

THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

JULY 2006

Volume 18, Number 3

PAGE TWELVE

Peacham Artist Finds Market Niche for Contemporary Art Prints



PAGE EIGHTEEN

Small Town Parish Faces a Steep Climb to the Mountain Top

PAGE THIRTY

Don't let your outdoor cooking become boring.
- Vanna Guldenschuh

DAVID DWYER: HE'S ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

TERRY HOFFER

At the end of the school year David Dwyer set aside his grade books, his lesson plans and athletic trophies, and after 34-years he turned in his keys at Lyndon Institute. Popular among L.I. students and faculty alike, Dwyer retired from teaching.

Born and raised in Rhode Island, Dwyer ventured forth from southern New England for the first time by bus. "I was one of nine kids in a 3-bedroom house in a poor Catholic neighborhood in Newport. I'd been to Catholic schools through high school, and the last thing I wanted to do was go to college, but I thought I was going to be drafted into the Army, and I'd heard about Lyndon State College. When I called, some lady said I could get in, and she was sure I'd like it. Just as she hung up she said it was 24° below zero the night before, and I'm sure it was." That was January 1967.

Dwyer climbed aboard the bus with a canvas bag full of clothes, and at 9:30 on a cold Sunday night the driver steered

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Called Up: A College Kid's Story of Combat In Iraq

DILLON ELIASSEN

When Isaac "Ike" Marsh is in his car, stopped at a traffic light, he'll check to see if anyone is around. If no one is there, he'll ignore the light and zoom through the intersection. It is not a rebellious disregard for rules of the road that makes Marsh drive like this but his anxiety of being in a car and not moving. It's a habit he picked up in Iraq while protecting himself and his squad from the attacks of insurgents.

Marsh was a gunner in a Humvee and used to driving fast through the streets of Baghdad and along highways around the capital of Iraq. "We would always try to be moving fast to be less of a target," Marsh says. "We didn't want to be stuck in traffic, because then we're sitting ducks."

Marsh is in the Army National Guard, based in Waterbury as part of the 1st Battalion-86th Field Artillery, also known as the "1st of the 86th." He is an E4, a specialist,

one rank below that of sergeant. Marsh joined so he could pay for college. "It was either the Guard or not go to college," he says. "My buddy's step-dad was a recruiter, and we joined at the same time."

Marsh graduated from Hazen Union High School in 1998 and started at Lyndon State College the next fall. A week after he graduated from high school, Marsh left for basic training. He was at boot camp for the summer, returning home at 11 p.m. the night before he moved into the dorms at college. Marsh played soccer at Lyndon and graduated in 2002 with a double major in small business management and business administration and a minor in marketing. After college, Marsh spent time at home in Greensboro, caring for his father, who was suffering from emphysema.

As a soldier in the National Guard, Marsh trained with his battalion a weekend each month and at an annual two week training, known as "summer camp." In

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Ike Marsh Photograph

A graduate of Hazen Union High School and Lyndon State College, Ike Marsh has served time on the streets of Baghdad. Marsh was a Humvee gunner, manning a 50-caliber machine gun on the top of the vehicle. His job was two-fold: he operated the gun and was responsible for giving directions to the driver below. After 13 months in Iraq with the Army National Guard he's back in Vermont, and that's quite okay.

There Are Serious Pleasures in Groton State Forest

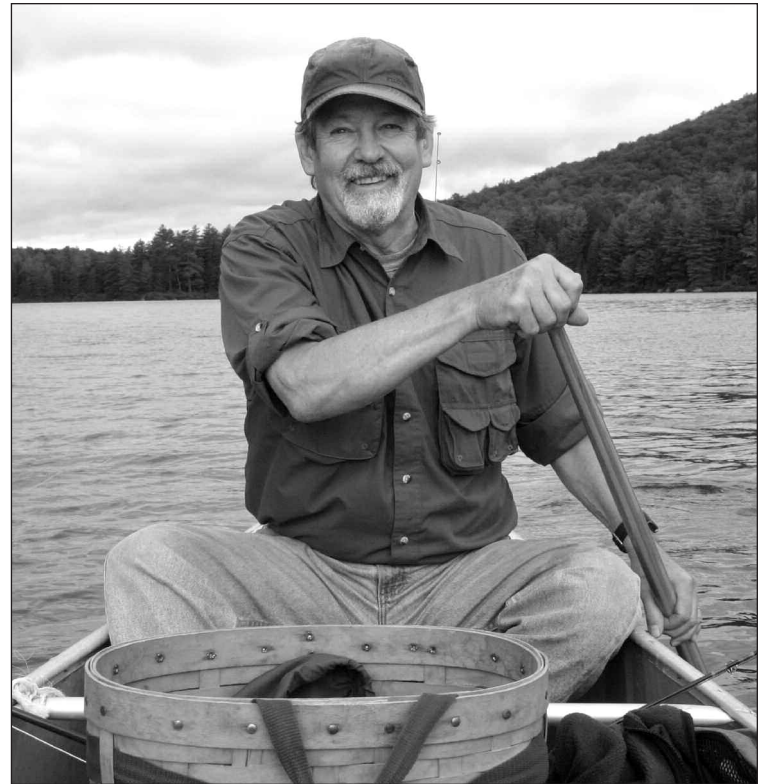


Photo By: North Star Monthly

Author Bill Biddle knows the fish in these ponds by name. He says they come when he calls, and on certain days, when the light is just right, they leap up out of the water right and into his pack basket.

WILLIAM BIDDLE

Too often the closest things are the ones we appreciate least. Years ago when I worked a stone's throw from Boston's Symphony Hall and its Museum of Fine Arts, I visited neither. Now they are far away, and I regret I didn't listen to more performances and see more exhibitions. The farther away something is, the more enticing it appears. As they say, the grass is always greener ...

This week, I learned from Vermont Public Radio that the Vermont State Park System is offering a freebie weekend. Access to its parks, and some special concerts and entertainments, is all gratis. But there was no mention of our local Groton State Forest and five state parks inside its borders, for there are no added-attraction staged events scheduled there. Yet there, just around the corner from us, is something so close to hand we rarely notice it. Most of us overlook its animal, plant, geologic and historic richness, as we flip instead through brochures for Acadia, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Cape Cod National Seashore, the Adirondacks.

But we are missing something. This writer and our editor, Terry Hoffer, recently spent parts of a couple of days and a night in Groton State Forest where we fished and camped at a pond-side lean-to, out of sight of any human beings other than ourselves, and out of sound of all human rumble and clatter other than our voices (one jet high overhead, was invisible above the cloud cover). It's a large, attractive, multi-use place and interesting, despite the fact that it's in our backyard.

Groton State Forest lies between Routes 2 and 302 and is roughly split north to south by winding Route 232. The Forest occupies a large portion of Peacham and Groton, smaller portions of Marshfield and Plainfield and even pokes into Orange and Topsham. A brief History Guide to the State Forest recounts the known history of the area, and I

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A Child of the Interstate Highway

Like Russell Powell, I am a child of the interstate highway. I first learned to ride a bicycle on great piles of dirt pushed up during the construction of Interstates 91 and 84 near their poorly planned intersection in central Connecticut, and those twin lanes of blacktop became my path to Red Sox games in Boston, downhill skiing in Vermont, summer days on the beach beside the Atlantic Ocean and, later, my route off to college in the Midwest.

Russell Powell is the editor and publisher of *New England Watershed Magazine* a *New England journal of thought culture and art*. *Watershed* is a new publication, which appears bimonthly, that's six times a year, from Hatfield, MA, and in a recent issue Powell writes wistfully about how the interstate has driven us apart and, at the same time, brought us closer together.

Powell understands that northern and southern New England have never been closer, in great part, because of interstate highways. And whether we know them well or not, any highway traveler in New England is familiar with the north slope of Camel's Hump in the heart of the Green Mountains, the panoramic view over Holyoke and Chicopee in Massachusetts and George Colt's blue onion dome in Hartford.

At the same time, or perhaps over the same time, we have watched the interstate displace and isolate rural farmlands and urban neighborhoods and refuel our appetite for resource consumption. Be they dead deer on the roadside, stains from winter salt on our cars and trucks or simply empty fuel gauges on our dashboards - all are symbols of the price of convenience.

Powell bows his head in *New England Watershed* and asks his readers to forgive the highway planners and engineers for the unplanned consequences of their efforts and to join him in a meandering tour through the social, artistic and literary landscape of the region we call New England.

I recently discovered Powell's magazine and enjoyed a host of contributions to its pages. There are articles on architecture featuring the distinctive insurance companies against Hartford's skyline all the way to the subtle details of the second- and sometimes third-floor recessed porches in homes in Irasburg and other towns of the Northeast Kingdom.

I read about the Merritt Parkway and truckers at the Whately Diner, Henry David Thoreau and median wildlife. There were articles about bridges and cheating in schools and a delightfully cynical essay about living with the things that we think we want. There was poetry and photography, and, as one who notices layout of the printed page, I'd like to say very solid composition throughout my two issues.

The current and early-summer edition of *New England Watershed* is the fifth of its Volume I. I detect a continuing search on Powell's part to find the limits of his voice and to identify his niche and to work it, but my impression is that he's headed down the right highway. He and his publication respect both the urban and the rural for what they are. They don't shy away from controversy or the complicated, and he doesn't mind high speed on a highway or a slow turn on a dirt road. The glossy pages of *New England Watershed* are sophisticated in their design and satisfying for their content. I look forward to the next issues.

Terry Hoffer

Hooray for the Piggies!

At last, it is practical as well as fashionable to show feet. It is summer in Vermont, a time for bare feet and sandals. Feel the grass between your toes, the sand molding to your soles and the warmth of the sun on skin that rarely sees the light of day. Except, when I am barefoot I always find the thistles in the lawn, the sand is egg-frying hot, and the deerflies and mosquitoes have a feeding frenzy on the tops of my feet. Maybe I am too self-conscious, but I'd rather not show my feet in public. They are not offensive in appearance (or, I hope, smell), just rather odd looking. But then, what feet aren't a bit odd looking.

Toes serve three main purposes: to play "this little piggy" with infants, to count beyond 10 and to attract ridicule for their bizarre appearance. A less important and less desirable function is the reminder toes provide that we are alive - as when the pinky toe is stubbed. (Isn't it amazing how something so small can hurt so much?) Some feet have toes arranged in proportionately decreasing size with the great toe commanding first rank in size and length, tapering in a pleasing wedge to little pinky fifth toe. Some feet have toes in disarray - bent, curved, webbed or with distorted nails. I have a bashful toe on each foot. These two hide under their neighbors. Sadly, some feet have toes that really have gone to market, on a permanent shopping spree.

Then, there are feet with the long third toe. On these feet, the third toe extends farther than the great toe, like some poorly disciplined pikeman out in front of the rest of the infantry. From the perspective of socks, the long third toe is the third rail - touch it and you die. Socks develop holes in less than half their usual life on feet with long third toes. What do you expect? It's like putting a stocking cap on a unicorn. Unless you have socks made of Kevlar, holes over that long third toe will appear within a matter of weeks. I should know. I am married to someone with long third toes. To my great relief, however, somehow the genes sorted themselves out and our kids have feet that are gentler on socks and, at least in appearance, are not a public embarrassment.

It is summer in Vermont and I am perfectly comfortable with shod feet. I feel fortunate that these 52 bones, maybe not arranged in the most aesthetically pleasing form, have so well supported my bipedal existence. If you too are blessed with two functioning feet, join me, barefoot, sandaled or booted, in stepping, stomping or otherwise celebrating our feet and toes.

Tim Tanner

Two Rare Weeks in May

Spring time came to Siberia as four of us departed from Moscow on the Trans Siberian Railroad, bound for Vladivostok, a mere 6,000 miles away. Warmth and sunshine prevailed for 12 of the 14 days of this leg of a most memorable adventure, which took us around the world by car, plane and rail.

Dick Boera, a retired dean of business affairs at Lyndon State College, had wanted to make the trip for years. When he glowingly described it to my wife and me one day, she amazed us by saying, "Why don't you go?" I had not thought about it until then and decided to go. We recruited Bob Swartz, a retired English teacher at St. Johnsbury Academy, and Dr. Edgar Miller, a retired surgeon from Pennsylvania, with a summer home in St. Johnsbury. The friendships we formed will last a lifetime.

One feature of the adventure that particularly attracted us was traveling on a private train dedicated solely to the activities of the tour group. A British company supplied private cars, hired staff and arranged with the Russians for use of engines, tracks and stations. There were about 50 passengers from 11 countries; the 10-person Australian contingent was the largest national group. Others were from places as distant

(Please see *Across Siberia* on Page 5)

THE North Star MONTHLY

EDITORIAL OFFICES:
P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Street
Danville, VT 05828-0319
(802) 684-1056

EDITOR:
Terry Hoffer

ART DIRECTOR:
Suzanne Tanner

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Tim Tanner

CIRCULATION:
Kathy Hoffer

ADVERTISING:
Vicki Moore

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:
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Contributors to this issue include: Dillon Eliassen, William Biddle, Lynn A. Bonfield, Susan Burger, Lorna Quimby, Jeff Gold & Ellen Gold, Frank Gold, Betty Hatch, John Downs, Virginia Downs, Jim Ashley, Isobel P. Swartz, Rachel Siegel, Van Parker, Peter Albright, Bets Parker Albright, Reeve Lindbergh, Vanna Guldenschuh, Betsy Smith, Alice S. Kitchel & Burton Zahler, Bill Christiansen, Dee Palmer, Stan Pekala and Tom Dente.

e-mail: northstar@kingcon.com
www.northstarmonthly.com

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

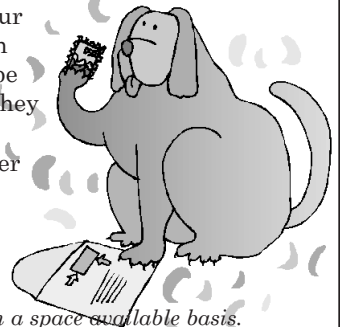
ARTICLES: We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to you sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.

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

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to publication.

All materials will be considered on a space available basis.



Letters to the Editor:

Country Doctors

Dear North Star,
The wonderful article in the

May 2006 issue especially struck a cord with me as I knew Dr. Choate well as our family doctor, and Dr. Paulsen brought me into this world in the Ward Gillis house in Danville. I was mother's (Julia Somers Cheney) first child as well as Dr. Paulsen's
(See *Letters* on Page 4)

Active Work at Pittsburgh Steel Mills Hints at Recovery from Depression Bill to Give Women Right to Vote Dies in Connecticut Legislature

The North Star

"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"

1807-1891
Est. by Ebenezer Eaton
Danville, Vermont



THE NORTH STAR

July 2, 1875

Farmers will soon commence haying. In many fields the grass looks well. The late rain and warm weather have improved its appearance very much.

Wool was selling last week in Caledonia County at forty cents for prime washed; thirty cents for unwashed. Prime fine combing wools have sold as high as forty two cents.

Some colored women who were refused refreshments in a St. Louis saloon the other day threw the furniture about and broke it, after which they sued the proprietor under the civil rights bill, but the judge not only declined to give them any satisfaction but fined them for breaking the furniture.

The Fourth - The 99th anniversary of American Independence will this year be celebrated either Saturday or Monday. We know of no celebrations to take place in the vicinity

on a large scale. There will, no doubt, be picnic gatherings, parties, rides, balls &c.

No Paper Next Week - As many of our readers know, it has been our custom for years to temporarily suspend publication for the Fourth of July and there will be no paper next week.

Mrs. Bersey, wife of a blacksmith at Mount Holly, who has been working in a cotton factory in Massachusetts has sent her three children back to her husband and gone to parts unknown with a gay and festive chap.

July 16, 1875

Reports from Pittsburgh speak of an improved demand for American iron, for the western markets especially, in advance of the resumption, thus far, of active work at the Pittsburgh mills and neighboring furnaces. It looks as though this great interest, one of the first stricken down two years ago by the panic, might be the first to recover from the depression. In the northern iron establishments the improvement has not been very sensibly felt. The markets here were more overstocked. But as these stocks are worked off, the demand must increase.

Wednesday of the week before last a youth named Sullivan, an employee of Blodgett's Mills in Burlington, bought a plug of tobacco. Having taken a bit he passed it to a friend who took another and bit off the head of a mouse, which had been nicely pressed into the tobacco.

That cured the young men of all desire for the wad at present.

Beedle's Swiss Bell Ringers gave an entertainment at the town hall in this village last Saturday evening. The entertainment was first class in every respect. People who patronize this show will not get humbugged.

Thirty five cases of measles are reported in Fayetteville.

July 23, 1875

The Saratoga Regatta - Last week was an exciting one at Saratoga where the University boat race took place. Thirteen college crews were in the races. The first day the freshman races occurred and were won by Cornell. Guns were fired, flags were raised and general spirit of rejoicing prevailed. The next day was the principal race and Cornell won this one too as at least 12,000 people witnessed the races. The final results were in order of time: Cornell, Columbia, Harvard, Dartmouth, Wesleyan, Yale, Amherst, Brown, Williams, Bowdoin, Hamilton and Union. Princeton did not finish the race on account of sickness of one of the men.

Balloonists Supposed to be Lost - One day last week (Wednesday we think) Professor Donaldson and M. S. Greenwood went up in a balloon from Chicago and up to last Sunday night they had not been seen or accounted for. There is still a bare possibility that they may be safe but the chances are they were dashed into Lake Michigan dur-

ing the terrible gale Wednesday night.

Fred. Douglas Speaks - Fred. Douglas in a Fourth of July address at Hillsdale, Pa. urged his race to cultivate independence saying, "all we ask is a fair field to work in. We have been injured more than we have been helped by men who professed to be our friends. They are lawyers without clients, broken down ministers without churches, wandering teachers without schools. They are great beggars. They have the gift of begging down to a nicety. They are great at getting out circulars. They scatter them over the land as leaves before the autumnal gale. If you are worth anything they will find out where you live, and if you never got a letter before you will get one now. Fellow citizens, we must stop these men from begging for us. They misrepresent us and cause the country to look upon us as a poor and helpless people."

