and summer suits if you like, but come and enjoy the history of the croquet. Information is available from Wendy Fearon at (802) 633-2891. ★

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# Bill Moulton Becomes District Governor of Vermont Lions

TERRY HOFFER

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the chance to repay them." Bill Moulton was first involved with the Lions Club in 1989 as a teacher in Canaan. "I was new in town, and another teacher asked me to go with him to a meeting of the Border Club. (Canaan is pressed between the borders of New Hampshire and Canada in the far northeast corner of Vermont). I've been going ever since."

Since then, Moulton moved south to teach music at St. Johnsbury Academy, and he transferred his association with the Lions to the club in St. Johnsbury. Moulton is genuinely enthusiastic and outgoing, and his interest in the Lions led to positions of leadership beyond his own club. First he was a zone chairman serving as a liaison between three local clubs and the Vermont district and then a regional chair for all the clubs in the Northeast Kingdom.

Increasingly active in the

administration of the Vermont district, a year ago Moulton was asked to be deputy governor, and on the first weekend of July this year, at the annual convention of Lions from all over the world in Boston, Moulton was sworn in as Vermont's district governor.

"It's a big responsibility," Moulton agrees, especially for someone with a full-time job. "But at least as a teacher I can get away in the summer and during some of the school breaks to meet with each of the clubs and members of the Vermont District 'cabinet.'" There are 44 clubs with some 1,300 active members from Canaan to Bennington and from Swanton to Brattleboro, and as he says some are strong and growing while others are in need of reinvigoration. "Fortunately," he says, "there are great people serving on the district cabinet (as directors of the state-wide district), and I couldn't have lucked out better as to the national administration from the president on down."

Moulton has met Jimmy Ross, a Texan and the current president of Lions International, and he raves about Ross' approach. "There's no template or one-size-fit's-all about it. His theory is that every one of us is trying to provide humanitarian service in our communities and across the globe, but each club has its own way of getting things done. Ultimately, he believes, that's a strength not a weakness. I like that, and that's just the way I see the Lions in Vermont."



Photos Courtesy of Bill Moulton

Members and friends of the Vermont Lions Clubs performed on a parade float in a salute to New Orleans at the 2006 annual Lions International convention in Boston. Vermont District Governor Bill Moulton is playing the standup bass and was honored to bring the \$1000 prize for second place back to Vermont.

The International Association of Lions Clubs was first organized in Chicago in 1917 when Businessman Melvin Jones found himself disillusioned by clubs with purely professional concerns. Jones believed there were people with untapped skills that could be used to better their communities and the larger

world beyond them. That year a constitution and bylaws were adopted, the founding members held a convention, and collectively they decided that "no club shall hold out the financial betterment of its members as its object." The Lions agreed that clubs were not to be social in nature, nor were members to promote their own business interests.

Since then, as Moulton says, "Unselfish service to others is really the mission of Lions."

In 1920 a club was established in Canada, and international expansion has led to more than 1.3 million men and women members in approximately 45,000 clubs in 197 countries.

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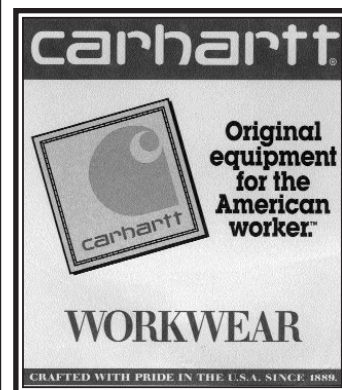
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## Danville Community Fair

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Exhibits due Friday, August 5 between 4-7 p.m.

Show us what you can do!

Youth entries welcome





(L-R) Sally Moulton and Vermont District Governor Bill Moulton join Texan and Lions Clubs International President Jimmy Ross and his wife, Velda Ross.

education and hearing programs and, through their international foundation, acting as first responders for disaster relief around the world.

But as President Jimmy Ross from Texas and Governor Bill Moulton from Vermont agree, the future of the Lions is about grass roots. It's about individual members, local clubs and an organization that works effectively from the bottom up. During the year ahead, Moulton hopes to see each club in Vermont expand its membership by at least one person. That simple objective will require member retention and a program, he believes, to inspire potential leaders to become active leaders.

Moulton says, the average age of the Lions in the United States is something like 58, and he understands the need for younger members. He hopes to see at least one college campus club and at least one so-called Leo club for community service minded high schoolers established in the state.

He says, "I'm easily inspired and motivated, and spending a weekend [as he did at the annual International Convention in Boston in July] with Lions from all over the world and meeting people like Jimmy Ross does that to me. My hope is to pass that enthusiasm on to Lions in Vermont. I have no doubt that both my wife and I are going to have great fun this year, but if we can make a difference in that way, we'll feel like we've really accomplished something." ★

provide glasses and eye care and to fight the causes of preventable and reversible blindness. Moulton says that a major campaign is in place to more than double the size of that program.

**The Lions agreed that clubs were not to be social in nature, nor were members to promote their own business interests.**

In addition to their flagship eyesight initiatives, Lions are committed to providing services for youth, improving the environment, building homes for the disabled, supporting diabetes

Moulton says, "When you think about it the network is incredible. An organization like this can mobilize resources anywhere in the world and make a difference [for instance] from one person in a local club all the way to rebuilding housing in the tsunami area of Southeast Asia or that of the recent earthquake in Afghanistan to delivering goods and services to the American Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. We didn't have to wait for anyone or any government agency to get organized, because in all those places we were already there."

In 1925, Helen Keller spoke at the annual Lions convention in Ohio, and she challenged the Lions to become the "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." Since then Lions International has sought the means (and established a \$140 million worldwide program) to



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**Village Harmony Comes to Peacham**

Friends of the Peacham Library will host *Village Harmony* at the Peacham Congregational Church on Sunday, August 13 at 7:30 p.m.

*Village Harmony* is the unique, much-loved teen world music ensemble based in Vermont. The Peacham concert will feature a mix of Caucasus Georgian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Albanian, Serbian, South African and renaissance pieces.

This *Village Harmony* traveling teen ensemble is led by Larry Gordon, Carl Linich and Eva Primack. The group includes 22 young singers and musicians from throughout New England and as far off as California. Members of the group live together and rehearse intensively for eight days at a retreat in the Northeast Kingdom.

Co-leader Eva Primack is a new face with *Village Harmony*. She has been singing Yiddish and Balkan music since she was 7 and is currently finishing a degree in ethnomusicology at UCLA. Her thirst for knowledge, songs and culture has carried her to the Balkans where she recently spent three months studying, singing and dancing her way through Ukraine, Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece.

Linich recently returned to the US after living for many years in Caucasus Georgia. He has been *Village Harmony's* prime teacher of Caucasus Georgian music. The traditional three-part songs feature a dark, sonorous vocal quality, steely dissonances and striking harmonic shifts and convergences.

Director Gordon has just returned from a three week tour in Germany where he worked with South African conductor Matlakala Bopape and members of her choir. He will be leading traditional South African songs and dances with catchy call-and-response form and hearty, deep-throated singing style. In addition he will lead a set of lively American shape-note pieces and a set of new works by German composer and *Village Harmony* leader Stefan Trenner. These pieces are a marvelous synthesis of renaissance-style polyphony with shape-note and contemporary influences.

The suggested admission at the door is \$8, \$5 for students and seniors. For further information call (802) 592-3216 or 592-3048.

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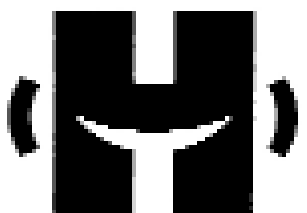
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# No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

Fresh vegetables and herbs of summer don't require lavish recipes or extra ingredients to create extraordinary dishes. In fact they don't even require much cooking. The biggest mistake is to overcook these gifts of the garden.

I am writing this column in the midst of a heat wave, and I am naturally inspired by recipes that require minimal or no heat to prepare. Not only does this make for a happy cook, but it brings the freshness of summer to your table.

My favorite way to prepare

### SIMPLE SUMMER VEGETABLES

broccoli, cauliflower, string beans or Brussels sprouts is to steam or boil them and then drizzle olive oil and sprinkle salt over them. I often hate to do anything else to these vegetables because they are so good this way. You can serve them hot or at room temperature and use them leftover in salads the next day.

Use a pot big enough to accommodate the vegetables and the steamer.

**Broccoli** - Leave the broccoli in big pieces cutting off as much of the bottom stalk as you like.

**Cauliflower** - Leave cauliflower whole. I cut off the bottom leaves and a portion of the hard underside so that it will fit on the steamer whole.

**Brussels Sprouts** - Cut the bottom, and take a few outside leaves off each sprout and steam.

**String Beans** - I like to boil the string beans, plunge into boiling water and check for doneness by tasting.

Don't overcook any of these vegetables. When they are done take them out of the pot, and put them in your serving dish. Do not leave them in or over the steaming water after they are done because they will continue cooking, and you will have vegetable mush on your hands. I use two big serving spoons to lift out the broccoli or

cauliflower.

When you have the vegetable in the serving dish, drizzle a small amount of decent olive oil over all. Then sprinkle salt over the top. You can toss the Brussels sprouts or string beans, but if you are preparing cauliflower or broccoli just leave them as they are in the dish. So simple and so delicious.

This cold, no cook soup is such

### GAZPACHO

a treat in the summer. You can vary ingredients to your taste, and use extra bounty from the garden in a unique way. If you don't like cucumbers use all zucchini.

- 6 medium cucumbers – peeled and seeded
- 6 medium zucchini – If they are small enough you don't need to peel or seed them, but if you are using monster zucchini you will want to peel and seed them.
- 6 large tomatoes – peeled (you may use canned whole peeled tomatoes)
- 4 ribs of celery
- 2 red peppers
- 1 small onion
- 4 scallions
- 2 cloves garlic – chopped finely
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice (or mix lemon, limes and oranges if you want)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 or 3 dashes hot sauce
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup combination chopped fresh herbs – basil, mint and parsley. (or use dried herbs – about ½ cup)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Chop all the vegetables coarsely, and mix with the other ingredients in a large bowl. Only the garlic needs to be finely chopped before you puree everything. Puree in batches in a food processor. Do not puree too long. The mix should look like a fine chop rather than a smooth puree.

Taste it, and add salt and pepper to taste. You might want more hot sauce or more herbs. You can even put in a little red wine. Season it to your personal taste.

I suggest making it a couple of hours ahead of time and letting the flavors meld in the refrigerator.

Serve with a garnish of mint on top.

Use this dish in many ways.

### BRUSCHETTA

You can cut it into small pieces for an appetizer, use it for an entrée or serve as a side dish with dinner. It almost substitutes as pizza. And, you can cook it on a baking sheet in your grill if you are careful. The recipe below is for a basic bruschetta (my favorite), but you can add all kinds of things to it – from salami and cooked sausage to mushrooms and all kinds of vegetables. Just remember that bruschetta does not cook a long time, and certain ingredients will have to be precooked before you use them.

- 3 or 4 ripe tomatoes
- 4 oz. mozzarella cheese – fresh if possible
- ¼ cup grated parmesan cheese – fresh if possible
- 3 tablespoons fresh basil – chopped
- 3 tablespoons fresh parsley

- chopped
- 1 clove garlic – mashed with salt (optional)
- olive oil
- sugar
- salt and pepper
- bread – (see below)

Use good bread to make a good bruschetta. It should be toothsome European style bread with a crunchy crust and an airy inside. If the bread is too soft it will be soggy, and if it is too dense it will not crisp up in the cooking process.

When I can't get to a bakery, I use the designer bread at the supermarket – usually the Tuscan boule (big round loaf) or the focaccio (a flat long oval loaf).

Slice the boule into fairly thick pieces, or cut the whole focaccio in half horizontally so the bread part shows on the top.

Lay the slices on a baking sheet, and sprinkle a slight amount of olive oil on the top. You can mix the garlic that you have mashed with some olive oil and brush on lightly just to add a slight flavor to the top of the bread.

Cut the tomatoes in fairly thin slices and lay on top of the bread. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and sugar (use it like you would salt). If you have other ingredients put them on now.

Grate the mozzarella on the top and then sprinkle with the grated parmesan. Top with the basil and parsley. Drizzle a little more olive oil on top and you are ready to cook.

Place in a preheated 400° oven for about 15 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the ingredients are hot and the bread has begun to brown around the edges. You can turn on the broiler for a minute or so – but be careful you can easily burn cheese under a broiler. If you are using the outside

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grill it will have to be turned to a fairly low temperature and the bruschetta checked often. Every grill is different, and you have to be careful the bread does not burn on the bottom.

Remove from the oven and cut with a large knife into serving pieces. Arrange on a platter and serve.

I am always telling you to serve

**EASY EVERYDAY SALAD**

a dish with a salad. I make a salad almost every night, and while I do a fancy version for dinner parties, the everyday salad I make is a simple affair. It is basically a lettuce salad with tomatoes that are actually part of the dressing rather than part of the salad.

Place the washed lettuce in the bowl you will use for serving. Chop a tomato (or two) into about 8 pieces. Place the tomato pieces on top of the lettuce. Sprinkle sugar and salt on top of the tomato. Drizzle olive oil over the top of the tomato pieces.

Then using the vinegar of choice (I like white balsamic) drizzle some over the top of the tomatoes. This method kind of melts the salt and sugar and turns the tomato into part of the dressing. You can prepare the salad to this point a short time ahead of service.

Right before you serve the salad toss it to coat all the lettuce with the dressing that has been sitting on top. It takes a few tries to get the right proportion of oil and vinegar – it is not a lot – a count-to-three drizzle of olive oil and a count-to-two for the vinegar. The tendency is to put on too much, so be careful.

Once you perfect this spontaneous way of making a salad it will become second nature.



**Up on the Farm Early**



Lorna Quimby



“I want my privacy,” my daughter Laura used to yell as she slammed the bathroom door.