Sudden Death - Last Monday, Mrs. Mary J. Carr died quite suddenly at St. Johnsbury. The day previous she was to all appearances in usual health, but that morning at about nine o'clock she was taken with vomiting and convulsions, which no medical aid could remedy. She remained mostly in an unconscious state until towards night, when death closed the scene. Mrs. Carr was 22.

July 30, 1875

The bill to give women the right to vote at Presidential elec-

tions has been defeated in the Connecticut Legislature by a vote of 102 to 82.

There is serious trouble with the Indians of the Canada West.

Two hundred men are finishing up the grading on the Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad between West Concord and the Connecticut River, and nearly half of the distance, or about six miles, is ready for iron. The Portland people propose to have the bridge across the Connecticut done as soon as the Vermont division of the P. & O. Railroad is ready to use it. The rail line is now open from Portland to the Fabyan House, and it is expected that cars will run through from Johnson by the first of September.

Robert and Henry Britton of Hartland have a thirty acre corn field, probably the largest in the state.

Excursions to Montreal and Quebec - By reference to our advertising columns, it will be noticed that the Passumpsic Railroad Company is again offering cheap excursions to Montreal and Quebec. We have not time this week to dwell upon the subject at any length, but will merely say that the pleasure arising from such a trip can hardly be surpassed, and from personal experience we can recommend to everyone who wishes to make a very pleasant summer tour, to embrace the opportunity offered by these cheap excursion prices.

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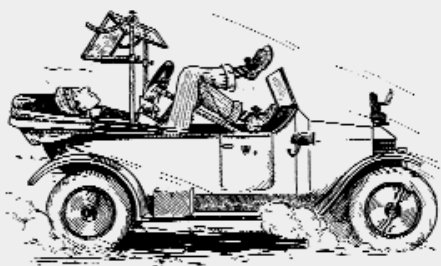
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Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 2)

first delivery after opening his practice. A short time ago I was thrilled to be shown the back bedroom where I was born. It was just a peek as the tenant's own baby was there fast asleep.

I only learned many, many years later when my ophthalmologist asked me about a scar on my inner eye lid and I asked my mother that she told me that two days after I was born some problem developed requiring Dad (Bunal Cheney) to harness our Morgan horse, Nellie, to the sleigh and drive me, bundled into many blankets and held by Dr. Paulsen, into St. Johnsbury for minor surgery.

My eye surgeon in Florida was quite intrigued by this bit of background when he did cataract surgery on that same eye in February 2006, 87 years later.

I look forward to many more years of good reading, now with good eyes, in *The North Star*. Many thanks.

M. Olive Cheney
Peacham, VT

Fine Food

Dear North Star,

This locality has been fortunate to have several restaurants that do more than provide the consistently, uninspired, ho-hum meal and successfully create fine

dining experiences. These include, of course, the well known "better" destinations, The Chefs Table, The Rabbit Hill, The Beal House, The Mount Washington Hotel, The Top Notch and the somewhat new Elements. There is, however, a relatively "undiscovered" destination that has repeatedly proven to be the unquestioned forerunner in the gourmet dining experience. At the Surf and Sirloin, chef/owner Calvin Belknap, and his assistant chef, Justin, repeatedly provide the most creative and delectable, local gourmet cuisine obtainable.

Several days advance reservation, with a brief list of your preferences, will set your special evening in motion. On arrival you will be seated at your specifically prepared table and presented with the custom designed menu, headed by the host's or customer's name and including a detailed explanation of each course's preparation. Each dish will be artistically prepared, served at the precisely correct temperature and brought to the table at the pace determined by the diner. Be prepared to be astonished by the quality of each dish and the chef's versatility. You will find that this exceptional experience not only requires regular repetition, but sharing with your friends.

Gerard Lamothe
Danville, VT

Across Siberia by Train

(Continued from Page 2)

as Chile, South Africa and Malaysia. All spoke some English, and most were fluent. Our ages ranged from 11 to 86.

We had not thought about news while on the train, and it was just as well, for there were no English-language newspapers, television or radio available once we left Moscow. The absence of worldly distractions permitted more interaction among the passengers amid an informally, apolitical atmosphere. Tatyana, the ever-present 40-year-old Russian tour director and her staff catered to our every whim. They were available to serve drinks, play cribbage, just talk if desired, and they carefully shepherded us around.

The train also traveled at night, allowing one-day visits to Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Lake Baikal, Ulan Ude, Mongolia and Vladivostok. We had never been on a train for such a long period and were amazed at how smoothly things were handled. The food was superb.

We convened in Moscow at the superb Metropol Hotel. Bob and I had been to Moscow in the 1980's on separate visits, so that much of what we saw was familiar, allowing for the usual changes and improvements in a dynamic city — Red Square, GUM department store, St. Basil's Cathedral and, of course, the Kremlin with its ancient churches and artifacts.

The city of Kazan boasts a fine university campus and an exciting view of the Volga River from a viewing tower paid for by Pakistan.

Yekaterinburg is famous as the site of the murder of Czar Nicholas II and his family by the Bolsheviks. The room in which they were murdered after being imprisoned for two years, has been preserved within a modern cathedral that is the city's most popular tourist attraction.

Novosibirsk, is an industrial center and Russia's third largest city. It was polluted enough that there seemed to be little for the tourist to enjoy. We were driven to what had been its famous academic research center during and after World War II. It has fallen on hard times since the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990's. Its citizens are proud of its outstanding collection of minerals and a railroad museum of retired locomotives. A barbecue lunch and walk on the icy shores of still-frozen Lake Baikal were memorable. The lake is 600 miles long, 100 miles wide and a mile deep in places. It holds about 20% of the world's fresh water.

Mongolia was a delightful surprise. Although it was snowing, and the out-of-town highways were rough and slippery, two bus drivers managed to drive 50 miles to a yurt-shaped restaurant in a national park. We enjoyed a fabulous meal in a winter wonderland. The Mongolians are delightful people and obviously glad to welcome tourists. Many stores had their names in English and Mongolian.

Southern Siberia, through which we traveled the final three days, was a disappointment. There were great expanses of burned-over fields and many run-down villages with skeletons of retired factories that were used in World War II. It was then that we fully appreciated the conveniences of travel in a comfortable train with pleasant acquaintances.

Vladivostok was the last stop in Russia, and with its many hills and capacious harbor reminded me of San Francisco. It was the home base for the Russian Pacific fleet during World War II and was closed to foreigners, because of its military importance, until a few years ago.

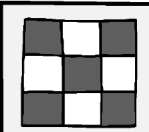
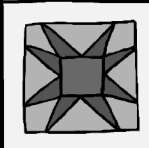
From Vladivostok we flew to Seoul, South Korea, a thriving, modern city with about 25 million residents. Sang Lee, a student of Bob's at St. Johnsbury Academy ten years ago and his girl friend entertained us at a dinner filled with talk about St. Johnsbury and world politics. Well-informed about political matters, Bob's friends do not fear North Korea whether or not it has a nuclear weapon, and believe that the two countries can work out their problems if left alone by the United States and others.

Finally we flew home to Burlington, on a 24-hour journey including about eight hours of layover. The trip satisfied my basic concern about Russia that has bothered me since 1945 when our relations began to deteriorate. At first I feared that it would always be a threat to world peace. But now, and after six earlier trips to western Russia, I believe that the country is not a military threat, but will become a serious economic rival with its oil riches. I can now relax and enjoy the great cultural traditions of the country.

John Downs



John Downs Photograph
John Downs, a regular North Star contributor and retired attorney from Lyndonville, was a passenger on the Trans Siberia Railway traveling 6,000 miles from Moscow to Vladivostok over 14 days in April. Here at the end of the line in Vladivostok Downs grabbed a copy of Every Small Town's Newspaper and let his thoughts turn back to Vermont.

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It's Really About the Quality of Life

The recent protests in France against proposed changes in employment laws affecting younger workers have stirred up comments, criticisms and discussions in the American media about the European attitude towards work and daily life, compared with that of workers in the USA. Most of these comments are disparaging and downright derogatory. I think that they overlook what should be one very important facet of this discussion, and that is the differing perceptions of the quality of life.

On April 15, 2006, *The New York Times* published an article about this theme entitled *Vive La Dolce Vita*, which related to Italy but not to France. The article indicated that Americans think it is time that Europeans woke up to the real world and recognized the importance of work when competing in a global economy. I would say that the Europeans are doing just fine. They have their priorities in order.

They have many of the things that Americans constantly worry about: universal health care; decent preschool for all children; reasonably priced university education; job security; paid vacation time; public transportation; in-home services for the disabled; reasonably priced prescription drugs and national pensions. Of course life in Europe is not idyllic, and Europeans pay for these benefits with higher taxes, but their worries are nothing compared to those of many Americans.

The *Times* article implied that Europeans do not like to work whereas Americans are devoted to self-improvement and always striving toward new frontiers. This may be true for some folks, but many families strive just to keep up, pay their bills, have a decent life style and save a little to get their kids started in college. Beginning in the 1970's, to reach these goals two wage earners in a family have become a necessity for most middle class American families.

Job security was one of the bones of contention leading to the recent street demonstrations in France. Demonstrators were concerned about a proposed law to allow any young employee under age 26 to be fired without due cause. Many people of that age are starting careers and families. This proposal would seem to be an unjustified benefit for employers and a terrible shadow over the life of a young person. The students who demonstrated said they would rather have no job than one with such lack of security. The government said it was trying to provide more opportunities for employment for the currently unemployed youth by making it more attractive for employers to add them to the work force. It seems like a kind of workplace merry-go-round where you climb on and after a few turns around, get spun off again, without a chance to object.

Job insecurity seems to be one of the things that many people in the US are facing at the present time. They see layoffs as factories close; out-sourcing of many jobs to take advantage of cheaper labor markets; and too many companies folding because of fraud or mismanagement, leaving workers with no jobs and no pensions. They are signs that we, too, have plenty of labor problems. The snide remarks about European work life are uncalled for.

What we are really seeing is the European desire to hold on to a quality of life that we have never had. Living in Vermont we think quality of life is related to the natural environment, a somewhat slower pace of life, clean air and relatively little crime. But what I am referring to is the more relaxed daily life that those who have traveled in Europe know well. Some of this we have probably found frustrating in our American zeal to find a post office, bank or particular store open at lunchtime. Lunchtime - that wonderful time that lasts a couple of hours - when many people in France go home to have their main meal of the day and take a nap.

So what if the shop, office or museum closes for two hours, they'll be open later and often into the evening! It's an important time to touch base with family and friends. Kids come home for lunch, walking with their friends to and from school. Grandparents and babies have a chance to be part of this daily ritual. Throughout the day people take time to sit in a cafe for a cup of coffee, rather than rushing along with cardboard cups sloshing hot liquids with dubious flavors all over their clothes and surroundings. Isn't this part of what we find so appealing about a European vacation?

I thoroughly enjoyed the amazement of my son-in-law who was completely nonplussed at this apparent casual attitude toward work that he saw on his first visit to France. His business degree from an American college had not prepared him for this. Despite the seeming lack of hustle and bustle, Europeans have all the things we do, they also have great cuisine that we try to copy; elegant fashions; fast passenger trains; less heart disease and longer lives; better maternal and child health, and a lower level of infant mortality. These last few items are the real signs of a quality of life that we are lacking. Maybe we work too hard striving for new frontiers and more money, and need to enjoy life a little more?

Isobel P. Swartz

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The idea was to stay out of the way and be invisible.

(Continued from Page 1)

the bus to the curb in front of the Cobleigh Library. He opened the door to the snow covered sidewalk. "The last thing he said to me as he wiped frost from the windshield was, 'Kid, I go by here every night heading south. If you want to go back I'll take you.'"

Give me a week, and if you won't give me a week then give me a day - but don't just sit there in that chair.

Dwyer laughs about his room at the college and the people he met as a freshman. "I had a fireplace in my room in the Vail Manor Tower. There were a lot of us from outside of Vermont at the time. It was wilderness here and an escape from the city, but the teachers at the college were great." Dwyer lists the names of his teachers and describes them as virtual superstars. "Graham

Newell, Bob Dixon, Dorian McGowan, Kurt Singer, Brian Kelly, Mary Bisson ... they were all in their prime, and it was the best."

Dwyer graduated in 1970 with a degree in English, and two years later he was invited to teach at L.I.

"I had no intention of teaching. If I'd told my teachers in high school that I was going to teach they'd have slapped me." Dwyer admits that through high school he was a wise guy and a cut up, but he learned quickly. "I didn't like to be slapped," he laughs. "I didn't do sports or clubs. As I figured it, the idea was to stay out of the way and be invisible. School never seemed like it was fun, until I got to college."

And that lesson lurks in the back of David Dwyer's mind to this day.

At L.I., Dwyer taught public speaking and sophomore English, diagramming sentences and lead discussions about *Romeo and Juliet* and *Great Expectations*. "I had done all that in high school, but Meryln Courser got me interested in sports. She was coaching basketball, track and field hockey.

She was amazingly organized, and she showed me how to coach. All of a sudden I saw the value of the extracurricular stuff and athletics as a means to being a part of something - a productive part of a community. You don't hear kids bragging about biology tests or diagramming sentences, but they do brag about how their team did the night before, and when I thought about that, it changed my life. I saw myself in a lot of these kids, and I'd pull them out of their seats, and I'd say 'Give me a week, and if you won't give me a week then give me a day - and if you want to quit I'll help you quit, but don't just sit there in that chair.'"

Sixty-five seasons of varsity sports later, Dwyer's success on the field and, through it, in the classroom, is legendary. As head coach of nordic skiing, cross country running and track teams he has gathered 11 state championship trophies and another eight as assistant coach.

"I was 35 when I started running and skiing, and I understand how important participating and being part of something can be." Dwyer coached future Olympic athletes Judy St. Hilaire and Andrew Johnson, and they are obvious and satisfying stories of success. But Dwyer is quick to say that his plan was never just about winning. He tells about all kinds of young athletes who watched winners and then with enormous pride told about being on the same team.

Dwyer tells about one young woman who ran through the whole cross country season with a handicap, a significant limp. "She came to running practice every day; she never quit although there were times when I thought she

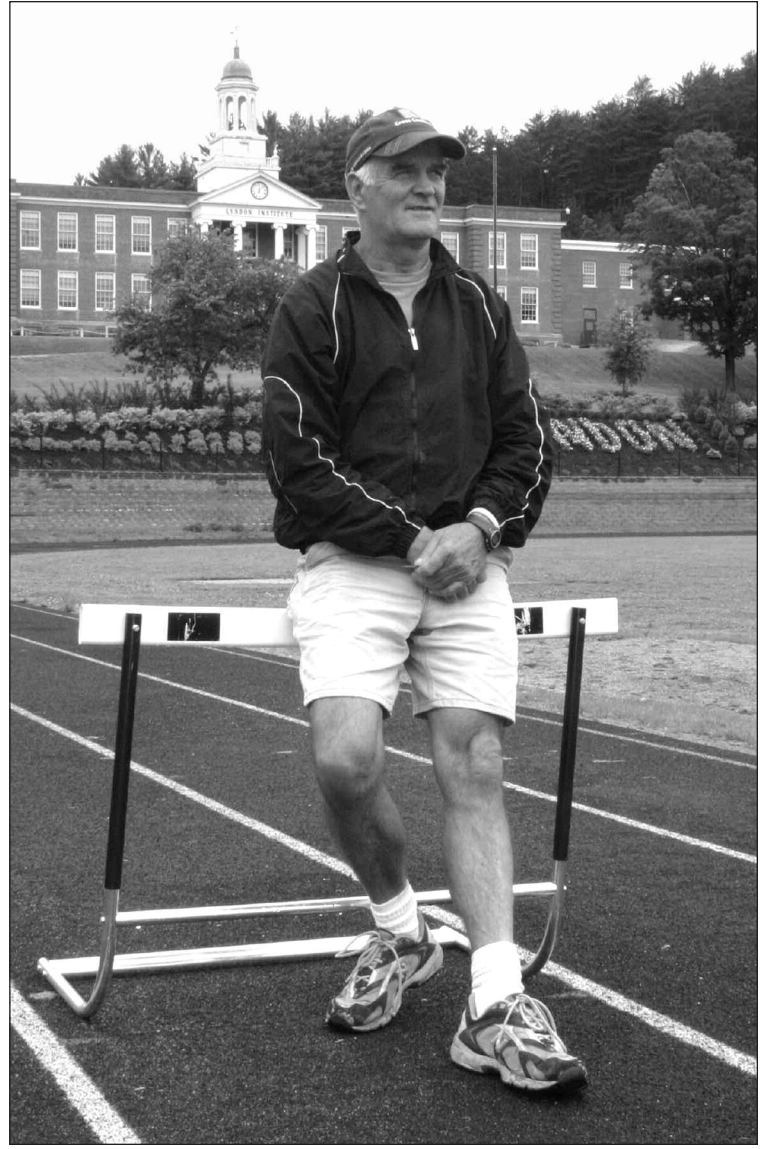


Photo By: North Star Monthly

After 34-years at Lyndon Institute David Dwyer has retired from teaching and coaching. His personal experience trying to be as invisible as possible in high school and his attraction to sports and coaching at L.I. created a teacher and coach with enormous success and a very long list of admiring students.

would. At the end of the season she was given a trophy that represented her incredible dedication and that of all those other kids who are always there. They never finish first or stand on the podium when medals are passed out, but she (and they) taught me more

than I can ever say about courage and devotion and doing the absolute best that you can."