“Ah, yes!” I thought, “Don’t we all?” Back on the farm there was no bathroom—and the three holes in the seat of the “House of Parliament” at the end of the shed tell you how much privacy we could expect.

“Open the door,” Deedee would order, rattling the door, “I’ll tell Maw! Don’t be a meany!” I certainly didn’t want Maw to come on the scene, so I’d unhook the door.

Sometimes I had to accompany June, who was afraid of the dark. June would carry a lamp to show the way, but the small glow only emphasized the blackness on the back porch as we went by. Who knows what might be lurking on the back stairs or hiding behind the old buggy in the carriage shed. It wasn’t so bad if we went with someone. Later on I would be the one carrying the lamp, holding Patty by the hand. She was glad of the company, for she, too, was scared of the dark. We never wanted to be alone, private.

Privacy was lacking when we got washed in the morning. We used the enamel wash basin in the kitchen sink. Maw would be busy at the stove or walking back and forth filling the reservoir. The other girls would be setting the table, dressing in the warmth over the register of the Sam Daniels furnace, or, worse yet, impatiently waiting for you to finish so they could “get cleaned

up.”

We were supposed to wash our face, behind our ears, the back of our neck, under our arms and what Maw called our bottoms. You weren’t supposed to scrimp. But when I got to the stage of self-conscious modesty, I didn’t want to hear any unflattering remarks about my anatomy. Also it was too chilly by the sink to take off my feed bag nightie.

“Oh, yes, Maw,” I’d lie. “I washed everything.” When my aroma got too ripe for Maw to take, Deedee had to tell me to do a better job or I’d smell like the so-and-so kids. That was all she needed to say.

When we were going to the South Part school, a brother and sister came over from Green Bay with Miss Watson. They were clean all right. They both reeked of Life Boy soap. Another pair’s clothes weren’t washed properly and neither were they. I didn’t want to smell like them. Being poor was no excuse with Maw. “Soap is cheap and water don’t cost nothing.”

I didn’t realize at the time that I was lucky to live in a household of females. I didn’t have to cope with older or younger brothers as did some of the girls at school, who also lived in houses without bathrooms and

who had to make their morning ablutions at the kitchen sink or in the decidedly chilly privacy of their bedrooms.

The only time we had a modicum of privacy was our Saturday night baths, which, one by one, we took in a wash tub in front of the oven door. The big girls sometimes washed in the china wash bowl in their room. They had to carry warm water up the stairs and the used water

down. Although they had privacy, you couldn’t call the arrangement convenient. Late spring, summer and early fall their room wouldn’t be too cold, but on winter days, the temperature in the north room made it an ordeal.

When Dad came in from the barn, he washed his face and hands at the sink, splashing water over his head and arms. He dried himself on the towel Maw had placed over a roller on the door to the china closet that stood opposite the sink.

He also shaved at the kitchen sink, and we girls liked to watch. Dad had his shaving stuff in a drawer in a small bureau in the pantry. When he brought it out, we knew what he’d do next, for he followed the same routine. First, he stropped the razor, then he poured boiling water into the wash pan, lathered with a special brush and then carefully scraped off the whiskers. How good he smelled when he finished.

When Mimi and Wayne lived in the Guthrie house, they had a bathroom with all the fixings. Uncle Charlie and Aunt Bertha

had a bathroom as did the Swaseys. Harriet installed one at Aunt Martha’s house in the Corner. So we were acquainted with the facility and all its conveniences before Mimi’s mar-

**“Soap is cheap and water don’t cost nothing.”**

riage.

While Deedee and I stayed with Mimi one spring, I had my first real bath in a bathtub. A coil in the stove in the kitchen warmed the water, which then filled a small tank. There was running hot water in the kitchen sink and, if you waited long enough, in the bathroom. There was enough water in the tank to fill the tub once, so Deedee and I were to share the water. I went first. I hooked the door, took off my clothes, and climbed in to the tub.

I was covered with warm water. Wow! What luxury! What a sensual delight! I wallowed like small whale, then soaped myself all over. I rinsed with care and wallowed some more. During most of this time I could hear a pounding on the door, Deedee pleading with me to come out and, finally, Mimi telling me I must finish my bath. I finally climbed out of the now cool water and unhooked the door. How delightful privacy was, I decided. It was worth all the scolding and Deedee’s dirty

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## String Worth Saving

Bill Christiansen

As summer wends through the month of August, my thoughts turn to the school year ahead. As a kid, I spent the summer barefoot and in a swimming suit. The thought of wearing clothes again was a drag.

The thought of wearing clothes again was a drag.

There came a day when shopping for new school clothes was at hand. For me this signaled the end of summer for me.

In those days, the late 30's and early 40's, boys in elementary school wore knickers. Knickers were knee-length, corduroy pants. The legs were very baggy, with elastic at the bottom. They were worn with knee-length stockings. As you walked, the corduroy made a sound as the legs moved. This gave rise to the name "whistle britches." It was every boy's dream to graduate to "long pants." That usually occurred in the sixth grade.

The great selling point for corduroy pants was their longevity. It was nearly impossible to wear

them out. You got new ones only because you outgrew the last ones. You almost never saw knickers with holes or tears in them. The fabric was just too strong.

This indestructibility was the result of how the material was made. Corduroy is made of twisted fibers, in cords, laid side by side in parallel rows. There is a base material that the cords are incorporated into. This causes the cords to rise above the base material and gives corduroy its great wear ability.

Wear takes place on the surface of the cords instead of the base material. In the industry cords are called "wales." Over time the wales get smooth as the nap wears away. The name corduroy is of French origin, (*cord du roi*) as in "cloth of kings."

Another part of the back-to-school wardrobe was new shoes. Going barefoot, through the summer, changed the shape of the foot. The change in shape and growing in size made new shoes a necessity. Shoes were made from leather - no plastic or fabric, but good stout leather. Shoe soles were rubber or leather. Leather soles made a loud noise when you walked and were very slippery. Some leather soles had a row of nails around the perimeter of the heel. These added

to the sound as you walked. They also scratched the floors. To make the heels last longer, metal cleats were added to the heels as an after-market option. These made more noise and really did a job on the floors. Cleats were so destructive that some schools actually banned their use. No one wore sneakers, and sports shoes had yet to be invented.

The third item of critical clothing was a new sweater. The customary dress was a shirt with a collar under a sweater. As I remember, the sweater was worn every day, regardless of weather, and it was only removed when you got home from school. Then you could change out of the school clothes into something more casual.

Sweaters were made of wool, or a blend of wool and cotton. Synthetic fibers had not been developed. The sweater I still remember was made from "angora" wool. It has an extremely fuzzy surface, and bits of the fuzz were continually falling off. During the warm days of September, the sweater made life unbearable.

Keep in mind, when you went shopping for new clothes in those days, as a kid, you only went along to try on things so you could get the right fit. The clothes were actually picked by an adult. You got to veto some choices, but the next item selected was chosen by the adult. You always saw things you would like, but those did not fit the styles of the day. Every boy I can imagine would have chosen

long pants over knickers, "high cut" boots over shoes and a plaid shirt over a sweater.

The final preparation was a haircut. Our town had a single barber. There were two barber chairs, and I always wondered what the second chair was for. Once in the shop, you sat in a line of chairs, until it was your turn. When you finally got into the chair, the barber asked how you wanted your hair cut.

I would give long, detailed instructions on what I wanted. The barber had two styles for kids, a regular cut or "butch." The butch was very short and the hair was suppose to stand up straight. Seldom did it do this, and usually it was just flat on your head. My hair was very blond, and the only time I ever got a butch, I looked like I was bald.

Regardless what you told the

barber about the regular cut, you got the same haircut as every other kid in town. You could tell when the job was done, as the barber would get out a straight razor and work it over the leather strop. Then he shaved the back of your neck. You sat very still during this operation. Then, with a few flicks of a brush to remove any stray hairs, the job was done. You paid him the customary 25 cents. How times have changed.

With new clothes and a fresh haircut, you were transformed from a carefree kid of summer into a student ready to face another year in the classroom.

School always started the day after Labor Day. That marked the end of summer, and overnight the whole town changed from summer mode to winter. It was time to prepare for cold weather. Though there were many warm stars to



## Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,  
Library Director

This is the last chance to buy raffle tickets for the beautiful and handcrafted "Log Cabin" quilt before the drawing at the Danville Fair. Tickets will be available at the Library and at the Fair. Be sure to visit our ice cream booth and stop by our book sale on the Library lawn.

Our Sunday Concerts on the Green for August feature **Best of Friends** on August 13, **Cold**

**Country Bluegrass** on August 20 and the **Danville Town Band** on August 26. All concerts are at 7:00 p.m.

For our large print lovers we have many new titles in our collection. A few are: *A Twist of Fate* by Jackson, *Brighter Than the Sky* by Quinn, *Hail to the Chief* by McBain, *Seek My Face* by Updike, *Tears of the Giraffe* by McCall Smith, *The Third Life of Grange Copeland* by Walker and *A Useful Affair* by Cameron.

Our summer reading program ends on August 16, and our summer story hour ends August 14. Story hour will resume in September. The after school Young Adult program will also resume at the beginning of the school year.

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## Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

I have a repetitive dream that leaves me anxious and upset, and I'm beginning to be afraid of falling asleep at night.

In the dream I am wandering through a huge dark house. The house reminds me, in some ways, of the house I grew up in. In the dream there is something I must find, am frantic to find in fact, and I can't even remember what it is. Sometimes I meet people and ask for help, but they always dismiss me and act as if what I want is not important. I wake up anxious and sometimes actually crying. These dreams have been going on for 20 or so years, since I was an adolescent.

Please help.

Dear Please,

First of all, we tend to think of a dream as a symbolic construct with purpose, the purpose usually being to start to heal old emotional injuries. Everybody has old injuries. We shrinks believe that a person remembers a dream when he or she is ready to start dealing with an issue.

Specifically you are dreaming of a house that reminds you of your childhood home, and something is missing. Think of how a childhood home is the structure that contains all the feelings and the memories of family relationships, all the laughter and pain of a childhood. We're guessing that your identifying a house that "reminds" you in some ways of your childhood home is a strong clue to some of this dream's meaning for you. Is it true that something was missing from your childhood? Is it true that people in your family dismissed your distress as unimportant or inconsequential? It's likely that if you can think

about that time and identity what you are missing and how much it hurt, you will have a rush of intense feelings (perhaps sadness and rage) and your dreams will start having a direction.

Starting a dream journal may also help with this dream and those in the future. When you retire for the night, place a pad of paper and a pen or pencil by your bed, and decide that you will remember your dreams. Eventually this will occur. Then the trick is to write down what you remember immediately because usually one's recall is fleeting.

The proper analysis of a dream is always done by the dreamer even within therapy, and not by some expert, so we may be way off. Note also, that the imagery in a dream is always very personal; there are not definitive lists of what a particular image means. It's also true that any dream worth its salt is powerful symbolically in several dimensions. It may well be that you can find, for example, a sense of searching with no clear object in your current life as well. Who knows what clues may come from future dreams. ★

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

## Richard and Terry Portner Retire from LSC

Professor Richard Portner, who personified theater at Lyndon State College since 1977, retired in June. Over the intervening 29 years he stayed with a program that waxed and waned through a series of reorganizations and curriculum redesigns that affected all of Vermont's state colleges.

At Portner's side for 25 of those years has been his wife, Terry Portner, a professional actress, who taught theater, film and expository speaking at Lyndon part time. Terry's acting can be seen at the Weathervane Theater in Whitefield, NH, where she is currently playing Vita Louise in *Harvey*, the story made famous in the movie of the same name by Jimmy Stewart. Terry also retired in June.

The Portners came to the North Country from Emerson College, where they both completed master's degrees, when Richard took a temporary position at Littleton High School teaching English and working with the school's theater program. He started his long career at Lyndon when he was invited to fill an opening in the college's theater department.

Portner went to work teaching and developing dramatic arts at LSC, directing plays of all types, and he was responsible for

as many as six student-directed one act performances in one year. Among many of his well-loved productions, Portner maintains fond memories of *Look Homeward Angel*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and his first production at the College, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Theater at Lyndon hit an obstacle in 1979, when the Vermont State college system moved the program to Johnson State, in an effort to eliminate

duplication of programs among its colleges. At the time, LSC had been producing four main stage shows per year and had a healthy children's theater program which toured in the schools.

Following that shift in the curriculum, Portner and colleagues David Ballou and Russell Bailas collaborated to create the television studies department, which now offers one of the College's flagship programs.

Although the Portners are officially retired, they have agreed to teach on a part-time basis and will be on-campus for at least the fall semester.



Lyndon State College Photograph  
Terry and Dick Portner retired from the Lyndon State College faculty in June.

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**PHOTO AT RIGHT:** On Saturday, June 17, 2006, the senior class at Danville High School gathered together for the final time as a class. Commencement was in the school gymnasium. Long-time Danville School English teacher Elaine Pierce was the graduation speaker. As the class left the gymnasium and set forth as alumni their plans are as follows:

**Front (L-R):** Christina Machell, Lyndon State College; Alexander Nicholson, Lyndon State College; Kathryn Moritz, University of Vermont; Roy Mercon, Castleton State College; Kayla Towle, University of Vermont; Joseph Coutu, University of Vermont; Samantha Laferriere, Husson College; Brandon Lumbra, Northeastern University; Amanda Hahr, Lyndon State College; Joseph Bissonward, Community College of Vermont and Shana Lund, Work.