Dwyer looks over the athletic fields at L.I. and the buildings on the hill beyond them. "I'm sure the same thing happens in theater, forensics or music or whatever, but for me it was sports, and I am so glad that I could be a part of it. There should be a requirement that everyone participates and gets involved in something and becomes a part of it.


"If someone had made me understand that in high school, my life might have been completely different - but then it wouldn't have seemed so important to me, and for that reason I am glad as to
(See My Life on Next Page)




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Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

“Invisible, Inscrutable, Insidious Inflation”

It has been 35 years since our dollar was taken off the gold standard and allowed to “float” against the value of other currencies. Now we most often think about the value of the dollar relative to other currencies. Although no longer the dollar’s defining standard, gold is still a reliable benchmark for the value of money, because it is the asset most turned to as an alternative investment to money itself. Gold can be traded for any currency - it has liquidity that transcends monetary stability - and so has been seen for centuries as a secure investment.

The price of gold has been rising, along with other precious metals and commodities, approaching prices not seen since 1980. The classic economic explanation for this rise would be an increase in

demand or a decrease in supply - or both. Supply hasn’t really changed too much, although a slight drop is anticipated as investment in exploration and mining has slowed in the last decade. Demand is said to be increasing as global economies such as China and India expand, creating consumer demand for more jewelry, electronics and modern medicine, the main uses of gold in our age of floating currencies, but it’s hard to imagine that demand is increasing so much, so fast.

This classic explanation doesn’t fully explain the recent run-up in the price of gold. Some economists argue that it is not the price of gold that is increasing, but the price of the dollar that is decreasing.

We price commodities in dollars, because the dollar has become the world’s reserve currency, that is, the currency of record for glob-

al transactions. The dollar became the world’s reserve currency because the U.S. has had the biggest and most productive economy, and over time, the most stable and valuable currency. Since the price of commodities like oil and gold is rising, in dollar terms, perhaps it is not that they are becoming scarcer relative to demand, but that the value of the dollars in which they are priced is falling.

That would have implications for our economy far beyond the value of gold, or even of oil. For years now, our trade deficit (we import much more than we export) has been supporting our fiscal deficit (we spend much more than we raise), because our trading partners have been willing to use the dollars they’ve gotten from trading with us to buy our government’s debt, our Treasury bonds. Our trading partners have been willing to trade their excess dollars for a promise of future dollars, by loaning their dollars to the U.S. government (who will repay these loans, these Treasury bonds, in U.S. dollars).

Now there is more evidence

that our trading partners are looking to invest their excess dollars in other commodities, like precious metals perhaps, and have less faith in the value of future dollars. Investors would be hesitant to invest in future dollars if they thought the value of the dollar would fall, that is, that the U. S. would suffer - or is suffering from - inflation.

There have been signs of inflation lately in our economy, mostly ascribed to rising costs of fuel and health care. The price of consumer goods hasn’t risen noticeably, but that may be because any rise in materials’ costs is offset by the dramatically cheaper (offshore) labor with which goods are now produced.

Where real inflation is visible is in commodities’ prices. The Federal Reserve has been raising its discount rate to tighten the money supply - widely believed to be a salve for inflation (less money, fewer dollars, to stop the price from falling). Perhaps there is less faith among investors that the Fed’s policy will work, or work well enough or fast enough to stop inflation.

We have greatly increased our fiscal deficit and our national debt in the past several years. There may also be the fear among investors that our government may, as governments so often have

- Mexico in 1994, Russia in 1998, Argentina in 2002, to name but a few - try to shrink the burdens of its federal debts by paying them back in less valuable dollars, that is, by allowing the dollar to devalue.

Although no longer the dollar’s defining standard, gold is still a reliable benchmark for the value of money.

This run-up in the price of gold could be the symptom of an otherwise stealthy inflation: the rising price of everything and the shrinking value of the dollar. More profoundly, as our dollar becomes a less valued investment, our credit may no longer be so good, and our days of trading at a deficit - consuming on credit - may be numbered.

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

My Life Might Have Been Different

(Continued from Page 6)

the way it worked out.” Someone asked Dwyer what he’d offer in the way of words of wisdom to a group of aspiring young teachers, and he stopped and for the first time got completely serious. “I’d say make it fun,” he said. “Be on stage, if that’s what it takes. Don’t take yourself too seriously, and look for the kid in the back row and find a way to bring him up front.”

Dwyer was honored at a final school assembly this year, and after the accolades and applause

died down he had a chance to speak. Never one to miss an opportunity to make people laugh, instead of brushing it all aside, he told the school how much he loved all the compliments and how much he hated to have them stop. Serious again he said, “I can’t say goodbye. It’s way too small.”

After a fleeting moment of near awkwardness, Dwyer paused and urged the gathered students to take care of the school and take care of one another. Finally, and back to the classic David Dwyer,

the retiring coach and English teacher quoted his 85-year old friend Hilda, who to this day runs a laundry in Newport, RI. “She always says to me when I’m leaving, ‘Y’all be sweet now, and walk easy, baby.’”

Dwyer looked up and over the Lyndon Institute student assembly, and with his eyes full of laughter and deep, deep pleasure, he shouted, “WALK EASY BABY,” and he was gone. ★

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It Makes You Appreciate What We Have Here

(Continued from Page 1)

In addition to physical fitness drills and weapons qualifications, Marsh learned the skills of a fire direction specialist for a Howitzer artillery gun.

It's a habit he picked up in Iraq while protecting himself and his squad from the attacks of insurgents.

"One day I got a phone call and was told to not go anywhere. Don't leave the state. We were on alert." In January 2004 the 1st of the 86th shipped out, flying from Burlington to Fort Dix in New Jersey. Marsh and his fellow Guardsmen spent two months at Fort Dix where they had combat

survival training, drills for helping wounded soldiers, military police training and weapons qualifications. In March, the 1st of the 86th flew to the Middle East to join the 95th Battalion of the 6th Military Police Brigade.

"I was scared to death," Marsh says, remembering when his unit was called up. "I would've preferred not going, but I signed up. It was my duty to go, and I believe that I did something for my country."

The 1st of the 86th flew into Kuwait and then moved to the US Army base at Baghdad's International Airport, known as BIAP by those who are stationed there.

The first assignment was to provide escort for supply convoys leaving the airport. Marsh's battalion was broken into squads of 10 to 12 soldiers, and the squads divided into teams of three to four. Each team was assigned a Humvee, a heavily armed truck used for escort missions. Marsh

was the gunner, manning a 50-caliber machine gun on top of the all-terrain Humvee. His job was two-fold: he operated the big gun and was responsible for directing where the vehicle went.

"It's like tunnel-vision inside the Humvee," he says. "The gunner is pretty much the eyes and ears of the Humvee." In addition to the 50-caliber gun, he was armed with a 9mm pistol and a shotgun.

The squad's first mission was to escort a convoy of supplies from the airport to the base in downtown Baghdad. They arrived safely and were heading back to BIAP when a call came over the radio to provide security for a medical team that was responding to a call nearby. A civilian contractor had been injured by a roadside bomb as he was driving down the highway. Marsh's squad was on the same highway.

When they found the contractor, he was seriously injured. "He had his left arm blown off," Marsh says. "But, as far as I know, he survived." Marsh and his squad secured the area while a medical team flew in to evacuate the injured contractor.

It was during escort missions in and around Baghdad that Marsh learned the benefits of constantly moving fast. BIAP is about five miles east of Baghdad. There is an Allied Forces base downtown, known as the Green Zone, and the highway connecting BIAP to the

Iraqi capital is a dangerous route to travel. Since American civilians and the military use it heavily, it makes a great road for Iraqi insurgents to pick targets. Marsh learned to stay alert, never sure where a rocket or a grenade might appear. "We were always doing sweeps of the road, scanning for threats. You keep your eyes open all the time and check everywhere, rooftops and overpasses. There are a lot of overpasses in Baghdad."

After a month of escorting convoys, Marsh was reassigned to escort and support military intelligence units on information-gathering missions. Marsh would help check leads and "go into the streets with an interpreter and talk with people, find out if there's anything planned." Some of the missions included rounding up suspects for interrogation. When they had custody of someone to be interrogated, Marsh's squad would travel to Kalsu, a base about 50 miles south of Baghdad where interrogation sessions took place. Sometimes Marsh was in the room during these sessions, to protect the interrogator and/or interpreter.

Soon after an interrogation on May 25, four days after Marsh's 24th birthday, Kalsu was hit by a mortar attack. Marsh and a member of his team were just getting outside when the attack began. They jumped into a bunker as some 20 mortar rounds fell around them. "It was so loud," Marsh remembers, "you could hear the shrapnel zinging off sandbags and bunker roofs."

After the attack, Marsh ran to where his squad was to see if they were OK. Most of the squad had

ducked into the nearest bunker, but a large hole had allowed shrapnel to fly through. From Marsh's squad, two were killed, and three were sent home because of their injuries. Three others were wounded but returned to duty.

In October, Marsh was given two weeks leave because his father's health was failing. His father passed away a week after Marsh got home. The leave was extended another week, but then he returned to BIAP. There was little time to grieve. "I couldn't be thinking about it when I was trying to keep myself alive," he says.

By the time he returned the squad had been reassigned. They were escorting an Army JAG as he traveled around Baghdad. "Sometimes we'd go into some pretty hairy areas, and there'd be so many people and so much going on, you don't want to think about what could happen," he says.

When they weren't on a particular assignment, they would help distribute goods and supplies to Iraqis. "We're trying to show that we're not there to kill everyone. We're there to help out," Marsh says. Sometimes his squad provided security for recovery operations. They would escort flatbed trucks to clean up destroyed vehicles or heavy machinery. "Sometimes we would be shot at while we were escorting trucks," Marsh says. "Usually we didn't know where they were coming from."

In February of 2005, the 1st of the 86th flew back to the States, and Marsh returned to Fort Dix for demobilization.

In the process soldiers are debriefed and given medical exams to assure they're not returning with diseases or sicknesses from overseas. They undergo counseling to help in the readjustment to civilian life. Getting used to life back in Vermont wasn't easy. "The military is all discipline, and it's hard to readjust to being laid back."

Coming home raised some of the feelings Marsh "had put on the back-burner" in Iraq. The return bittersweet because of the loss of his father.

"I didn't want any kind of celebration," Marsh says. "I wasn't really all that psyched to be home." Back in Vermont, no longer facing daily matters of life and death, Marsh found the opportunity to mourn the loss of his father.

Marsh might have had mixed feelings about being home, but his mother was enormously relieved to have him back. She had watched the war in Iraq on CNN, and sometimes the news would show fighting where her son was stationed. She wouldn't talk to her son for a few days, and she didn't know whether he was safe. "She would see bad stuff on TV about Baghdad, and she knew I was there, and she'd worry," Marsh says. "It's good to know she doesn't have to worry anymore."

When he first got back, Marsh would sleep an hour or two a night. Gradually, he became comfortable again being a civilian. He spent some solitary time dealing with his father's death and readjusting to life at home. "It's hard

(See *Just Another* on Next Page)



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Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



In *Little Women*, Louisa Alcott wrote, *Meg's high-heeled slippers were very tight, and hurt her, though she would not own it, and Jo's nineteen hair-pins all seemed stuck straight into her head, which was not exactly comfortable; but, dear me, let us be elegant or die!*

I am reminded of Alcott's concluding phrase when I think of the discomfort I've endured trying to be "elegant," or "fashable" as my younger daughter used to say. High heels were never comfortable, no matter what the advertisement said. The contortions we used to go through to get into a Playtex girdle should have got us into vaudeville. When we'd finally pulled the constricting garment over our tummies, we had gas cramps in our stomachs and heat rash under the rubber - but our waistlines were in line with the latest style. Pin curls were our worst affliction.

"What on earth do you have on your head?" my niece asked me. We were looking at old photographs. There I was in the back row, my head wrapped in a kerchief, pin curls peeking out.

"That's supposed to be a turban-effect and hide the pin curls," I said.

JUST ANOTHER COLLEGE KID IN BAHGDAD

(Continued from Page 8)

talking about how I feel to other people because they can't relate to the stress of Iraq."

Marsh's time has changed his perspective on life in America. The poverty "makes you appreciate what we have here. It opens your eyes." He sees people taking material things for granted while people in poor countries struggle to survive. "After seeing how people in other parts of the world live, I realize we've got it real good."

Marsh is happy where he is now. He works at Rent-A-Center in St. Johnsbury but would like to own a business someday, maybe in real estate. "Maybe one day I'll wake up and want to do something else."

Marsh was uninjured during his tour. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his service. He has 11 more years until his projected retirement from the National Guard, at which point he'll be eligible for a pension. His current contract with the Guard will be over at the end of this summer, but he doesn't know if he wants to re-sign and try to make it to retirement. If he stays in, his group could be called up again.

"You don't even think it could happen, and then you get called up and have to go where they send you. It'll be nice knowing my whole world won't get turned upside down again."

Dillon Eliassen is a junior at Lyndon State College. ★

"You probably were going somewhere more important," Julie surmised.

If I remember correctly, I wasn't going anywhere that Sunday. I had washed my hair and put it up in pin curls because the next day was school and I wanted to look as fashionable as the rest of the girls. After I laboriously wound each wet lock around a finger and skewered the resulting lump with a bobby pin, I folded a kerchief so there were three corners, put one corner on my forehead and tied the others across. Most of the pins were hidden. What I hadn't planned on was our having visitors who would want to take photographs. There was no way I could dash upstairs and take down my not-yet-dry hair. The resulting frizzy mess would have looked worse than the pin curls. I considered them decently covered by the kerchief.

When we were in high school, Deedee and I washed our hair every weekend. We had our perms in the spring. By fall, we had the look we wanted, the 40's look, with pompadour on top, sides pinned back and longer hair

hanging down our necks. Our pin curls got fatter and fatter as the year went on and our hair grew. My hair was thin and fine, but Deedee's was thick and had a lot of body. Keeping our hair clean was a lot of work.

First, we had to fill the enamel-ware canner in which Maw heated water. In the 40's, shampoo had a soap base and didn't lather well in the water from the spring, which was hard. We liked to use rain water when we could. Maw collected the rain water that dripped off the back porch roof in to a tall crock that, years before, had held salt pork. We would carefully dip the soft water into the canner, stagger to the kitchen with our load and put the canner on the stove to heat. Mornings in warm weather, Maw had a fire in the stove long enough to cook breakfast and the noon meal and to do dishes. Then she let the fire go out. Hence, shampooing one's hair was a morning chore.

The next step was to carry the canner, with the warm water, to the sink. There we leaned over the wash basin and, using the dipper, poured water over our hair. Then we lathered our heads lavishly with shampoo.

We were suckers for advertising. We were sure Breck's shampoo would make our hair look as smooth and beautiful as the model's in the ads we'd seen in

the magazines. Rain water rinsed out the shampoo thoroughly. However, in late fall, Maw had turned the crock on its side so the water would drain and the crock wouldn't crack. Thereafter we had to use spring water that ran into a pail in the sink. Using the spring water entailed several trips with a dripping pail to the stove. We left a trail from the sink to the stove. And we rinsed and rinsed, trying to get our hair "squeaky clean," while the one who was waiting to wash her hair kept saying, "Leave some warm water for me!" Sometimes we used vinegar in the final rinse.

As you can see, shampooing one's hair was a lot of work and took time. We took a bath Saturday night. Usually we washed our hair on Sunday. When Monday morning came, we'd take down the pin curls and comb out the crinkly waves and curls. Then we were ready for

school, fresh and clean, with our hair all curly.

Dear me, let us be elegant or die.
- Louisa May Alcott

To keep our hairdos through the week, we put up our hair in pin curls each night. And we wrapped our heads in kerchiefs and slept with the resulting hard little knobs all over our heads. (Ah, the wonderful ability of teenagers to sleep in spite of everything!) In the morning I'd rescue the pins that had fallen out during the night, remove the ones still anchoring my curls and comb out my hair. Fortunately, I could manage all those steps on automatic pilot. My mind would be miles away.

I'd be ready for a new day, "elegant" or not.

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It's So Close We Often Overlook Groton State Forest

(Continued from Page 1)

acknowledge it for some of the information that follows.

Because of its many bodies of water, the area that is now Groton State Forest was once an easy portage route between the Winooski, Wells and Connecticut Rivers for the local Abenaki and early European explorers they guided. Little remains of their presence, however, except an infrequent arrowhead. It was true wilderness, home to the catamount, wolf and lynx, as well as all the forest creatures we are

familiar with today. Some believe the French and Indian raiders at Deerfield, MA carried their 100-odd prisoners north to Canada through this land. But in any case there were no permanent settlers prior to the Revolutionary War, and it wasn't until 1783 that Captain Edmund Morse, one of the early settlers in the area, built the first saw and grist mill at Ricker Pond. Apart from that, we know little for certain about the early history.

The Groton area became, in the 19th century, a major logging

region with sawmills and eventually a railroad running through the lowlands between Montpelier and Wells River to carry lumber to the rivers for further transport, supplies to the camps and, eventually, starting around the early 1890's, vacationing folk to the first summer camps on the shores of Groton Pond (officially Lake Groton). The railroad bed remains, rail-less, a long mostly flat snowmobile and off-road bicycling trail that is part of what will eventually be the east-west "Cross-Vermont Trail" but which, so far, reaches from Wells River only as far as Plainfield.



It rained through the night, but we stayed warm and dry in the remote, get-there-by-water, lean-to.

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We were serenaded by songbirds and frogs, given a duet of Wagnerian-proportions by the loons.

In the late 19th century, as logging declined in the area, vacationing thrived. Today, family camps abound on the remaining private lands abutting Peacham and Groton Ponds. They vary from old time, rustic, rough-timbered camps to large year-round, architect-designed showplaces. There remain only two (specifically protected) patches of the original old-growth forest and nothing at all of the dozen or so sawmills and railroad depots that once dotted the forest.