**Second Row:** Justina Welch, Work; David Daly, Plymouth State University; Holly Chamberlin, Community College of Vermont; Stone Conroy, Middlebury College; Vanessa Willcox-Healey, Green Mountain College; Travis Daniell, Johnson & Wales University; Brynn Richardson, Work; Asa White, Paul Smiths College; Brittany Benoit, New

**Danville School Class of 2006**



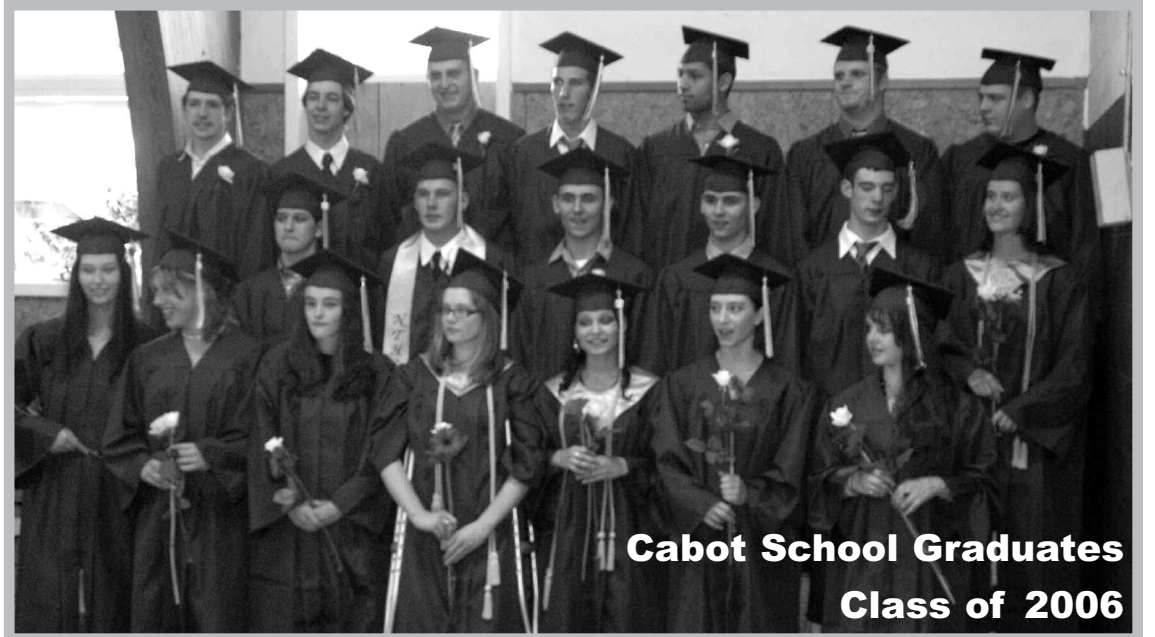
Hampshire Technical College; Brandon Cochran, University of New England; Megan Foy, University of Vermont; Nathaniel Coutu, Norwich University; Alyssa Chamberlin, Community College of Vermont and Russell Drown Jr., Work

**Rear:** Heather Rapoza, Lyndon State College; Dustin Dunbar, Work; Randy Brill, Community College of Vermont; Cheryl French, Lyndon State College; Levi Lacey, WyoTech; Brittany Fontaine, Castleton State College; Henry Pearl, Castleton State College; Megan White, University of Vermont; James Flanders, Africa, then College; Gregg Swartzenberg,

University of New England; Dustin Green, Thomas College; Amy Garfield, Work; Andrew

Bradley, Work; Amber Bradley, Work; Diamond Matthew, Work; Tonya Friend, Lyndon

State College; and Vincent Ramsey, Lyndon State College. Photo By: Ray Richer



**Cabot School Graduates Class of 2006**

Cabot School Photograph

**PHOTO ABOVE:** On Friday, June 16, 2006 the senior class at Cabot School graduated with Math Teacher William Tobin urging each of them to take the high road. Tobin asked members of the class to find out what they really enjoy in life and to watch others whose life is about their passion. He told them to believe in themselves, to be cooperative and not to be afraid of risks. Tobin described risk taking not as living dangerously but as overcoming the crippling fear of failure. Finally his advice was to listen - to the wind, the birds, the inspiring chords of a piece of music and to nature at large. Speaker Tobin concluded as Musician Tobin by playing a song on his harp.

Members (and their plans) of the 2006 graduating senior class at Cabot School are:

**Front (L-R):** Tamra Houston (Work), Jesse Persons (Work), Jackie Young (College), Anne Rushman (Washington University), Vedan North (Barnard College), Ashley Marcotte (Lyndon State College) and Hannah Pitkin (UVM).

**Second Row:** Aldo Raul Camacho Flores (Universidad Privada del Norte, Peru), Scott Ackermann (Family dairy business), Rhett Fitzgerald (Work), Jesse Fitzgerald (work), Calvin Alexander (Paul Smiths College) and Rosalind Vara (Syracuse University).

**Rear:** David Chip Harrington III (Marietta College), Garrett Aiken (Work), Robert Martino (Undecided), Joshua Maxfield (Work), Levi McClellan (Work), Matthew Dudley Work) and Brandan Johnson (Work).

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| 6 A.M. BBC World Update (5 to 6 a.m.)  | Classical Music                                      |                                       |
| Morning Edition with Mitch Wertlieb  | Only a Game  | Sunday Bach                           |
|  | Weekend Fillium                                      |                                       |
| Classical Music with Walter Parker   | Car Talk   | On the Media                          |
| Midday Report with Steve Delaney at noon   | Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!                         | Studio 360                            |
| Wednesday Weekend Edition  | Interlude  | A Prairie Home Companion              |
| Performance Today with Fred Child  | Saturday Afternoon at the Opera with Peter Fox Smith | All The Traditions with Robert Hesnik |
| Fresh Air with Terry Gross   |  |                                       |
| All Things Considered with Neal Chamoff  | All Things Considered                                |                                       |
| Music/Spoken   | A Prairie Home Companion                             | From the Top                          |
| Monday: Monday at 10:00<br>Tuesday: Tuesday at 10:00<br>Wednesday: Wednesday at 10:00<br>Friday: Friday at 10:00 |  | Classical Music                       |
| Living on Earth  | Travis & Sherron                                     | This American Life                    |
| Specials with George Thomas  | My Place   | Sound and Spirit                      |
| Classical Music  | Hearts of Space                                      | Classical Music                       |
|  |  | Midnight                              |

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- 9 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
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- 11 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
- 17 - Williamsport Crosscutters
- 18 - Williamsport Crosscutters
- 19 - Williamsport Crosscutters
- 22 - Tri-City Valleycats
- 23 - Tri-City Valleycats
- 24 - Oneonta Tigers
- 25 - Oneonta Tigers
- 28 - Lowell Spinners
- 29 - Lowell Spinners
- 30 - Hudson Valley Renegades
- 31 - Hudson Valley Renegades

**SEPTEMBER**

- 1 - Hudson Valley Renegades

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# You wouldn't want to commute every day, but working 3,000 miles from home is just fine.

TERRY HOFFER

Amy Tipple says she was always an adventurous person, and she doesn't consider taking a job five time zones and more than 3,000 miles from home to be that big a deal. Tipple was born and raised in Scarborough, city of 50,000 on the Yorkshire coast of England facing into the North Sea. Today, at 28, she is the manager of St. Johnsbury's office of Enterprise Rent-a-Car.