The State of Vermont began buying up land in the area in 1919 beginning with an initial 5,600 acres purchased from Mitchell Goslant, and it has continued to

acquire land from time to time since. Groton State Forest now extends to 26,000 acres and is the second largest holding of state lands of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. It includes six separately overseen parks, eight ponds and trails maintained for hiking, off-road biking and horseback riding.

A visitor to New Discovery State Park, which includes Osmore Pond, Owl's Head peak and the New Discovery campgrounds and picnic sites, will find among the walking trails and picnic sites occasional stone steps that lead nowhere, or, near Osmore, an elegantly roofed stone arch that serves no discernible purpose. These, and some stone fireplaces in roofed large-group picnic sites, are relics of the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps projects whose employees also built the summit cupola on Owl's Head. Park Manager Barbara MacGregor told me that Owl's Head was treeless in the 1930's when the cupola was built as a fire lookout. Forest fires had burnt off a large section of the State lands including Owl's Head. It must have been in a treeless stage following the fires that the knob got its name. The park also contains miles of well-maintained trails and roads that visitors on foot, bike and horseback use during the

park's open season.

Energetic walkers will enjoy the trails over Devil's Hill and Big and Little Deer Mountains. For a shorter trek with a more spectacular view, drive in to Owl's Head and hike up the easy two-tenths of a mile to the summit and its 360° view. If you want to know why Devil's Hill is so-called, or why Kettle Pond got named for a kettle, you'll have to go the Parks and find out for yourself.

MacGregor and her knowledgeable and welcoming staff manage New Discovery State Park and dispense fliers, maps, nature guides and permits for camping and parking. They will help you pick just the right campsite you want, or book lean-to campsites that accommodate disabled campers and lie near separate-gender toilet and bathing facilities that also are accessible to a wheelchair user.

Should you arrive at New Discovery State Park with (or on) your horse, you'll have to show certified proof of your horse's health, and you'll be restricted to trails marked as bridle paths. You can't have more than two horses tethered at your campsite. Oh, and you are expected to pick up the poop. Pets generally are accommodated as long as you bring current health documents and agree to restrain and clean up after them.

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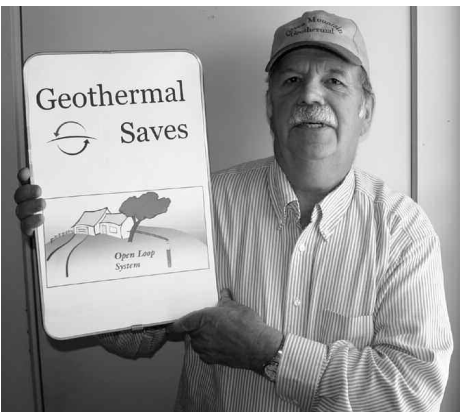
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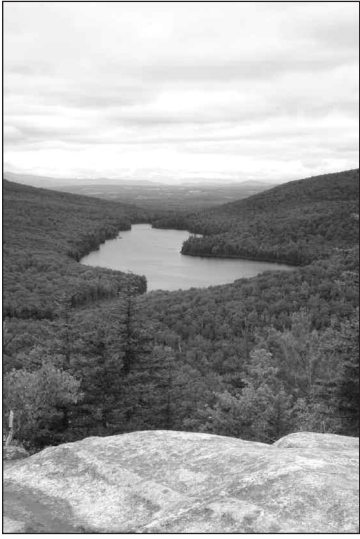
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Photos By: North Star Monthly
Kettle Pond from the top of Owl's Head looks like a gerrymandering congressional district.

profit. Abutters were understandably concerned that the isolation, peace and quiet and general good order of nature might be violated by a commercial business, and they raised a stink. As of this writing, the folks who had contracted to run the Seyon operation have withdrawn, and at least for the moment, it will operate as in the past, in effect, a State Park with hotel-like accommodations, meals, rental boats and barbless-hook fly fishing. Stay tuned.

In addition to the hotel-like setting on the shore of Seyon Pond, the Groton State Forest includes areas of northern boreal forest (spruce and fir) and northern hardwood forest (beech, maple, yellow birch and hemlock). It also includes a large wetland area, the Peacham bog. There is a great variety of flowering plants and wildflowers, which are most evident and most striking to see in the early spring before the trees have fully leafed out. Which brings up another good reason to walk about this land in the early part of the year: It's bad form to head up into the tall mountains when soggy trails are still carrying runoff from snowmelt and vulnerable to erosion. So save the really hard climbing for later. Head for Groton State Forest in early spring, before the black flies, walk the lowland, undulating trails through the forest (well preserved against erosion by the rangers who place timbered water bars to divert running water and short low spans of bridging to get you over the especially muddy spots). There you can see moose prints in the mud and perhaps the moose as well, jack-in-the-pulpit, trillium in several varieties, lady's slipper, marsh marigold, Dutchman's breeches, all sorts of violets, dwarf ginseng, forget-me-not, coltsfoot, unfolding ferns and bright mosses.

On one early venture to one of the ponds, I watched and heard three loons with upraised heads making a hell of a hullabaloo about an apparent ménage à trois,

watched an osprey take a breaching trout and a kingfisher scout for fingerlings. More than a dozen lady slippers glistened by the trail-side to the boat launch.

Needless to say, caring for this land, maintaining a huge number of campsites, roadways, trails, facilities and just mowing the grass costs money, and so we pay modest fees. The price of day use is \$2.50 a person (less for little kids). Group camping is \$4 per person/night. They charge \$14-\$18 per night for tent or trailer sites and \$21-\$25 a night for a lean-to. At Ricker Pond Park there are even cabins (rustic one-room jobbies with a short walk to the john at \$46/night) and cottages (sleep 4 - 6 people, real kitchens and indoor plumbing for \$420/week) rentable for extended stays.

But I'm partial to the remote, get-there-by-water lean-tos, especially those on the far side of Osmore and the ones about a quarter mile apart around Kettle Pond. The lean-tos vary in age, but not in serviceability. They have projecting roofs that keep the wind and the rain out, excellent fireplaces or fire pits with gratings that work and a table. You haul your own wood, food and drink and sleeping gear, maybe a candle lantern, a deck of cards, a bottle of nice wine. At remote sites you have to poop in the woods. Well away from the site, please, and bury it under a few inches of topsoil and leaf mold. But everything else you carry out; it's tacky to leave your flattened, scorched bean can and empty wine bottle in the fireplace. Every site has a rake and a broom, two hints that it's nice to leave the place clean for the next tenants.

Osmore Pond contains brook trout, including holdovers according to MacGregor; Kettle Pond has rainbows, and I've caught holdovers there. No motorboats are allowed on Osmore. You carry your boat and your gear about 150 yards through the picnic area to

the put in. There is no rule about motors on Kettle Pond, but who's going to carry a motor a quarter of a mile through the woods from the parking space. The remote lean-tos on both ponds are quiet at night except for the loons, the bullfrogs and tree frogs ... and the crunch and rustle of the Sasquatch whom, for some reason, only smaller children can be persuaded to hear.

When Terry Hoffer and I spent our time at Kettle Pond, fishing the evening and morning rises, we netted a mess of the ubiquitous yellow perch on spinning lures and a couple of large largemouth bass and a number of rainbow trout on streamer flies. We were serenaded by songbirds and frogs,



given a duet of Wagnerian-proportions by the loons. It rained during the night, but we stayed dry and warm. We came home stinking of fish and wood smoke. And smiling. ★

Interestingly, the parks, unlike most hotels and motels, actually welcome your beasts.

Now for some news that's still unfolding: the Seyon Pond operation and its future in the Groton State Forest are making the news as I write. Here's a little background. The pond was apparently enlarged by damming the headwaters of the south branch of the Wells River for powering a sawmill in the 1890's. Among the last of a succession of owners, according to MacGregor, were Francis and Harry K. Noyes and a group of others who bought the property in 1939. The Noyeses inverted the name and called the pond and their lands Seyon Trout Ranch. They used the dam to generate power, and they built a guest house. The State bought all 5,000 acres of Seyon Trout Ranch in 1967, gussied up the building a little and operated it as a seasonal, and eventually a year round but isolated fly-fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and wedding/conference center.

That was the background; here's the current news. As of this spring, the State had contracted with a private operator to run the Seyon facilities, presumably for a

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Peacham Artist Finds Market Niche for Contemporary Art Prints

TERRY HOFFER

Rolf Danielson is a talented painter with training that includes four years studying art history and ceramics at Skidmore College and five years at the Art Students League in New York City.

Properly scanned and printed, the Giclee image can have all of the tonalities and hues of the original.

“My family is full of painters,” Danielson says, “and the opportunity to study figure painting at the Art Students

League was wonderful. You get a ton of studio time and everything you need to progress - camaraderie, professional models and great instructors like Frank Mason [who has a summer home in Peacham]. It’s a hard place to leave.”

Nevertheless, Danielson did leave the bright lights of New York and returned to his family home in Peacham. “It was just after 9/11,” he says, “and I wondered if I was doing what I really wanted. Much of the Contemporary Art Scene is buoyed by the image that successful visual artists are exclusive. They produce one-of-a-kind or extremely limited editions, which are seen as precious (and thereby expensive) for their rarity. There is a snootiness and politics, and inevitably there are painters who find themselves



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Rolf Danielson (left) and his sister Marit are printers and framers of fine art. Here in their Peacham workshop they use cherry, maple, walnut and even stainless steel accents in the production of frames for their distinctive and unique art work.

suddenly in fashion, and their business interests take over. I was turned off by it, and back in Vermont I began to think of the means to market art work at a level that hasn’t really been done before.”

Danielson says, “I had always thought of prints as a step down from the original art work, but when you think about it authors don’t stop with a single copy of their written work on a typewriter. They have it published. Musicians may sound better in a concert hall, but their music is taped and reproduced for a bigger audience and wider appreciation. My thought was - why not the visual arts?”

Danielson studied the mass marketplace and found stores

like Bed, Bath & Beyond, “the WalMarts of interior decorating,” where inexpensive art prints are sold in mass-produced frames for well under \$100. But, he thought, there are very high resolution scanners and high-end digital printers that are capable of making prints of a quality beyond what the human eye can distinguish from the original.

Know as Giclee prints (that’s Gee’clay from the French for a spray or spurt of liquid) the resolution is extremely high. Using 8-color to 12-color ink jet printers the printing process may take as long as 90 minutes even on a relatively “high speed” printer. In Giclee printing, no screen or other mechanical devices are used, and as a result there is no

visible dot screen pattern. Properly scanned and printed, a Giclee image can have all of the tonalities and hues of the original. Danielson says, “Giclee is an art in itself.”

Danielson acquired a state-of-the-art Epson printer and using archival inks and archival papers began to make editions, he says, in sizes of about 200 prints. Currently his editions include the work of four artists. He says, “This is a technology that is way beyond the process of making cheap posters or even museum quality reproductions.”

The prints are seemingly indistinguishable from the original, and Danielson was pleased, but he wondered about making a frame of equivalent quality. He turned to his sister, Marit, who was trained as a violin maker at the great North Bennett Street School in Boston. Her experience with the finest of details of woodworking and a compatible interest in fine arts was just what Rolf Danielson was looking for.

Today the Danielson brother and sister team uses cherry, maple and walnut and, at times, stainless steel accents to make distinctive and unique frames with cabinet quality joinery and fine finishes that compliment the printed artwork.

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(See These Are on Next Page)

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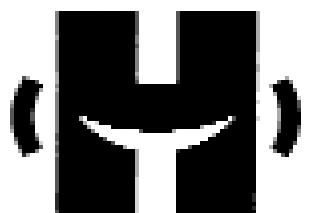


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Every Town Had a Town Ball Team

BILL CHRISTIANSEN

High summer has finally arrived. When I was growing up, this was the pinnacle of baseball season. The baseball I knew has little resemblance to the sport played by kids today.

Some of the differences are bigger than others. There were no adults involved, the field was not mowed and the bases were whatever could be found to mark a corner of the infield. Most rules were made up by the players. One rule had to do with how to proceed when the ball was lost in the long grass. Transportation to the ball field was by foot or bicycle.

The day started with the kids arriving at the ball field at about nine o'clock in the morning. As soon as a sufficient number had arrived, the process of choosing sides began. Two captains were appointed, and the choosing began. I don't remember how the selection of captains took place. Everyone was put on a team. Some days a team might have five or six members and the next day ten or 12. Regardless of the number, the whole team took the field. There were no bench players. To decide which team batted first, a bat was tossed to one of the captains. He grabbed it in one hand. The other captain placed his hand above the first hand. This was

repeated until one hand reached the top of the bat. That team got to bat first.

This was the pinnacle of baseball season.

Baseball equipment was a problem. Not everyone had a glove. Those that did brought them. When the sides changed at the end of an inning, gloves were left on the field so the next person in that position could use one. A certain amount of swapping around was done so hopefully everyone ended up with a glove. Bats were also in short supply. Most bats were privately owned and were hand-me-downs from older kids. The best bats were ones that were cracked and had been repaired with black electrician's tape. While these tended to be light and easy to swing, when you hit a ball they would sting

your hands. Balls were not much different. After a while, the cover would come off the ball, leaving a wad of string. To prevent the string from unwinding, the balls were given a new cover, using the same black electrician's tape. From that point forward the ball was no longer round, and it took some strange hops. It was also harder to see, a black ball against a dark background.

When it came to batting, there were endless arguments about the way the bat hit the ball. The myth was that if you hit the ball on the trade mark of the bat, the bat would shatter into a million pieces. For some reason, it was believed the trade mark weakened the bat. It did not make any difference if the trade mark was printed on the bat or engraved into the wood. Every time someone came to bat, everyone would watch to see that the trademark did not hit the ball. With a cracked bat, I'm not sure that was a real problem.

The game would continue until about Noon or it became too hot to play. Eventually, everyone drifted away, and that would be it for the day. The afternoons were the time for swimming, and no one ever played ball in the afternoon.

Those were the days when every town had a town ball team. A couple of times a week, the town teams would have a game in the early evening. The teams were made up of the older youth and young men of the community. The town team was the primary source of the cracked bats and damaged balls that we used.

One of the high points of the ball season was when a semi-professional team came to town to play the locals. The one I remember the most was called "The Bearded House of David." I believe the team was from someplace in Pennsylvania. They would arrive, put up posters announcing the game, usually for the next day. After the game they would be gone, maybe to return in a month or so. I don't think the local team ever won a game, even when they brought in "ringers" from surrounding towns. Ringers on the local team were always an issue. If an unfamiliar face showed up on the field it was assumed this was a big time player from away.

This was a time of equal opportunity. As I mentioned earlier, everyone who showed up got to play. One of our regular players was born with no toes or fingers. He had great flexibility in the

palms of his hands. He could not run very fast but he was willing to try. It was a kind of rule, that which ever side choose Donny, he would be the catcher, and he did an excellent job at it. Donny was often chosen first and that took care of the catcher for that team. No one really liked to catch since pitchers were so wild. I don't ever remember any girls showing up to play. Today I wonder what we would have done. My guess is they would have played along with the rest of us.

By August the baseball season was over. Everyone seemed to have lost interest, and the group dwindled away. While the season began with great enthusiasm, it often died with a whimper. ★

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These Are No Ordinary Wall Hangings

(Continued from Page 12)


interior designers and consultants of building design. Rolf Danielson says, "The look is contemporary, and it's targeting a buyer in a metropolitan area. These are not what one would call the Vermont or the country look, a niche that is well represented by such names as Sabra Field or Woody Jackson."

Marit Danielson says, "It's a start. We don't want to be everything for everyone. With four artists and a fairly limited array of frame styles, we are working on this slowly." But it is a significant start, and the Danielsons' work will be displayed at an international furniture show in Las Vegas in July surrounded by the work of two of Vermont's premiere furniture names, Lyndon Woodworking and Pompanoosuc Mills Furniture.


Whether the Danielsons' work is targeted for metropolitan areas or rural neighborhoods and whether or not it carries the cachet of country or Vermont, these framed prints could serve as very fine art in any setting. They are striking, and they are an interesting introduction to a marketplace often clouded by the intentional mystique of the world of fashion and art. ★

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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

Lynn A Bonfield



Veteran abolitionist Oliver Johnson (1809-1889), born and raised in Peacham, is today best known as the right-hand man to William Lloyd Garrison. At age sixteen, Oliver left Peacham to become an apprentice as a printer in Montpelier and later became one of America's most noted newspaper editors.

On a trip to his native town in 1869, Johnson wrote to Lyman Lee, a boyhood friend then living in Foxcroft, ME. The two were raised on neighboring farms on Cow Hill; both houses and barns are now gone. Like many folks at mid-19th century, Oliver and Lyman left Peacham in pursuit of better economic opportunities but continued to carry their fond memories of home with them.

Oliver even specifically mentions his debt to Lyman's mother who suckled him as a baby when his own mother could not. He comments on the beauty of the site of the town, but freely gives his opinion that the beauty was reduced in his eyes when the Academy and the church moved from the top of the hill. With the introduction of tintypes, photo-

graphs could be easily exchanged for the first time, and Oliver's letter indicates that he has sent his and expects Lyman's in return.

128 East Twelfth St.,
New York, July 12, 1869

Friend of My Boyhood Days:

I have just returned from a visit to Peacham, my native place and yours. While there I read, with great satisfaction, a letter from you to my brother [Leonard Johnson]; also one from your venerable mother. These letters touched the springs of memory in my heart, carrying me back to the time (O how long ago!) when we were boys together; and I resolved that, after returning to my home, I would send you a photographic likeness of myself, with a friendly letter. That resolution I now fulfill. I hardly know whether or not you will see in the picture any resemblance to my former self. The difference between boyhood and age is very great, the latter often removes all traces of the former. The difference is aggravated in my case, probably, by the full beard, which of itself is a great change. But whether you recognize me in

my picture or not, I know you cannot have forgotten me; and I venture to hope that you and your venerable mother will be glad to hear from me.

I was 59 years of age on the 27th of last December, and am in pretty good bodily condition for one of my years. Your mother will remember that I was a very feeble infant, born in advance of the regular time, and that at first it was very doubtful if I could be raised. I probably owe my life to the fact that, as my mother could not give me adequate nourishment, I was often fed from your mother's breast. I cannot pretend to remember this myself but others have often mentioned the circumstance, and I suppose it to be true. You see I began to "board round" at a very early age, my sister carrying me in her arms from house to house to be suckled. Thus it was that I acquired the strength that enabled me to survive the perils of infancy, and to continue my existence to this day. Don't you think it is about time that I thanked your mother for her maternal services? Please tell her that I am sorry to have neglected so obvious a duty for so long a time, and that my only apology is that the life she supported has been a very busy and absorbing one, while for many years I have neither seen her nor known where she was.

While I was yet a boy, I gave myself unreservedly to the anti-slavery cause, and from that day until the final emancipation of the slaves, I was almost constantly engaged in it, either as a lecturer or an editor. You, I think, heard me speak in Peacham more than once. I was closely identified, all through the long struggle, with Garrison and the societies organized and led by him. In his absence, at various times, I edited the *Liberator*. For two years I edited the *Anti-Slavery Bugle* in Ohio; for another two years the *Pennsylvania Freeman* in Philadelphia; and for twelve years the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* in New York. Four years, from

1844 to 1848, I was connected with the editorial staff of *The New York Tribune*; and for the last four years I have been working, managing editor of the *Independent*, and seem likely to continue in this labor for some time to come. It is to me a source of perpetual satisfaction to have been identified, however humbly, with the movement for delivering our country from the crime and curse of slavery. But I had no son, as you had, to bleed and die in a cause so near my heart.

Having told you so much of myself, let me now tell you something about Peacham. My brother has sold his farm, and moved to the Corner into the house next below Col. Walker's old place. He has 20 acres of land, of the old Reuben Blanchard farm, next below the Elkins place, which is more than he should have the care of at his time of life. He is in fine condition for a man so old, and very happy. His second wife is an excellent woman, though her health is feeble.

Peacham never seemed so beautiful to me as it is now in all the freshness of its summer garniture. The farms are generally better kept than they used to be, the owners being better off. "Penny Street" is an exception. The house where you lived as a boy is no longer standing; my father's house and barns have all been destroyed by fire. The two farms have a desolate, deserted look that made me sad. The soil has deteriorated under unskillful culture, and the road is wretchedly rough, grass-grown and stony. Once the most enterprising and thrifty part of the town, it is now the most dreary and forsaken.

But oh! The hills of Peacham, and the views which they command! They are enough to ravish the heart of an artist. I took with me a landscape painter, who sketched for me, from the hill where the old meeting house stood, the view of Harvey's and Roy's mountains, with the pond lying between, and the distant mountains

seen through the opening. It is one of the most charming views I have ever seen. From the same hill you can see and distinguish the whole White Mountain range, Mt. Adams, Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, Mr. Lafayette, Mt. Cannon, etc.; and the nearer farms, with their fields, fences, and buildings, and waving grass and grain, formed a picture such as the eye loves to rest upon.

The town has never seemed quite the same to me since the meeting house and the Academy were removed to the Corner. It is somewhat like taking the nose from a man's face to remove an old landmark like that meeting-house. The cemetery on the hill, which in our youthful days had but few graves, is now greatly enlarged and almost filled with monuments to those whose names and faces were once familiar to us. It is one of the most beautiful country cemeteries I ever saw, and creditable to the taste of the living generation. The town has begun to erect on the old academy site, a monument to the soldiers who lost their lives in the war of the rebellion; and the common, where you and I ate gingerbread on June training days, is to be surrounded with a neat fence. You ought to go back to the dear old place once more. You would find many to welcome you.

My kindest remembrances to your venerable mother. I wish I could see her once more, and talk over the old times. Remember me also to your wife, and to your brother Seth when you see him. I want you to answer this letter, and send me your photograph as I have sent you mine.

Your old friend,
Oliver Johnson

The original of this letter in preserved at the Vermont Historical Society and was published in The Vermonter 39 (May 1934): 142-143. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization.

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the ARTS around

June 30 - July 6 *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006, US) [NR] Director: Davis Guggenheim. A passionate and inspirational look at Al Gore's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.

1 Vance Gilbert, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

2 Old Freight Train, Trapp Meadow, Stowe.

3 DeSol plays Montpelier on Independence Day, Thrush Tavern, Montpelier.

7 Picture This, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

7 Regina Hart Quartet, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.

7 Paul Simon, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex.

7-20 *Disappearances* (2006, US) [NR] Director: Jay Craven. Set during Prohibition, Disappearances

tells the story of Quebec Bill, an impossible dreamer and schemer who needs fast cash after a lightning storm destroys his barn. Bill hatches a plan to steal 20 cases of whiskey from Canada's most notorious bootlegger and smuggle it back across the border to Vermont. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

8 Viscus, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

8 Catamount Arts Annual Garden Tour, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.

12 Phil Lesh and Friends, Trey Anastasio Band, Mike Gordon with Benevento, Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex.

14 Aztec Two Step, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

14 Margaret Cho with Lisp, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.

15 Drunk Stuntmen, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

15 Solarfest, Tinmouth.

16 Orleans, Trapp Meadow, Stowe.

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

18 Eiko & Koma, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.

19-25 Big Apple Circus, Fullington Farm, Hanover, NH.

21-27 *A Prairie Home Companion* (2006, US) [PG-13] Director: Robert Altman. An all-star cast and a comic backstage fable about a fictitious radio variety show that managed to survive in the age of television, but on a rainy night in St. Paul, MN the cast learns that tonight's show will be its last. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.

21 Cobalt Blue, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

28 Driftwood Citizens, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

29 Myra Flynn, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.

Maybe, She Said, It's Avian Rabies

SUSAN BURGER

I came home from work. My back hurt. I fed Maximus and Alfred. The cats went out. I sat awhile in silence. Then I heard a "Tock"-pause-"Tock, Tock." The sound was metallic with a brushing sound.

I wasn't paying any particular attention, but after 20 minutes that persistent sound penetrated. It sounded like it was on the roof. "Oh Hell! it's the antenna again (because mine had come down in a windstorm last winter and was rubbing off the roof shingles). I went out and gazed skyward. The antenna was straight and stalwart.

Back to my chair. And again I hear this "Chuck - Rub" arrhythmic sequence. "Tock, Tock - Whoosh - Tock."

I stood in the living room staring at the ceiling. But, no! The sound was coming from the bathroom. The bathroom?

I walked in and there was a robin, outside, pecking over and over at the window and then jumping against it. Back and forth along the windowsill then fluttering up. "Tock, Tock - Whoosh." Discovering the source of this strange sound in no way mitigated my unease. As long as you find the right person, I thought, a mechanical fault can be fixed. I found it difficult to think of the Insane Robin Person (IRP) to call.

Back to my chair. "Tock, Tock, Tock, Tock - Swish." By now it's an hour. This was when the Fear Factor came into play. I suddenly slewed off into paranoid behavior almost as silly as the stupid robin's.

What if the bird is seriously diseased? A public health threat? And then I remembered my "Help Track West Nile Virus" notice on my fridge. You are to report any dead birds you find. It is school bus yellow with an ominous dead black bird; the same colors that denote nuclear facilities. My bird wasn't dead, but perhaps they exhibit erratic behavior just before death - like pecking windows.

Then my mind slipped another cog Bird Flu! I've seen the pictures on TV. Chickens slaughtered by the tens of thousands. Space-suited men spraying God Knows What all over the landscape. Do birds with influenza peck repeatedly at windows?

Who knows?

"Tock - Whish. Tock, Tock - Tock."

So being civic-minded and wanting to stop a pandemic, I called The West Nile Virus number. I got a recording saying it was still too cold for the old WNV. (Good, I crossed that off my list.) If there is a problem, call this number.

It is now 6:30. I call. It is the Vermont Department of Health. I got an actual person, Cindy. I explain my crazed robin. Do I need to worry about this? Does anyone? I told Cindy I did not want to be in a Hitchcock movie; although I find it difficult to view a robin as sinister.

Of course, Cindy had no idea what to do. Insane robins are not on the list of questions she answers. She commiserated. Then she told me to hold on a minute. The phone went blank and gave me time to realize how NUTS I was acting. Bird flu? West Nile Virus?

Cindy came back. She couldn't help but she would be happy to give me the Avian Rabies phone number. Birds get rabies? Cindy said there were no reported cases in North America. That's just great - North Danville can be first on the list! Forget West Nile

Virus. Let's have the old Avian Rabies.

I had visions of the Vermont Health Department (Do they have official uniforms?) descending on my house, setting up elaborate bird-catching nets and quarantining Maximus and Alfred.

**"Call back,"
I begged.

No one did.**

I sat in my chair rubbing my lower back. "Tock, Tock - Swish - Tock, Tock, Tock." Enough! Think of friends who can help. I called several people who, of course, weren't home and left incoherent (verging on hysterical) messages on answering machines. "Call back," I begged. No one did.

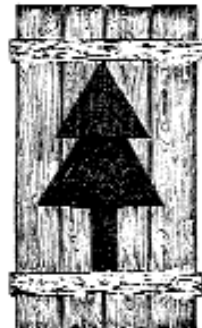
Then the first sensible thought I'd had in an hour — call Charlie Browne from the Fairbanks Museum. By now I realized the Fear Factor had swamped me. Get a grip, Sue! It didn't bother me at all to call Charlie at his home, disrupting his personal life. "Tock, Tock."

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When he answered, I explained both the robin's craziness and my own.

And Browne offered the first sanity I had had in two hours. I was the third person to call him this week about the same problem. Crazed robins had descended on Caledonia County? Not at all. Young robins in the mating season see their reflections in the window and think it is a rival. So they fly and peck at themselves. They get over it eventually. So the Vermont Health Department wasn't going to surround my house? "No, no," an avuncular chuckle; "Just cover your window with non-reflective material or wait for him to go away."

I go to work the next morning with this amazing story. I am barely into my tale when Mike says, "He's pecking at his own reflection." I am astounded.

"You know about this phenomenon?"

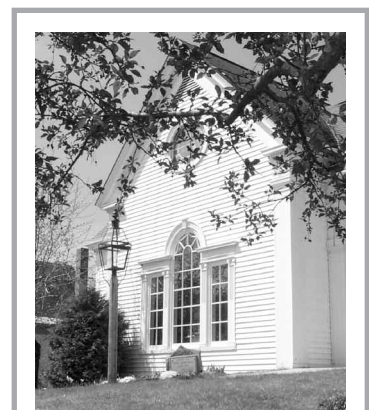
"Oh sure. We had one that hung around for two weeks. You can call him Christopher Robin."

And that shut me up.

But Christopher he has become. As I write this it is day seven of Christopher pecking at my window. At first, Alfred would lie on top of the dryer in the bathroom, golden eyes huge and aglow. And Maximus would rumble in to check on this new

noise. But Max is a mouse and mole guy. And, though Alfred is a nifty bird catcher he seems to view Christopher as an unworthy opponent. At 6:30 a.m., when we all wake up to the familiar "Tock, Tock, Tock," I give them some lazy pats, say "It's just Christopher" and we all roll over and go back to sleep.

After all of this, what is the total? Christopher is making new robins. And I got a funny story. You simply can't do better than that.



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The Village Post Opens on Hill Street in Danville

Jean Tarricone calls horses her passion. She says driving her team of Dutch Friesians in the woods is about as good as it gets, but in mid-May Tarricone pushed open the door to her retail shop on Hill Street in

Danville, and as she gives us a tour it's clear there is no shortage of passion in here. The sign over the door reads "The Village Post, Fine Apparel, Home Decor."

Tarricone admits that her background is not all about



Jean Tarricone and The Village Post have a striking array of women's clothing and home furnishings, which represent "classic styles with a contemporary look."



retail, but she has an eye for fine clothes and fine furnishings, and it shows. The Village Post is full of them.

"I always admired a couple of shops on Newbury Street in Boston and another in Hanover," she says, "and when Marty Beattie asked if I'd be interested in opening a place in his remodeled building across from the Danville Green, I thought seriously about it. There are people like me who drive great distances for things like this and, I thought, why not open a store in Danville. This can be as nice as any of them."

Tarricone credits Marty

Beattie and his son Plyn who are restoring the building, the site of the 19th century Eagle Hotel. After the great Danville fire in 1889, the Eagle was gone, but this building on the corner of Hill Street and US 2 was one of the first to be rebuilt and on the hotel's original foundation. For many years it was Charles Dole's store, and historic pictures of the Village show the building and its straight lines, covered porches and a tower with a spire on the corner.

"It's a beautiful building with a ton of potential," says Tarricone, "and they [the Beatties] gave me free reign

inside." The south wall of the lower level shop facing on Hill Street is dominated by the building's stone foundation, and an interesting rectangular space set into the wall is apparently the last remains of the original vault from the hotel.

Tarricone has a striking array of women's clothing and home furnishings, which represent "classic styles with a contemporary look." She says, "I think of them as today's fashions with timeless considerations." The result is understated but beautiful - stylish but clearly appealing for its influence of proven traditions.

The Village Post clothing inventory includes names like One Girl Who..., Christopher Blue Jeans, Farinas, Donna Degman and Clever Carriage. There are furnishings by Ancient Graffiti from Middlebury and Union Street Glass from San Francisco as well as very unusual glass vases from Italy and an assortment of wonderful antiques from New England and beyond.

She says, "I want to expand with a bigger selection of home accessories including wool blankets, pillows, rugs, quilts, more lighting fixtures and gallery pieces. I want to have something for every woman. I will always carry clothing by ISDA and Three Dots. They represent cotton that wears forever."

Tarricone has found a line of jewelry that, she says, has attracted a lot of attention. It's by Sandra Messenger whose designs are inspired by interpretations of the natural environment. Much of it is formed from matte hammered silver with shapes and a finish that suggest the organic forms found in water and on land.

Tarricone says, "Women need to make a statement about themselves, and I admire those who do. If I can satisfy their interest and curiosity without them having to drive off to Hanover or farther then I'll be very happy."

Since its opening in May, Tarricone says the response to The Village Post has been excellent. Women find it "inviting, elegant and a delightful addition" to the existing stores in greater St. Johnsbury. "I appreciate their enthusiasm," she says, "and I look forward to seeing them come back."

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Members of the Danville School class of 2006 including (L-R) front row: Brittany Benoit and Heather Rapoza; second row: Brandon Lumbr, Brittany Fontaine, Samatha Laferriere, Christina Machell, Kayla Towle, Vanessa Willcox-Healey, Brandon Cochran and Megan Foy; and back row: Stone Conroy, Tonya Friend, Asa White, Megan White, David Daly, Nathaniel Coutu, Joseph Coutu and Henry Pearl attended a banquet and gathering of the DHS alumni association on May 13, 2006.

Also attending the event were Arlene "Ailes" Hubbard and Lena "Eldred" Rich, who saw each other for the first time since their graduation in 1929. Both are 94. They graduated from Danville at the age of 17, and although they both live in Vermont and write each other often they hadn't seen each other for 77 years. Arlene and Lena spent the entire evening side by side reminiscing. They were the main topic of conversation.



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A series of summer workshops and courses at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium will explore nature's complexity and beauty. There is no better place to learn about thunderstorms and magnets, owls and bumblebees, electricity and volcanoes. And there is no better place to explore the wonders of our natural world.

For kids and families, the Museum will host a weekly

Fridays@Fairbanks program, from 10:30 a.m. – Noon, from July 7 - August 18. Every week there is a new surprise as Museum staff draws on its knowledge and creativity to explore the fascinating world of bugs, plants and rocks. Fridays@Fairbanks is free with Museum admission and offers a lot of fun for kids of all ages.

Professor David Conant teaches biology at Lyndon State College, and for six Wednesday

evenings (July 5 - August 9) he will bring his lifelong passion for "Ferns of the Northeast Kingdom" to the Museum. It's difficult not to feel the excitement that Conant delivers with his course. His enthusiasm reflects decades of studying ferns around the world. He started as an undergraduate doing research at the University of New Hampshire, when he was introduced to the sheer pleasure (and the sometimes-painstak-

ing) efforts of botanical research. "Inspiration comes from knowing that with every hike or climb or walk in the woods, a new discovery may be a step away," he says. That was the case when he and his mentor from UNH literally tumbled on the path of a rare fern on Mt. Hebron.

Conant has been studying ferns – large and small – ever since, and his pursuit has led him to rainforests in South America, Australia and the South Pacific.

Why ferns? Conant marvels at the beauty of their symmetry. "In evolutionary theory, form has a function," he says. But ferns, which do not rely on insects or any other animal to generate new plants, have their own exquisite, feathery leaves with no obvious earthly reason, other than to be admired. Ferns have been around since the big dinosaurs, over 350 million years, maybe more. They have changed over time, and new fern groups have emerged, but ferns have remained essentially the same plants with large leaves that produce spores. What fascinates Conant is the place this plant – the first known plants

with large leaves – has in our natural world.

Botanic artist Susanna Bowman transports her unique skill and vision to the Museum for a third year. In addition to her artistic talent, Bowman is an instructor in scientific illustration and currently serves as a consultant to the Lantecilla Botanic Garden in Tela, Honduras. She taught at the Worcester Art Museum and presented a living exhibit as the Garden Interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village.

This year, Bowman will teach two courses, "Nature Art for Kids," which is geared for children ages 8 - 11 and "Wetland Plants in Pencil and Paint." Both courses use artistic expression as a tool for careful observation. "Nature Art for Kids" will be held Monday through Friday, July 10 - 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. "Wetland Plants in Pencil and Paint" runs Monday through Friday, July 31 - August 4, from 10:00 - 2:30 p.m.