**"You don't want to wake up one day and be 50 and still be doing the same thing."**

With 6,500 offices in the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and Ireland and annual revenues of more than \$8 billion, Enterprise might view St. Johnsbury as small potatoes, but to Amy Tipple it's a dream come true.

"I worked since I was 11," she says. She started with jobs as a dishwasher and waitress in hotels in and around the tourist-based city of Scarborough. One of three children, Tipple understood that college was never a question - it was a given. She enrolled in the University of York, majored in geographical science and conservation and devoted much of her spare time to reading about travel and far-away places.

In the summer of 2000 she joined the crew of a 74' British ketch in a tall ship race around the Atlantic Ocean. On the first leg of the race in gale-force winds, the ketch lost a mast and was eliminated from the rest of the race. Disappointed Tipple

returned to England but followed a suggestion to apply for a staff position at a girl scout camp in Thetford, VT. That summer, with a temporary work visa, Tipple discovered Thetford and the Green Mountains, and with undeniable conviction she says, "I realized this was where I wanted to be."

That first summer led to an off-season internship with the Girl Scout Council in Manchester, NH and then two more summers at its camps as Tipple provided instruction in adventuring and team-building.

"Actually" she laughs, "I spent three summers looking for a way to stay in America, but the only way to qualify for a permanent visa is marry an American, be a recognized specialist in your field," or, as she discovered, work in Britain for a company based in America.

Back in Scarborough Tipple applied for a trainee position with Enterprise and discovered that if she proved herself over the period of three years, and if there was an opening in the United States, she could qualify - possibly even for a position in Vermont.

Three years later, and with a six-year work visa in her hand, Amy Tipple found a ride to St. Johnsbury and quickly made friends. She established herself as a welcome addition to Enterprise, and she has become a

cheerleader for New England and the Upper Connecticut River Valley.

"The people are great," she says. "They are friendly and more relaxed. The British are pessimistic. They say they are being realistic, but in this country people are much more optimistic, and it shows. In the States you are always finding people who are studying problems and looking for solutions - trying to make a difference. The British get bogged down. Maybe it's the weather." Or maybe it's Enterprise, the international powerhouse in the automobile rental market, which has passed Hertz as the largest global car rental company by concentrating on the loaner and "local replacement segment" of the business rather than the tourism and airport trade like Hertz and Avis.

Enterprise boasts that it trains its managers in a program that is like an MBA crash course or speed reading the best textbooks in business, and it rewards employees for good ideas and entrepreneurship. When a manager in Orlando offered to pick up a customer in 1975, the company realigned its brand and still markets its service with variations on, "We'll pick you up."

Tipple is taking it all in stride, and says she loves the opportunities. "In Vermont," she says, "you can hike, ski or go canoeing and



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Amy Tipple was born and raised in Scarborough, England but relocated to St. Johnsbury where she is the branch manager for Enterprise Rent-a-Car. It may seem like a long way from home, but Tipple says "It's the best of both worlds."

it doesn't cost as much as it does in England. It seems that in England you go to work and then you go to a pub, and that's the pattern day after day after day."

Tipple finally admits that she misses the British sense of humor. "They are much more sarcastic and quick to laugh at themselves." And bonfire night, the annual November 5 fireworks celebration of the capture of Guy Fawkes and 12 other conspirators, who in 1605 planned but failed to blow up 36 barrels of gunpowder under the Houses of Parliament. And chocolate. Tipple says she is a fan of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, but American chocolate tastes like wax.


"I have the best of both worlds," says this adventuresome

pilgrim. "I guess I see it through rose-colored glasses, but it's great. I can do what I want here, and I go home when I need to. It's only seven hours by plane from Boston's Logan Airport, and the Yorkshire coast isn't going anywhere."

What would she tell her friends about America back in Scarborough? She grins with enthusiasm. "I'd say come on over and have fun. You don't want to wake up one day and be 50 and still be doing the same thing. They'll still have beer in the pubs and sweets in the candy shops." And besides, the mountains are Green and the people are friendly and relaxed. She laughs, "If they don't like here it they can always go back."

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# Click & Clack Talk Cars

## Minivan Suggestions

Dear Tom and Ray:

I am beginning to look for a new minivan. I currently drive a 1999 Jeep Cherokee Sport, which I love, but I need something bigger. I like having four-wheel drive, since I often travel in lousy weather or through muddy fields at dog events. Should I get a van with all-wheel drive? Someone told me all-wheel drive on a minivan really doesn't matter because the body sits low on the wheelbase (unlike SUVs, which sit high), and a van with front-wheel drive is all I really need. What do you think? Also, do you have a recommendation for a minivan? Jody

**RAY:** Well, the Toyota Sienna, is the only all-wheel-drive minivan on the market.

**TOM:** It also happens to be a very nice one, so you can't go wrong with a Sienna.

**RAY:** But when you see the

sticker price (the all-wheel-drive version starts around 33 grand), you might want to have a few other options.

**TOM:** One might be a front-wheel-drive minivan. In moderately bad weather, minivans do well, as your friend suggests. They're heavy and the engine is right over the front wheels, and they have enough ground clearance to get through modest snow with no problem. So if bad weather is an occasional problem for you, front-wheel drive might be enough. Especially if you invest in four good snow tires.

**RAY:** But if you HAVE TO drive in unplowed snow, or, as you say, onto muddy fields, then you do need all-wheel drive. And, a good backup might be something like a Ford Freestyle.

**TOM:** That's sort of the Barry Bonds of station wagons, with optional all-wheel drive. It seats

six or, with the seats folded down, carries a boatload of cargo. It starts at about five grand less than an all-wheel-drive Sienna and gets slightly better mileage. Put that on your list, too, Jody.

## Car Sounds Like a Clock

Dear Tom and Ray:

I am writing about my neighbor's car. I think it's about to break down. Normally I wouldn't care, but I don't have a car, and my neighbor gives me a ride to the bus stop every morning. I don't want to walk four miles every day at 6 a.m. Anyway, the car is making a loud ticking noise. It seems to be coming from the top of the engine. It's an Oldsmobile station wagon, a 1990-something, with a V-6 engine, front-wheel drive and an automatic transmission. There is no "Check Engine" light on, but I looked at the oil level and found it almost bone-dry. I filled the oil, and that's been fine, but the noise never went away. What could be the problem, and what can I do (or get my neighbor to do) about it? Thanks for any advice. Kai

**TOM:** You want useful advice? Move closer to work, Kai.

**RAY:** It sounds like a col-

lapsed lifter or a worn-out camshaft lobe. There's not much you're going to be able to do about either of those things at this point.

**TOM:** Here's how it works. When the engine is running, the cam shaft spins. Each time a high point or cam lobe, comes around, it pushes on a hydraulic lifter. That, in turn, pushes on something called a push rod. The push rod hits the bottom of a rocker, which is like a seesaw. When the other end of the rocker gets pushed down against the valve stem, the valve opens. That lets air and gasoline into the cylinder, which keeps the car running.