For more about these and other summer programs, call the Museum at (802) 748-2372. Pre-registration is required.

Imagine Yourself at the Peacham Library

BETSY SMITH

In the world of words, the imagination is a force of nature.
- Wallace Stevens

Can you imagine a world without imagination? The stars and constellations would have no names. Your meat wouldn't be cooked and your favorite cake would never have been baked. Strawberries would still be tiny, a day's picking barely enough for a pie. (But, then, you wouldn't imagine a pie, would you, so where's the harm?) Without imaginations at work everything would be so very, very different.

This summer the Peacham Library will celebrate the joy and excitement of a world chock full of imaginative people.

On alternate Wednesday mornings we will welcome children to share with us in stories and activities both fun and fantastic. (See calendar of events in this paper and at Library.) They will enjoy the *Eye in the Night Sky* exhibit that Mark Breen will bring to the Library on July 20. Then, on August 21, the Boston Museum of Science will produce *Science Magic*, also at the Library.

The imagination and knowledge of food connoisseur Ed Behr will be explored, with him, at the Peacham Library and Friends of the Library combined annual meetings on July 10.

The night sky will be probed and marveled at during our Summer Lecture Series on Astronomy in July and August. Our programs will be: Mark Breen with his *Eye on the Night Sky* on July 20; Professor Robert Caldwell, cosmologist, on July 27; family star gazing on August 3; and Andrew Chaikin, contemplating the possibility of a manned mission to Mars, on August 10. All Summer Series lectures begin at 7:30 p.m.

The fruits of the imaginations of artist and artisans of the past will be on display and for sale at the Friends of the Library Annual Antique Show and Sale at Peacham Elementary School on July 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Together with the show comes an opportunity to partake of one of the best lunches in the Northeast

Kingdom.

Village Harmony will sing, and sing gloriously, for their supper at the Peacham Congregational Church at 7:30 p.m. on August 13. Come prepared to be delighted.

Finally, on the 20th of July and the 17th of August, at 1:15 p.m., our Senior Movies (so-called because they follow senior meals) will be shown. They will involve a close friendship between a white southern matron

and her black chauffeur (July 20) and two lovely ladies who dress in lavender and rescue a beached young man (August 13). Sorry, but our movie license doesn't allow us to publish the titles of movies we plan to show.

These events, together with the new magazine subscriptions, audio books, videos and DVD's, along with the hundreds of books we've added to our collection, should keep your own imagination spinning all summer long.

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Northeast Kingdom United Methodist Parish Faces a Steep Climb to the Mountaintop

TERRY HOFFER

Judy Smiley has an easy way about her hometown. She and her husband live in Lunenburg between the bright lights of St. Johnsbury to the west and the glow of Lancaster and the White Mountains Attractions in New Hampshire to the east.

Smiley says, "We moved here

from Windsor [Vermont] in 1988," and she remembers that when they first arrived, people seemed kind of standoffish. "I don't think it was anything in particular, but people just didn't drop by as they did in Windsor. So I started going to church."

There are three Methodist churches that form the Northeast Kingdom United Methodist

Parish. One is on the Common near US 2 in Lunenburg; one is in the southern-most corner of the town, that's Gilman, the village dominated by the paper mill of the same name; and the third is just over the town line on the Oregon Road in East Concord.

All three of these churches are relatively isolated, and yet all have fascinating histories and long-standing multi-generation family memberships. Each has members for whom the family Bible holds the hand-scribed records of baptisms, church school events, weddings, anniversaries and funerals - all conducted at the church. The churches each represent a family gathering place and a central focus for their neighborhood spiritual and social activity. The expression is well worn and an unfortunate cliché, but this is where it really fits. All three churches are an enormous part of their community.

Each has a devoted, however small, congregation and it faithfully turns out for fundraisers and church socials, and it pitches in to support the respective and collective financial needs of the churches in the Northeast Kingdom Methodist Parish. But like most congregations today, attendance at weekly services is down, the expenses of operations at the institutions are up, and capital improvements keep getting deferred.

Shortly after settling in Lunenburg Smiley decided to go to the United Methodist Church in Gilman, and she started to attend its services. "There were 12 of us," she says, "and we had lay speakers. We rotated each week from Gilman to East Concord to Lunenburg. It worked, but it was hard to really feel like you belonged." Smiley began to meet and know people throughout the town, and she was getting to be known. She was elected to serve a term as Lunenburg's town clerk, and her enthusiasm for the church



The East Concord Church is on the Oregon Road between US 2 and Gilman. today are just different," and she wonders who, after her husband, will mow the lawn. Pastor Hank Cheney is at right.



The Lunenburg United Methodist Church was built on the town common in 1838. The building never had running water, but it does have a new furnace.



Judy Smiley is chair of the pastor parish relations committee of the three-church parish. Here in the church in Lunenburg she says, "The support we get from each other is so important. People look out for each other if anyone needs anything."

was admired. She now serves as chair of the pastor-parish relations board for the three-church parish. "The support we get from each other is so important," she says. "People look out for each other if anyone needs anything - whether it's a casserole, a lawn mowed or a helpful hand - it gets done."

The Lunenburg United Methodist Church was constructed in 1838. It has a spectacular setting on the Lunenburg Common. The sanctuary and building are beautiful, and they represent a sizeable investment for a community that was established when farming and logging were king and queen. The building never had running water, but it does have a modern forced hot-air furnace, and by

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Photos By: North Star Monthly
Ruth MacDonald (left) says, "People
the lawn. Howard MacDonald is in cen-

New York and bought the Dalton Paper Company mill in 1915. Under Gilman's leadership (some say his tyranny) the mill prospered, and the village was named for its owner. The church was constructed near Gilman's mansion on a hill looking down on the mill. By the mid 1900's the Gilman paper mill had two paper-making machines and 1,200 employees, many of whom commuted to work by railroad, yet a sizable number lived in the village, attended services at the church and were drawn to the sound of its carillon. The sanctuary is considerably higher than ground level and, for some, it is a challenge to climb up and down its stairs, but the church has a kitchen and dining room, a stage and bathrooms.

Everyone wishes things could be as they used to be.

- Pastor Hank Cheney

At one time there was a parsonage in Gilman, but it was sold, and proceeds from the sale have, over time, been used for critical improvements to the church. Smiley says, "The money is gone, and the account was closed, but the use of the money was necessary." Currently the building is compliant with fire and safety codes, but the church is in need of considerable maintenance and repairs.

The East Concord United Methodist Church was constructed after a fire in 1898, which destroyed its predecessor. Like the others, its heyday was in the middle of the 20th century. A beautiful wainscoted sanctuary, an electrified outhouse and a well restored horse and carriage shed are very much a part of its charm. The East Concord Church has been able to maintain a memorial fund, and the building is, to this day, in sound physical shape. There is a memorial Christmas tree and regular suppers to benefit the church on Mothers' and Fathers' Days as well as one during fall foliage. The biggest event of the year is on Memorial Day when the church salutes its former pastors, George L. Fox and Reverend Leonard Fuller, who both lost their lives in the course of military service.

Next-door neighbor and

church member Ruth MacDonald says, "A lot of the old people who contributed to the church are gone. People today are just different," and she wonders who will organize the next supper and who, after her husband, Howard, will mow the church lawn.

Howard MacDonald remembers seeing 40-50 people at church every Sunday. Today, in the rotation of the congregations among all three churches, there may be 20 at Sunday worship, and if there are over 30, people are talking about it.

According to the most recent census of the Troy Conference of the United Methodist Church (that includes all of the United Methodist Churches in Vermont and in New York from Albany north to the Canadian line and west to the Adirondacks), at the end of 2004, Lunenburg had 45 members (with an average attendance at Sunday services of 12) and a fund balance of \$5,000. Gilman reported 46 members (14 at Sunday services), a fund balance of \$2,000 and other indebtedness of \$4,500. The church in East Concord reported 52 members (12 at weekly services) and a fund balance of \$30,705.

Hank Cheney is currently the half-time pastor of the Northeast Kingdom United Methodist Parish. The three churches are each expected to contribute \$670 monthly for pastoral support, including salary and benefits, and with fewer members the monthly contribution has become no small task. According to Cheney, the conference has the three-church parish on mission status and thereby waves the annual contribution to the conference from the parish, and actually the conference subsidizes the churches in the amount of about \$12,000 each year.

Smiley says, "The Conference has promised to do its best, and it wants to keep the parish going, but somehow and some way we will have to pay our own way. It may be impossible to keep this up even with a part-time pastor."

To someone who simply crunches numbers, it could be argued that it would be cheaper to close one church - and cheaper still to close two. But for those who understand the value of multi-generational family traditions and the strength of community there is no way that will make sense. The value of the churches, as in having a place where one

belongs and where giving and getting help to and from each other, has a value that money cannot buy.

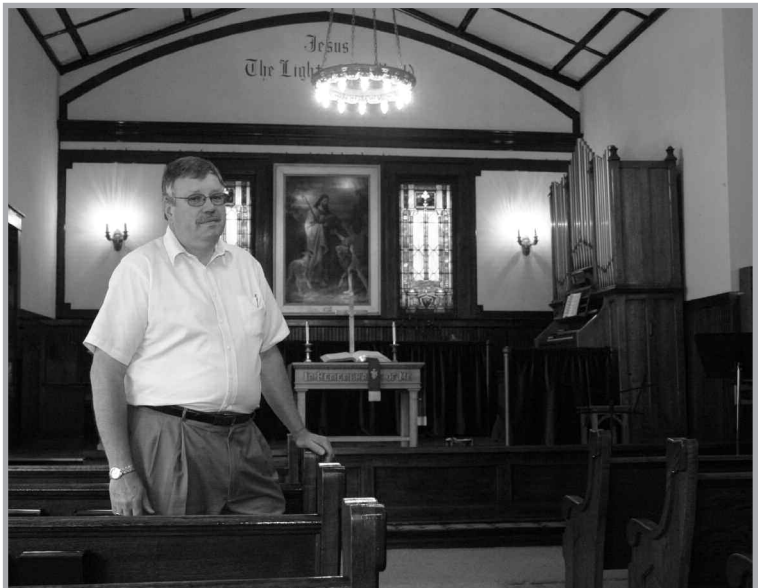
Cheney says, "The congregation comes to life on Wednesday evenings when the combined choir meets and 10 people between the ages of 12 and 85 meet with guitar accompaniment and they sing and they laugh in preparation for Sunday worship.

"There are women's groups that sponsor special events and mission projects and give scholarships for church camp. They send greeting cards to the homebound and to people in need beyond the membership of the churches.

"There have been adult study groups that meet in people's homes. In fact, with the high cost of fuel oil many of the church activities were hosted in private homes including the office of the

pastor."

Cheney recently announced his retirement from his status as part-time pastor effective October 1, and he did so with terribly mixed feelings. "The people are wonderful," he says. "I know how important all three of the churches are to their members and their communities. Maybe there is an opportunity for a larger role for lay preachers, but deferred maintenance and the expenses of maintaining the buildings are not going to go away. Everyone wishes things could be as they used to be, but I'm afraid that's not something that's going to happen. Part of me is afraid that one or more of the churches will be closed. It's not a decision that I will be a part of, but it can happen. A lot of these people are my friends, and I hope they find a way to prevent that from happening." ★



The sanctuary of the Gilman Church is beautiful, but it needs maintenance and repairs. Last winter Pastor Hank Cheney and a local family wanted to have a funeral in the church, but there was not enough oil in the tank to heat the building. A special collection was taken to raise \$200 to buy fuel oil, and the funeral went on as planned.



The Gilman United Methodist Church was built in 1924 as part of the Isaac Gilman legacy.



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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 12, 2006

Highway Access Permit – Board tabled request for access permit from George Trefethen for driveway on Brook Hill Road for property to be sold to Timothy McGee.

Construction Permit in Town Right of Way – Zoning Board chairman Dennis McLam asked Board's opinion as to what zoning board should do about Laura Jean Stuart's request to build retaining wall in front of her building in Barnet Village in town right of way. Zoning Officer told Stuart she could come out two feet, but Stuart wants to come out farther than that. Board agreed to the two foot area for the retaining wall.

Transfer Station – Board noted results of inspection of Barnet transfer station. The facility was found to be in pretty good shape. Board noted discrepancies have been resolved. Recent Eagle Scout project with Sean and Patrick Bishop included work inside transfer station building to create a cubicle for attendant.

Diesel and Fuel Oil Bids – After review of fuel oil and diesel bids Board agreed to purchase fuel from Fred's Plumbing and Heating at set prices of 2.499/gal. for fuel oil and 2.589/gal. for low sulfur diesel for year starting June 1, 2006. Fred's was only bidder offering a set price. Other bids were KMJ Precision Fuels Inc. (.25/gal. over rack price for diesel; fuel oil pre buy at 2.549 for 8,500 gal. paid in advance) and Northern Petroleum (.215/gal. over rack price for diesel).

Overweight Vehicle – Board approved overweight vehicle permit for Murray Transport.

Zoning Board - Planning Commission – Board accepted resignation of Marvin Bailey from zoning board and planning commission with regret and appointed Bruce Denio to complete term. Board reappointed Dennis McLam and David White to four year terms as of July 1, 2006.

Fireworks – Board noted that private fireworks displays need permits signed by someone in town. Board agreed to not sign any such permits for individuals.

Cabot

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

June 8, 2006

Town Website – Board discussed list of various activities on official town website.

Paving Bond – Board voted to sign documents for \$300,000 paving bond.

Community Service Award – Chris Kaldor noted nominees for Community Service Award to be presented at Cabot School graduation.

Financial Reports – Chris Kaldor reviewed budget and town financial statements to date.

June 21, 2006

Traffic Sign – Ted Domey noted several requests for a stop sign at Glinka Road. Domey offered to provide sign for road crew to install.

Liquor License – Board approved liquor license for Cabot Village Store.

Danville

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

June 1, 2006

Planning Commission – On recommendation of planning commission Board appointed Tracy Zschau, Dave Machell, Andrea Machell, Dave Houston and Alan Parker to town's new conservation commission.

Cemetery Repairs – Louise Lessard and Tom Simons met with Board and reported that CVPS will help in cutting some trees at Ward Cemetery. Road crew will help in removal once trees are down.

Road Crew – Kevin reported that he has always authorized overtime for road crew, but at last pay date town treasurer would not accept his signature on time cards for overtime. Board voted to give Kevin Gadapee full authority to authorize road crew overtime and to authorize payment for overtime by signing time cards. Road crew will be on summer hours working four 10½ hour days from June 5 to Labor Day.

Winter Sand – Kevin reported prices of winter sand: \$4 per yard from Kirk Fenoff and \$5 from Calkins Rock Products. Board voted to buy sand from Kirk Fenoff.

Town Equipment – Board discussed price for a new plow on road foreman's new pickup: \$3,910.80 for a stainless steel commercial plow by Fisher from Ash Supply or \$3,900 for a regular duty plow from South Main Body. Board voted to acquire heavy duty plow from Ash Supply.

Roadside Mowers – On recommendation of road foreman, Board agreed to a lease purchase agreement with Town of St. Johnsbury and Caterpillar Financial Co. Cost to Danville will be \$4,917 for each of ten years. The price is \$17 more than the current four week rental and the mower and tractor equipment will be available for the whole summer season and used by both towns.

Guard Rail – On recommendation of road foreman Board agreed to not install a metal guard rail that is not required for a hazard.

Personnel – Board discussed Scott Palmer's request for pay for vacation

time lost in August when he had not taken it by his employment anniversary date. After discussion with road foreman Board voted to deny the request.

Sheriff's Contract – After discussion Board voted to not approve sheriff's department contract.

Sewer Plant – Board approved 20 year sewer plant report to state prepared by Earth Tech.

Curbcut – Board approved curbcut request from Corine Sackett on Peacham Road.

Fireworks – Board discussed request for fireworks permit on Joe's Pond and agreed to convey request to fire chief.

Tax Sale – On request of tax collector Board agreed to proceed with tax sale on several properties that have had delinquent taxes for several years.

Service Officer – Board agreed to accept position of service officer.

Dog Warrant – Board reviewed list of delinquent dog licenses and voted to sign dog warrant.

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

June 15, 2006

Personnel – Board reviewed letter from Town Treasurer Ginnie Morse clarifying matter of road foreman's authorization of payment for road crew overtime. Treasurer had asked for written authorization for paying road crew overtime for its attendance at a Board meeting, as opposed to time for work on road related duties. After discussion Board voted to authorize Road Foreman Kevin Gadapee to sign road crew overtime for road related activities and for all overtime hours worked.

Sheriff Patrol – George Baxter offered to donate \$2,400 for sheriff patrols on US #2 in West Danville in July and August and requested Board earmark any reimbursed fines collected from these patrols for use in West Danville the following year. Board voted to accept Baxter's donation provided it would not result in increased liability for town. Merton Leonard will check with Attorney Judy Corso on liability.

Recreation Fields – On request of Marvin Pritchard, Board approved use of \$2,600 from tennis court fund for resurfacing tennis courts, patching outdoor basketball court and repairing fence at ballfield.

Road Crew – Road Foreman Kevin Gadapee reported road crew has been cleaning up tree blowdowns, grading, brush cutting, ditching and hauling winter sand. Peacham Road has been repaved.

Roadside Mowing – Road foreman expects leased roadside mower to arrive in early July.

Board of Listers – Merton Leonard reported listers have been busy discussing reappraisal issues with landowners.

Conservation Commission – Board

voted to establish town conservation commission for management of natural heritage issues and act in advisory capacity to planning commission and Board, as defined in the Natural Heritage Chapter of the town plan, as well as any other plans and goals at discretion of Board.

Fuel Oil – Board agreed to sign up for fixed price delivery of fuel oil from Calkins Oil provided pre-buy price is not any cheaper.

Zoning Administrator – Board voted to buy a computer for zoning administrator office at a price not to exceed \$625.