**RAY:** You might ask, how do all of these pieces stay in perfect adjustment through the years? Good question! The answer is that the hydraulic lifters adjust automatically.

**TOM:** Hydraulic lifters constantly get filled with oil from the oil pump, and that allows them to expand to take up slack created as the other parts wear out.

**RAY:** So, either one of your neighbor's lifters is no longer holding oil or, more likely, a lobe on the cam shaft has been worn down to a nub.

**TOM:** So instead of a few

thousandths of an inch between those parts, he's got about 3 feet. Well, maybe a quarter of an inch. Those pieces slapping together are causing the ticking noise.

**RAY:** The car is running on about five and a half cylinders. On some cars, this ticking will go away after a few minutes. That means it's not that bad yet. So maybe after he drops you off at the bus stop, he keeps driving, and the ticking stops. But if not, it requires a pretty serious repair, and it's not something you're going to be able to do for him.

**TOM:** My advice would be: Don't worry about it. Continue to check his oil once a week, and top it off when necessary. That's a nice thing to do in exchange for the ride you get every day. And give him a case of Gunk Oil Treatment for the holidays. That might quiet it down some. And in the meantime, save up for a pair of in-line skates.

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## Danville Senior Action Center

### August Meal Schedule

**August 1** - Cheeseburger on a Roll with Lettuce and Tomato, Potato Salad, Cream of Broccoli Soup with Saltines, Carrots, Watermelon.

**August 3** - Linguini with White Clam or Alfredo Sauce, Garlic Bread, California Vegetables, Oranges, Cake. Library Day.

**August 8** - Grilled Chicken Breast, Zucchini Bake, Pasta Salad with Red Peppers and Broccoli, Fruit.

**August 10** - Stromboli with Pepperoni, Salami, Vegetables and Cheese, Coleslaw with Pineapple, Oatmeal Cookies with Ice Cream.

**August 15** - Shepherd's Pie, Zucchini Bread, Tossed Salad with Homemade Croutons, Orange Slices.

**August 17** - Spaghetti with Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Spinach Salad with Mandarin Oranges, Orange Juice. Library Day.

**August 22** - Roast Turkey Breast, Baked Potatoes, California Vegetables, Blueberry Scones, Cranberry Sauce, Oatmeal Cookies, Tomato Juice.

**August 25** - Macaroni and Cheese, Ham, Peas and Carrots, Homemade Rolls, Melon, Chocolate Cake.

**August 29** - Italian Grinders with Lettuce and Tomato, Pasta Salad with Red Peppers and Broccoli, Orange Juice, Apple Crisp.

**August 31** - Guest Chef Toby Balivet: Salmon Filet with Lemon Ginger Butter, Basmati Rice, Summer Squash Gratin, Green Beans, Cherry Cobbler. Library Day.

**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 \$3.50 for guests 60+ (Others \$4.50) is appreciated.

# The Start of My Story

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

When you set out to write your autobiography, you really have to start at the beginning. While we are all present at the time, clearly we all must rely on outside information about the birth and the circumstances surrounding it. I've decided to share some pieces of it here, both because I arrived in this particular part of the world and because my arrival was somewhat unusual.

One's mother is generally the best source of detailed information, and while my mother and I were never really close, I am grateful to her for providing a rather interesting start to my life on the planet.

Grace Holden had produced my brother two years before my birth, at a dreary hospital in Boston Cesarean section. She was determined that my birth, planned by her as the arrival of Jonathan Wilcox Holden, would be a much pleasanter experience.

Grace and Raymond Holden had just moved into the charming summer home that Grace and an architect friend designed. The large house was built on a lovely slope facing the Franconia range of the White Mountains. My father discovered the spot while vacationing on Sugar Hill with his mother and siblings. He emerged from the woods while on a walk and beheld the moun-

tain vista. The property had belonged to Robert Frost, who had a cottage just below and was eager to sell a large chunk of the property. My father approached him about it at an opportune time for such a sale to take place. The cottage below is still called "The Frost Cottage." It is a tourist spot commemorating the poet, who was only there for a few years - I think he was gone before I was born.

It was hardly a sensible idea to plan a Cesarean birth in a summer home on a hillside in New Hampshire, but my mother usually got her way. She arranged for a Boston doctor to preside, assisted by the local M. D., who, as it happened was also needed at another birth in the village. He managed to arrive at my mother's production at some point in the proceedings, as his name is on my birth certificate.

I am happy that I was born in lovely Franconia and am consequently a New Englander and not a New Yorker, but I am appalled at the expensive drama that my mother arranged. She could just as well have had me in the excellent hospital in Littleton.

I find it hard to visualize the scene in the small upstairs room, which later became my summer bedroom: there was surely a nurse and all the accoutrements of an operating room. One might also imagine the strain that must have been in the air between the imported surgeon from Boston and the harried local family doctor. In any event, all went well

with the actual birth. My mother was not pleased that Jonathan turned out to be Elizabeth, and my mother's parents, and surely my father's mother as well, were disapproving of the totally impractical, costly and potentially dangerous birth arrangements.

The Franconia house, named Part-Ridge by my mother, was the only place in my childhood that felt like a real home, and I treasured the time we spent there, away from apartments in New York City. My father left when I was 2. I don't have any childhood memories of him and only came to know him long after I reached adulthood.

As a single parent, my mother couldn't afford to spend the

whole summer in Franconia. For several years she snatched us out of school early and we spent late May and part of June in the house, until the summer tenants arrived. Eventually, Grace had to sell the house. I dreamed for years after that of someday buying it back - it was my house. That was never possible.

I have visited the house, and the present owners are very kind and let me show it to my friends and family. It is a strangely integral part of my inner thoughts and dreams, and I have never completely detached myself from it. Every detail of the house, the woods behind it and the fields around it are indelibly stamped somewhere inside me.

I never pick wild raspberries without experiencing the smell and taste of the berries that I picked as a child in that place - warmed by the sun, and they were, so personally, my treasures.

I am grateful that I have these memories, and that my deep attachment to the White Mountains brought me eventually back to live full-time in this part of the world. I can see my mountains from our Vermont porch. I have a happy home, which gives me all the satisfaction that I felt in those long-ago years, when I responded to mountains and woods and fields, knowing that I was where I longed to be.



Photo By: Peter Albright

Bets Parker Albright tracks down the story of the curious circumstances surrounding her birth at this hillside home in Franconia, NH.

## West Barnet Senior Action Center

### August 2006 Menu

**August 2** - Cheeseburger Pie, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Assorted Breads, Orange Jell-O with Pineapple.

**August 4** - Buffet.

**August 9** - Hot Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Jell-O.

**August 11** - Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Jelly, Mixed Vegetables, Assorted Breads, Fresh Fruit Cup.