Town Hall – Board agreed to have town hall painted off-white color rather than bright white.

Road Cut – Board authorized road cut for an underground power line for Trevor Bunnell on McDowell Road.

Curbcut – Board approved curbcut for Michael Kuligask on McReynolds Road.

Milfoil Prevention – Board approved annual grant application for prevention of Eurasian milfoil.

Design Review Board – Board accepted with regret Ida Rainville's resignation from design review board.

Planning Commission Board – Board accepted with regret Jeremy McMullen's resignation from planning commission.

Personnel – Board reviewed letter from Scott Palmer asking reconsideration of his request for compensation for 30.5 hours lost vacation time, based on time cards that showed his vacation time and that of road foreman in July and August of 2005. After a motion made to approve the request, Larry Gadapee abstained from the consideration vote and motion failed to pass after a tie vote.

Lyndon

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

May 15, 2006

Highway Report – Art Sanborn reported Park & Ride project is finished.

Sewer Line Bill – On Bob Howland's request that his bill for work on wastewater line near his property be abated as the problem did not appear to be with his line, Board agreed to put bill on hold until camera work is completed and cause of problem be determined.

Access Permit – Board approved access permit for John and Eva Emery on Rod Key Street.

Excess Weight Permits – Board approved excess weight permits for Donald Beattie, Larry Brown Logging, Ulric Norris and Kermit Weed.

Red Village Road – After review of paving bids from Pike Industries and Gorman Brothers, Board voted to accept bid from Pike Industries to pave Red Village Road and a section of Sheldon Brook Road.

Development Review Board – Board discussed starting a development review board.

Merger Committee – Board discussed forming committee to further process of town village merger.

Cemetery – Gary Paris asked Board to establish a policy for cremation plot pricing and marking in cemetery area designated for cremation burials. Perpetual Care agreements were

approved for Gail Paradis & Joanne Langmaid and Durwood & Beverly Tripp.

Paintball – Board agreed that paintball gallery in the Pine Ridge area does not violate zoning bylaws, however Board would like planning and zoning board to consider a bylaw to address this type of activity.

Litigation – After executive session to discuss current litigation, no action was taken.

May 31, 2006

Highway Report – At 38% through year total highway budget is 28% expended.

Cemetery Plot Pricing and Policies – After discussion about cemetery plot charges with Gary Paris, Board voted to set cremation plot price for residents at \$200 and for nonresidents at \$400.

Bond Agreement for Lyndon Institute – Board voted to have Bruce James sign bond allocation agreement for Lyndon Institute.

Access Permit – Board approved access permit for Betty McClure on Cotton Road.

Red Village Road – Arthur Sanborn reported Red Village Road paving will be slightly over \$100,000 budget, and Board approved use of \$6,400 in reserve account for East Lyndon Resurfacing to make up any deficit.

Town Village Merger – Board reviewed list of prospective members to serve on merger committee.

Perpetual Care Agreement – Board approved perpetual care agreement for Edward and Phyllis Day.

Excess Weight Permit – Board approved excess weight permit for James Hayes Construction.

Tax Anticipation Loan – Board voted to accept tax anticipation loan bid from Community National Bank at 3.68%.

Landscape Architect – On request of Cathy Boykin, Board agreed to sign letter of intent on behalf of town and PAL to sponsor an AOT grant for a landscape architect.

Development Review Board – Board voted to establish a joint town and village planning commission with seven members appointed by Board. Further Board voted to establish a joint development review board with seven members and to abolish the joint planning commission/zoning board of adjustment that serves the town and village. Board encouraged current planning commission/zoning board of adjustment members to serve out remainder of their terms on one of two new boards.

June 5, 2006

Town Village Merger – Board met with Lyndonville Trustees to discuss proposed merger. A. Richard Boera, Page Dame, David Dill, Martha Feltus, Peter Hopkins, Steve Pitman, Teresa Vasko, Mike Wheeler were appointed to merger proposal committee to develop merger framework and solutions to some of operational challenges.

Peacham

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

May 3, 2006

Dog Complaints – Pound-keeper, Jo Guertin, reported complaints about unleashed dogs. Peacham has no official animal ordinance and

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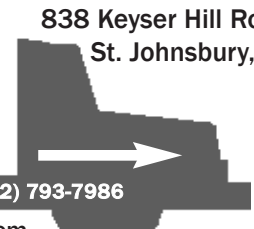
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Excerpts from Selectboard Minutes from Area Towns
See your Town Clerk for complete minutes of the meetings

enforcement is difficult. Guertin suggested a "control law ordinance" to give enforcement officials some local control. A resident described trauma to her children caused by unleashed dogs running free and fighting. Board will consider dog ordinances.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Jeff Berwick provided clarification regarding insurance for forest fire fighting vehicle. Board discussed specific insurance coverage with regard to liability issues of non-fire department members using the vehicle.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss a personnel matter, no action was taken. Board chair will send a letter, regarding forest fire fighting vehicle being returned to fire department, to forest fire warden.

Town Hall – Phil Jejer, reported town hall parking lot project is slower than anticipated. Cost of project will reflect additional time and materials. Board voted to allocate \$2,000 from recreation fund to town hall account to defray expense.

Insurance – Board discussed insurance coverage for town buildings and vehicles.

Old Town Office – Board discussed purchase and sale agreement for Old Town Office with Peacham Community Housing. Board will provide a copy of latest draft for public viewing.

Memorial Day – Board appointed Mary Ellen and Rod Reis as Memorial Day chairpersons.

Cemetery – Board appointed Ron Craig and Cheryl Stevenson as cemetery sextons.

May 17, 2006

Peacham Housing – John Marshall, town attorney, presented agreement for sale of old town office to Peacham Community Housing. Board voted to approve agreement and appointed the chair to sign it. Board noted agreement is available at town office for public review.

Fire Department – Board discussed forest fire fighting vehicle with fire warden. Board reiterated that the vehicle is owned by the town and, due to insurance requirements, must be housed at fire station. A member of fire department will transport the vehicle to the station.

Cemetery – Cemetery sextons discussed cemetery regulations and policies. Board discussed tree plantings, "Urban Community Forestry Plan" and tree maintenance. Board voted to establish a tree board. Sextons will obtain estimates for cemetery water supply, new shed roof and shed painting. Board discussed cemetery fee schedule and current draft of cemetery regulations.

Transfer Station – Board noted that supplier of transfer station trash compactor is making repairs.

Road Matters – Phil Jejer reported repair plans on town highway #1.

Animal Control – Board discussed possibility of an animal control ordinance.

St. Johnsbury

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

May 22, 2006

Zone Change – Following public

hearing Board voted to approve proposed New Boston Road - Pierce Road zone change from RL 2 to RT.

Town Forest Management Plan – On recommendation of Stephen Slayton and Andy Fisher, Board voted to establish town forest stewardship advisory board and appointed Stephen Slayton, Andy Fisher and Bruce Johnson as members.

Reappraisal – Caroline Lockyer, Real Estate Assessment Consultants of Vermont, met with Board to review her approach and schedule for town wide reappraisal. New Grand List will be completed for April 1, 2008.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan – John Malter, solid waste management consultant, met with Board to review town's solid waste management plan.

Line of Credit – Board voted to ratify \$1,000,000 line of credit with Lyndonville Savings Bank and renewal on balance of parking lot note \$231,887 with Passumpsic Savings Bank.

Engineering Agreement – Town Manager advised Board that designs were complete for two septic systems on Portland Street as a part of the East St. Johnsbury project, but after further investigation it was determined these properties could be hooked into municipal sewer system. Additional engineering was required to satisfy state requirements for the connections. Board approved an engineering agreement amendment of \$3,650 for additional engineering work.

Portland Street Bridge – Board discussed bids for proposed work on Portland Street bridge. Both were higher than estimates. Board approved engineer's recommendation to revise scope of work and re-advertise project in fall.

Planning Grant – Board approved subgrant agreement to meet objectives of energy study.

Preserve America Grant – Board voted to approve resolution for Preserve America Grant Application.

CALEX – Board discussed the names of Matt Choate and John Alger who had expressed interest in being appointed to CALEX board of directors. Board will meet with both individuals at next meeting.

Arbor Day – Board ratified Arbor Day proclamation.

Taser Report – Town Manager provided Board with Chief Leighton's written report on two police cases involving use of a Taser.

Park & Ride – Bryon Quatrini noted Park & Ride lot on US 2 is in horrible condition. Town manager has been assured site will be upgraded this summer. Board will meet with Wayne Davis at next meeting.

St. Johnsbury Academy – Board noted appreciation for work done by St. Johnsbury Academy freshman class on service projects around town during Freshman Challenge Day on May 9.

Water Treatment – Jerry Rowe asked for explanation of elevated trihalomethane levels in town water. Town manager will ask Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator Dan Gray to provide an answer.

June 12, 2006

Sherman Drive – After site visit and public hearing to consider a portion of Sherman Drive, Board voted to discontinue the section under consid-

eration. Board approved acceptance of highway and order laying out Sherman Drive turnaround.

Housing Code Inspections – On recommendation of Fire Chief Ruggles that town should implement a program of routine inspections of multi-unit apartment buildings for compliance with fire and life safety codes Board discussed inspections and consequences of noncompliance. Board voted to encourage planning commission to proceed with a public hearing with landlords to discuss such a program of inspections.

Park and Ride – Board met with Wayne Davis, state project manager for Park and Rides, to discuss Park And Ride located off Western Avenue and US 2. Davis indicated within six weeks a consultant would be hired to begin work on project, and construction will not begin until after July 1, 2007.

Water Filtration – Robert Dufresne met with Board to review preliminary options for upgrading alum residual lagoons at water treatment plant. Dufresne estimates capital cost to be approximately \$365,000. Board voted to accept preliminary report and request review, comment and financing consideration from state officials. Board also met with Dan Gray, water plant chief operator, to discuss the cause and treatment for trihalomethanes.

Audette Water Line – Dan Scott met with Board and discussed acceptance of an 8-inch plastic water line currently used to provide water to the Mt. Pleasant Mobile Home Park as part of town distribution system. Board agreed that if an acceptable bond agreement can be reached, town should consider acceptance of the existing water line.

Overcliff Water Storage – Board discussed Overcliff water tanks constructed in 1934 and need for their replacement.

Tax Sale – Sandy Grenier reviewed final listing of properties for tax sale. Five properties will be sold. Board voted to have Gary Reis serve as representative for Board for bidding on properties on town's behalf.

Help America Vote – Board noted St. Johnsbury will receive \$1,100 grant to pay for door-to-door transportation services during fall primary and general election. Town will also receive a \$3,000 grant to purchase laptop computers with wireless connections at polling place, to access statewide voter checklist.

Tobacco License – Board discussed and signed tobacco license for Landry's Drug Store.

Financial Plan – Board signed annual financial plan for town highways.

Police – Town Manager reported on progress to date on ceiling repairs in police squad room.

Roadside Mower – Manger reported agreement for town's joint purchase with Danville a roadside mower.

Lease/purchase and repair costs are to be shared by both communities.

June 19, 2006

Pomerleau Building Renovation – Joel Schwartz reported on proposed renovations to former railroad station and welcome center building. Project cost will be in excess of \$600,000 for first floor renovations and mechanical systems. There are currently about \$490,000 in grant funds available to renovate first floor including \$80,000 from USDA which will require a local match of \$80,000. Schwartz has asked for updated cost estimates. Board discussed having some of work done by St. Johnsbury Academy students or laborers from work camp. Following discussion Board voted to accept USDA grant of \$80,000 and use resources from economic development reserve fund to provide local match. Town will explore use of St. Johnsbury Academy building trades program in the project.

Highway Department – Mike Welch noted that Wayne Langmaid has retired from highway department, and Board agreed position will remain vacant and be discussed during review of municipal services and positions.

Walden

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

May 23, 2006

Greaves Watson Road – Frances Clifford asked if town would repair culvert on Greaves Watson Road. Board decided road foreman should contact landowners and discuss options.

Gravel – Board voted to purchase gravel from Demers for \$6.15, including crushing and loading.

Chipper Rental – Board discussed quotes to rent a chipper. After discussion, Board authorized road foreman to rent a logging truck to remove brush as needed using funds in budget.

Constable – Board agreed to discuss constable's request for a video camera when Bill Huntoon attends a future meeting.

Road Grants – Dave Brown reported that he is trying to reach Jim Ryan, Better Backroads official, to discuss grant for Bayley Hazen Road. There is concern that grant would not cover work. Bids on other projects were opened, and after discussion Board agreed to wait until they can talk to Ryan before taking action.

Paving – Brown reported town could receive a paving grant for \$82,500. After discussion, Board voted to decline grant at this time. Town is still paying for paving of Lower Cabot Road, and due to high equipment maintenance costs this year,

Board agreed there would be no money available to cover the extra \$34,000 required for Lower Cabot Road and an extra \$10,000 for Route 215. Board also noted money budgeted for capital improvements is needed to replace and fix culverts. Town will apply next year and try to work it into 2007 budget.

Traffic Sign Request – Board considered request to replace a stop sign at intersection of Orton and Stannard Mountain Road with a yield sign. Because of liability concerns Board voted to deny request. Board voted against installing a Slow Children at Play sign on Cahoon Farm Road. Board suggested that the person call the constable if there is speeding and put their own sign up if they want.

Culverts – Doug Luther noted there are culverts the frost heaved up this year that have not gone back down. An excavator will be required to make the repairs.

Reappraisal – Brown reported a call from a taxpayer regarding reappraisal. Town clerk reported schedule is going forward and taxpayers will have an opportunity to grieve re-evaluation.

June 13, 2006

Tax Payments – As agreed at town meeting Board discussed possibility of discounts and more than one payment on property taxes. More research will be done.

Reappraisal – Lina Smith gave an update on town's reappraisal. Lister grievances will take place on June 19 and 20, and board of civil authority appeals will be in July.

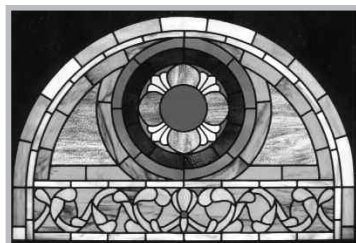
Tax Sale – Town clerk noted tax sales of Walden two properties are scheduled for July 14. Advertisements for these properties will be in Hardwick Gazette.

Green Up – Board noted final report on Green Up Day: Income from tires, scrap metal and the grant from the state totaled \$580.40. Expenses were \$744.66. Board thanked Stuart Smith for work as event coordinator.

Better Backroads – Dave Brown reported that he had been in touch with Better Backroads regarding work on Ferguson Hill, Bailey Hazen Road, Coles Pond Road and Houston Hill Road. Bids received were significantly more than grant. Brown explained grant has been increased by additional \$12,000.

Roadside Mowing – Board discussed roadside mowing. Board agreed last year's mowing was good, and Board will look into cost of renting a tractor this year.

Dog Incident – Board discussed recent dog incident and requested that town clerk send a bill to recover costs from dog's owner.



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The Lore of Danny Gore

VIRGINIA DOWNS

Norman Lewis, also known as Danny Gore the Northeast Kingdom's double identity humorist, will star again at the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce's Stars and Stripes Festival in Bandstand Park on Saturday, July 15. He will take his stand at noon next to a "friendly cow" from the Matt Gilman farm to judge which politician in the annual milking contest has the most "pull."

"I've only been here 11 years, and you can't make a snap judgment."

Danny and his country bumpkin gigs are much in demand at such varied events as conventions, political rallies, country fairs, community celebrations and Old-Home Days. Norm Lewis' comedic role surprises many, given his professional background. A longtime teacher in southern Vermont and later in the Northeast Kingdom, his last position was as superintendent in the Orleans-Essex District from which he retired in 1983.

I first interviewed Norm 12 years ago when he and his wife, Barbara, lived in Derby Line, both retired and busy with Danny Gore entertainment. Their son, Tim, WCAX-TV personality and currently channel 7 news director and journalism teacher at Lyndon State College, and daughter Cintra, an IBM employee, performed with them at the time. Barbara Lewis continued to be her husband's partner in his appearances until shortly before her death in 2000.

Before settling down to talk at his home in Danville, we tramped through a large old cow barn, checking Norm's Gore collection, which includes antique farm tools, old vehicles, volumes of his Danny Gore writings and homemade games with a humorous twist. Nearby is his Steam Shed with engines, boiler, whistles and a drag saw. Field trips to these buildings are favorites of Danville schoolchildren.

I asked Norm how he and Barbara liked living in Danville after years in Derby country. His Danny Gore wit came to the fore. "Wa'al, when people ask me that I say, 'I've only been here 11 years, and you can't make a snap judgment.'"

Norm grew up in Lunenburg, which he says is the source of the commentaries for which he is

famous in his role as Danny Gore. "I was small, a wiseacre and I always saw the humor in everything."

That reminded him of his great aunt Matt Pierce, who taught for 60 years in Lunenburg. "She was my teacher in the fourth grade. She told me if she could buy me for what I knew, and sell me for what I thought I knew, she could retire!"

He recalls Thanksgivings when there were big get-togethers with the Colbys, his mother's family. "There was no liquor in the house. That was a no-no. But the beer would always get snuck out to the horse barn. I'd sneak into the barn where I could hear the men telling stories."

Norm was surrounded by storytellers. The earthy, cow pasture humor he spins today in pure Northeast Kingdom cadences have an authentic ring.

His chin-length side whiskers, part of Danny's country character get-up, are patterned after his Uncle Ferve's. His props, a crumpled hat and jacket covered with old campaign buttons and ribbons, are from his storehouse of childhood souvenirs.

That childhood on a hard-scrabble farm bred strong beliefs about what is worth preserving in Vermont: a clean environment, neighborliness and community spirit. "In the town of Holland,



Norm Lewis Photograph

Ready for a recent performance for the Northeastern Loggers' Association's annual meeting, Danny Gore relaxes on the "Spirit of Ethan Allen II" on Lake Champlain.

for instance, if you ever went off the road in the winter, somebody would pull you out. But you take Burlington -" he quips, leaving it at that with a mischievous grin.