**August 16** - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Assorted Breads, Peaches with Cream.

**August 18** - Broccoli and Ham Quiche, Fresh Fruit Cup, Assorted Breads, Cake with Frosting.

**August 23** - Potato Salad, Sliced Ham, Sauerkraut Salad, Dark Breads, Pudding with Topping.

**August 25** - Chop Suey, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Watermelon.

**August 30** - Hot Hamburger Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Copper Penny Salad, Ice Cream.

**Meals served at West Barnet Church.** All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.

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**AROUND THE TOWNS**



**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Daily** - Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, Backroom Gallery Show, featuring new artwork from guild members and invited guest artists. (802) 748-0158.

**Daily** - A Dream Daisy, Giant flowers made by local artists using Palettes of Vermont as leaves, Tranquil Gardens, North Troy. (802) 334-7466.

**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. (802) 626-5475.

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

**Tuesdays** - Cribbage Tournaments, 6 p.m., Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 684-3386.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Weekends** - Ben's Mill, West Barnet, open 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (802) 748-8180.

# August

**2** Castle stories and activities for children to grade 6, Peacham Library. 11 a.m. (802) 592-3216.

**2** Readings in the Gallery: Galway Kinnell, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

**3** Astronomy, family star gazing party, Peacham Library. 7:30 p.m. (802) 592-3216.

**4 & 5 DANVILLE FAIR**

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

**5** Peacham Library Bicentennial Campaign Celebration and Barbecue, 11:30 a.m. (802) 592-3217.

**6** Annual Barnet Historical Society Croquet Tournament,

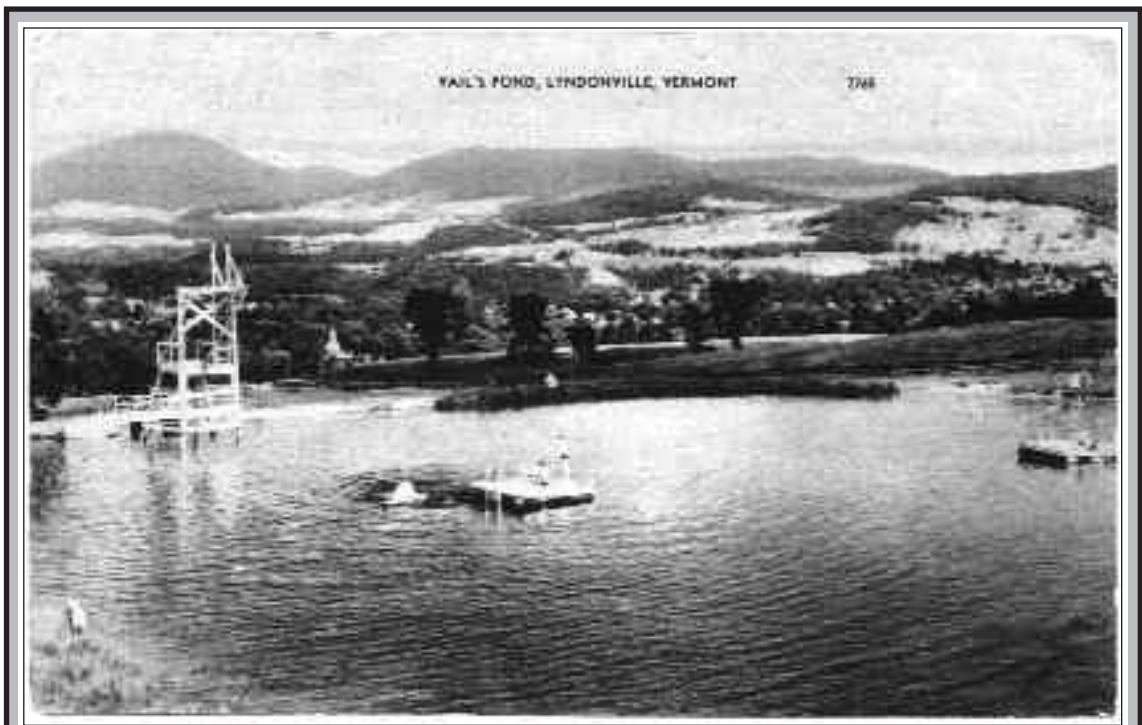


Photo Courtesy of Merton Leonard  
 When the Vails lived on the hill over Lyndonville they enjoyed a wonderful view of Burke Mountain from the pond below their mansion. According to Ruth Allard, who lived on the other side of the hill from the site of the Vail mansion and the, now, Lyndon State College complex, this was a popular swimming spot and a popular place after dark as well. Allard says, everything on the hill was considered to be the Vails, but the pond, the rafts and the diving platform were used by many far beyond the circle of the Vail family and friends. Photograph from a postcard dated August 10, 1946.

- McIndoe Academy Lawn, McIndoe Falls. 1 p.m. (802) 633-2891.
- 8** Nearly Full Moon Paddle, 7:30 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.
- 10** Book Discussion: Ernest Hemingway, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 7 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- 10** The Haute Route in the Swiss Alps with Jean Haigh, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 7 p.m. (802) 723-6551.
- 10** Astronomy, Andrew Chaikin and the Challenge of Going to Mars, Peacham Library, 7:30 p.m. (802) 592-3217.
- 10** Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.
- 11** Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.
- 12** Pancake Breakfast, Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet Village. 8 - 10 a.m.
- 13** Pope Library Concert on the Green with Best of Friends, Danville. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2528.
- 13** Village Harmony Concert, Peacham Congregational Church. 7:30 p.m. (802) 592-3217.
- 16** Bennington Battle Day Castle stories and activities for children to grade 6, Peacham Library. 11 a.m. (802) 592-3216.
- 17** Movie, Peacham Library, 1:15 p.m. (802) 592-3217.
- 18** Tibetan Flautist Ngawang Khechog performs at Milarepa Center, Barnet, 7 p.m. (802) 633-4136.
- 19** Clyde River End-to-End canoe expedition, third leg, from West Charleston to Salem Lake, with the Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (802) 723-6551.
- 19** Awakening Kindness Workshop, Ancient Buddhist Wisdom for Modern Mind and Way of Life, Milarepa Center, Barnet, 10 a.m. (802) 633-4136.
- 19** Northwoods Research: A Teen Perspective, wildlife research and ecosystem management projects, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 7 p.m. (802) 723-6551.
- 20** Pope Library Concert on the Green with Cold Country Bluegrass, Danville. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2528.
- 21** Science Magic with Boston Museum of Science, Peacham Library, 3:30 p.m. (802) 592-3217.
- 23 - 27** Caledonia County Fair
- 25** Fiddler on the Lake with Roland and Gary Clark, Gateway Center, Newport. 6 p.m. (802) 766-5363.
- 25** Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.
- 26** Pancake Breakfast, Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet Village. 8 - 10 a.m.
- 26** Westmore Town Forest and Bog Hike with Northwoods naturalist, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 1 - 4 p.m. (802) 723-6551.
- 27** Pope Library Concert on the Green with the Danville Town Band, Danville. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2528.
- 27** Lamplight Service at Old North Church, Danville with Rev. Carol Borland, former pastor, West Danville Methodist Church. 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-4096.

See also the Arts Around the Towns Calendar Page 14.

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