Among his antics this year was a mid-February appearance with Governor Jim Douglas at Shelburne Pond where Danny presented the governor with a facsimile model of a "Single-Lip Sucker" named "Slurpy." On behalf of fictitious Avery's Gore residents, Danny requested that the sucker be given equal status with Vermont's lake creatures

"Champ" and "Memphre." A month later, Senator Jane Kitchel arranged for him to address the Senate Chamber on Bill H.655 for "The towns and gores of Essex County to change all references to unorganized towns to unified towns." Danny's Legislative appearances, with lots of belly laughs, have become favorite entertainment for the state's politicians.

How he got into education prompts Norm to relate a hometown anecdote. The year was 1948, and he had just returned to Lunenburg after 18 months in Germany at the wind-up of World War II. There his comedy had entertained fellow GI's, but it was time to find a summer job.

"The road commissioner always gave me a job. So he says, 'Normie, you want to rake stones up on Bobbin Mill Hill? There's a lot of stones in the gravel we dumped.' So I was raking stones, and along comes Gob Streeter, the milk truck driver. He rolls down his window, and yells, 'Hey, Norm, so you're home. What ya' going to do?'"

"I'd like to go to college; got a year and half on the GI bill."

"Gob says, 'Geez, go over to Lyndon - they take anybody.' So I went over there, and they did."

That was the year the old Lyndon Normal School moved uphill to form the Vail campus. Norm met a classmate, Barbara Whitney from South Royalton, who was to become his wife and, subsequently, his partner in entertainment. Her singing provided background for "Vote Danny" ditties.

The Lewises graduated in 1952. They married and moved to Cavendish where Barbara taught sixth grade in Proctorsville and Norm was the teaching principal of Duttonsville in its three-teacher school. He jokes, "The teaching principal got the mail." He taught grades 6 through 8 and coached baseball. Seventeen years later they moved to the Northeast Kingdom, where Barbara taught in Newport and Norm became assistant superintendent of the Orleans-Essex North Supervisory Union, then

(See *And This Ain't* on Next Page)

The Pope Memorial Library

publicly thanks the following for making the 2005 Annual Appeal a success:

- | | |
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In addition to the above names we would also like to give special thanks to those who generously donated to the Chamber of Combined Community Membership Drive to benefit The Pope Memorial Library.

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Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

Two of my friends are getting married next month. They are sensible professional people, admired and respected in their fields.

As their wedding date grows closer they seem to me to act increasingly agitated and, frankly, a little nutty. They seem more touchy about things in general but especially about plans for the wedding. Even the smallest decision about the ceremony seems to elicit highly charged discussions and arguments.

I love them both and dearly want to help them through this, but shouldn't it be a happy time? A few weeks ago they radiated joy. How can I help them best?

Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned,

First, let us address your concern directly. The behavior you describe falls well within limits that are normal. If you had described constant heated arguments, any acts of violence and an inability to reach decisions or to compromise, we would be

concerned about this couple and have different advice. Consider that people handle the stress they feel about getting married in many, many ways. Squabbles and heated discussions can dissipate some of the tension caused by the prospect of getting married. The seriousness of the commitment, the change in one's social position, the worry about failure all add to a naturally high level of fear.

As their wedding date grows closer they seem to me to act increasingly agitated and, frankly, a little nutty.

One of us has heard that an engagement should last at least six months. This length of time allows for planning a wedding, for thinking and feeling through ideas, thoughts and feelings that surface when considering committing to marriage and for working through any questions, fears and problems that crop up. During the engagement, the couple is consciously in a process and that inevitably does cause stress.

Actually, focusing on the

thousands of details connected to a wedding can provide a wonderful (and useful) distraction from constantly being scared. The planning of this important ceremony and milestone does prepare the couple for making some of the decisions that await them in their marriage. Of course, too much can also be made of the wedding plans. We hope that this couple avoids striving for a "perfect" day and instead plans a meaningful, enjoyable ceremony that conveys their personal expression of commitment.

You ask what you can do. We suggest you be a rock of sensibility. There is a good chance that family members have heightened fear levels also, and reinforce your friends in their frenzy. Try to be a good listener. Remind them of quiet times together. Get them laughing. Look through pictures together. In other words distract them with the memories of how they got into this pickle!

Dream up a great toast to the bride, and groom and enjoy the wedding.

Alice S. Kitchel & Burt Zahler, who each have a private practice in St. Johnsbury. ★

Peacham Library

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Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

Please stop in at the Library for your summer reading needs. We have new books of all genres. Our latest acquisitions are: *Twelve Sharp* by Evanovich, *Everyman* by Roth, *Digging into America* by Tyler, *The Old Wine Shades* by Grimes, *The Man of My Dreams* by Sittenfeld, *The Poe Shadow* by Pearl, *At Rick* by Cornwall, *2 Little Girls in Blue* by Higgins-Clark, *Heavenly Date* by McCall Smith, *Absurdistan* by Shteyngart, *What to Eat* by Nestle, *A Death in Belmont* by Junger, *The Glass Castle* by Walls, *Sweet and Low* by Cohen and *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Pollan.

Our Summer Sunday Concerts on the Green continue through August 27. There is a great line-up this year. We are pleased to have the 40th Army Band of the Vermont National Guard presenting *An American Tapestry*, a concert of American popular and patriotic music on July 2 at 7:00 p.m. The band, whose members are from Vermont, New York, Maine, New Hampshire and New Jersey, will be on its annual summer training tour of Vermont towns. Free and open to the public, the concert is part of the Pope Library summer series and, rain or shine, promises to get everyone in the mood for Independence Day. Following the concert we'll look for fireworks on Dole Hill.

From the Children's Room

We invite all kids ages 4 and up to participate in the "Realms of Reading" summer reading program. There will be a series of fantasy and medieval themed crafts and activities on Wednesday afternoons July 5 - August 16. Every child who signs up for the program will receive a reading record on which to write the names of the books they read throughout the summer and a certificate signed by Governor Douglas at the end of the summer. Call or stop in at the library to register. (802) 684-2256.

This summer, we will continue our story hour on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. until August 14. We will follow the "Realms of Reading" theme.

A special program from the Boston Museum of Science will take place at the library on Friday, July 7 at 11:30 a.m. The "Fog, Flowers and Fireworks" program, through dramatic demonstrations, teaches you to think like a scientist as you explore some indicators of chemical change. This is great family fun!

We have new books for the summer, including the 2006-2007 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award books. Come in and check them out!

And This Ain't No ...

(Continued from Page 22)

superintendent for nine years until he retired.

Norm will tell you that comedy is really serious. "Humor is the mask that lets you give a message people might not want to hear ordinarily. So Danny can criticize education or anything else because he doesn't dress well, he's a jerk, and he's no threat. But if it was Norman Lewis, it wouldn't be accepted."

Norm has strong opinions, particularly about education - ideas with common sense. The concept of schools without walls especially irks him. "Even in the old schools they used to frost the window part way so kids would not be distracted. You have to get their attention if you're going to reach them."

Danny ran several times as a playful write-in candidate for Governor of Vermont. In 1962, he first tossed his battered fedora into the ring because reapportionment of the Legislature was in the wind. "Danny figured they should reapportion according to acreage, not population," Norm says with mock seriousness.

After 34 years, Danny decided to take the advice that the late Senator George Aiken gave his colleagues in the United States Senate on the Vietnam War: "When in a hopeless campaign, DECLARE VICTORY and go home!"

On Tuesday, November 8, 1994, at noon on the steps of the State House in Montpelier, Danny declared victory, served as Governor for seven minutes. Then he resigned and went home to Avery's Gore. ★



Peacham Historical Association 2006 Ghost Walk

Tuesday, July 4, 2>3 p.m.
at the Peacham Cemetery

"They Were 49'ers"

Peacham and the Gold Rush

Peacham had over 20 men who left everything their homes, wives and family (some return some not) to seek their fortunes during the California Gold Rush. Extensive research family letters has offered amazing stories of hardship and sacrifice.

Please join us for an afternoon of Peacham History that comes to life!

Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

July 2, 2005 - Finally a clear, mild summer day, perfect for Burklyn Arts Fair on the Lyndonville Green. Kids were proudly displaying their freshly painted faces while Mark Breen entertained from the gazebo. It was a safe day for the weatherman to put on his singer/guitarist hat and strum up a song or two. I know the meteorologists only report the weather, but when it is awful you've got to blame someone, and when the weather is beautiful, like today, the weathermen are the first to take credit for a "great day." The holiday weekend started off yesterday with evening fireworks in the vicinity of Sugar Ridge. We had a good view from the window. Tonight we hear explosions from

Joe's Pond and see fireworks from Peacham area, probably Harvey's Lake.

July 6, 2005 - We heard and saw distant fireworks displays the entire holiday weekend from 1st through the 4th. But the best display held off until last night when mother nature let go her own show. Rumbling thunder and flickering outdoor lights steadily increased until bright, blinding flashes of lightning and crashing, echoing thunder brought on the rain. A steady and much calmer firefly display went undisturbed until heavier rain put a lull in their luminous signaling. Once the rain became less forceful, the firefly ballet resumed.

July 11, 2005 - Tomato plants have green tomatoes in a variety of shapes and sizes, and

the husk cherries have a few little lanterns as their squash-like vines continue to spread. Snowpeas are in bloom, and potatoes are beginning to set blossoms. That's the sign for me to stop hilling the potatoes. Jeff is keeping the beetle infestation from getting a hold by picking off the occasional bug and mass of orange eggs. The firefly frenzy has waned, leaving only the occasional flicker of a lone firefly still seeking a mate. Evidently the female of the same species responds to the male's flickering code to signal she's ready to mate and lay eggs. But I've learned that females of another species will mimic the code to lure the male over and eat him. Also of note from the *World Book Encyclopedia* is that the fireflies lay eggs in moist



Photo By: Jeff Gold

Queen Anne's lace joins Black-eyed Susans, Joe Pye Weed and milkweed in the high field grass.

places on the ground. The eggs hatch into flightless larvae that are often seen glowing on damp lawns. Now I know what those glow worms are all about.

July 14, 2005 - Early evening thunder showers with directional light from the setting sun brought on a lush double rainbow. The main colorful one spilled its full-spectrum arch over onto the tops of the trees

and filled the valley with color. The sweet smell of honeysuckle and milkweed hangs heavy in the moist and slightly cooler air. Raspberries are on the bushes but not ripe yet. We're eating the last of the asparagus, the very beginning of snowpeas and the very tender thinnings of chard. Eight of the kohlrabi have been harvested into pasta sauce, packed away in the freezer. The

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garden is just starting to dictate what our suppers will be.

July 18, 2005 - Hot, hazy, humid weather continues with the addition of rain this morning. Kingbirds are on the wire taking their morning shower. Last night we were awakened by a very melodious coyote chorus. Judging from the volume and presence of sound, the pack was close by. My sister Judy claims that coyotes howl when they've made a kill. That sounds like a bit of an old wives' tale but if that's the case, then one of the pack must have provided quite a feast. Frogs, too, have been interrupting the night with a low mumble that sounds much like people talking in the distance. I was wondering who could be so rude so late at night but realized it was just frogs conversing in a subdued but persistent tone.

July 20, 2005 - A squat, smiling, pumpkin full moon is rising perfectly aligned between the two large maple trees. Deliciously cold evening air brings relief to a less humid but still very hot day. Our house painter Jay, "made hay" while the weather cooperated and worked from 7 in the morning

until 6 at night. And before starting to paint the house, he spent the early hours of the morning kayaking on Ewell Pond. These Vermonters sure know how to fill their days. I found time to pick some blueberries and even found a nice patch of ripe raspberries nearby. Yesterday we picked 5 more kohlrabi and put up some kohlrabi beef stew in the freezer.

July 23, 2005 - Did our first harvest of basil today and put up 17 double servings of pesto. We enjoyed some over spaghetti tonight and put the rest in the freezer. Frozen pesto is delicious all winter long but that freshly made fare is truly a taste of summer. I can now venture outside without my bug shirt. A few hearty black flies remain but not enough to warrant full protection. I'm happy to have the aid of my bug baffle to get through black fly season but am glad when I can finally put it away and face mother nature directly.

July 24, 2005 - 50° and bright sunshine this beautiful morning. The humidity is refreshingly low, offering a clear and sharp view of the mountains. None of the usual morning

fog and haze of midsummer. The trees are lush with infinite variety of greens. Black-eyed Susans, Queen Anne's lace, Joe Pye-weed and super fragrant milkweed adorn the high field grass. Clumps of marsh mallow add to the bouquet.

July 29, 2005 - First earwigs are appearing in our garden harvest. I remind myself that they feast on aphids and deserve to be returned to the out-of-doors. First of the beans have been picked along with one very tender 8-ball zucchini. Both went into another preparation of kohlrabi beef stew. There is no shortage of wild raspberries or blueberries this summer. You can smell the ripe raspberries before you see them. We've been noticing how unusually quiet the past few nights have been. It's been cooler, just barely reaching 50° which might account for the stillness. Peepers are done for the season, and locusts have yet to appear. Even the barking and whining dogs were still for a change. ★

Summer Works Downtown Festival in St J on July 8

St. Johnsbury Works, downtown revitalization organization for St. Johnsbury, is preparing for the annual downtown festival, known as SummerWorks, on July 8.

The SummerWorks festival will include train rides from the Welcome Center departing at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (round-trip to Wells River) and 12:45 p.m. (round-trip to Lyndonville). The trains include two 1930's coaches and a 1931 snack and observation car offering gourmet food and an open vestibule. Tickets will be on sale at the Welcome Center and at the Boxcar & Caboose Bookshop starting July 1 or reserved by calling Nat Tripp at (802) 748-8406. Please allow 30 minutes before the train departs to park, purchase tickets and board the train.

Food will be available all day with breakfast treats, sausages, hamburgers, hot dogs, fried dough and sodas sold by the Lions Club, St. Johnsbury Works and the St. Johnsbury Fire Department.

Northeast Kingdom Board of Realtors is sponsoring The Money Bar (free samples of flavored shaved ice) and balloons. Catamount Arts will have free face painting, and Destination Imagination will have hands on games and toys for children.


There will be a free concert by the St. Johnsbury Town Band at the Welcome Center Park at 1:00 p.m., and the annual Ping Pong Grand Prix will be at 4:45 p.m. on Maple Street. Stay for the dance from 8 - 10 p.m. in the Welcome Center parking lot.

Come ride the trains, shop downtown or at the Farmers Market, enjoy some great food, enter the Ping Pong Grand Prix, hear the town band and dance into the evening. All this and more in downtown St. Johnsbury. Whatever your age, there will be something for everyone at this year's SummerWorks festival. Join us downtown and have a great time.

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 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

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

Wednesday, August 23
Children's Day
 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.

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
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Walden Home Demonstration Group Celebrates 60 Years

BETTY HATCH

The Walden Home Demonstration Group is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The group's history, printed in May 1986, gives you an idea of why the group was organized.

The Group "has provided many interesting events, much service to the town and area, and some education for the adults who have participated in the programs. Our group has been unique in that we have been active though small; age was no concern; independent beyond belief."

The first Secretary's report gives you an account of that meeting: "The Walden Home Demonstration Group organized June 14th (1946) at the home of Mrs. L.B. Hatch. Mrs. Mary E. Danforth, County Home Demonstration Agent was present. Officers elected were: President - Mrs. Betty Hatch; vice president - Mrs. Ada Greene; secretary & treasurer - Mrs. Irene Ainsworth; foods leader - Mrs. Lula Watson; clothing leader - Mrs. Ethel Hatch; home manage-

ment leader - Mrs. Marion Thompson; and recreation leader - Mrs. Ella Cochran. It was decided to hold our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. Mrs. Danforth helped plan the program for the rest of the year. We decided to contribute to the book wagon, and Mrs. Mina Davis was chosen book wagon chairman. Mrs. Danforth gave a talk on "Clothing and Textiles" and passed around samples of new fabrics."

At the time there was no women's organization in the Noyesville area, and young mothers needed an outside interest, a chance to get together and do some public service for the community. The Extension Service of the University of Vermont offered a good educational program and the women could be learning, as well as helping to support the town's school and church and outside organizations that were looking for help.

We set up a program of interesting meetings, and the different leaders from the group attended county informational meetings

and brought back information to the club. Most meetings were held in the afternoon, but occasional all-day meetings took place when food was discussed and a meal prepared with help from the foods leader. Many members were young mothers, and often there were more children at meetings than adults. The

kids were given things to entertain them and one mother stayed where she could watch them and still hear the meeting besides. Soon others decided to join and the group grew larger.

We always needed money and card parties were organized in different homes. Coin savers were introduced and we sold bags of sewing remnants, thread and stationery. There were dances and money was given to the book wagon, Dimes for Polio, Pennies for Peace and the Cancer Fund.

Members of the club began to look for other means to help their children and others in town. They arranged for a St. Johnsbury dentist to come to town and inspect the children's teeth, find those who needed work and arrange for office visits for fillings and whatever other work was needed. Flouride treatments were added, and the clinics continued for several years.

We sponsored school hot lunches. We purchased pasteurized milk and the lunch program continued until kitchens were added to the schools.

The group held sewing classes in 1950 and seven women modeled their dresses along with the 4-H Girls, who had made outfits for themselves. There were classes for footstool upholstering, chair caning, making lamp shades and rug braiding.

There were several cookbooks of favorite recipes by Walden cooks to sell, and we raised money to buy books for the Library and utensils for kitchens at the school and the church.

Wherever there was a need, the Group was willing to help. More recently we have sponsored young people to go to Green Mountain Conservation Camp.

In 1960 the group joined the Northeast Kingdom fall foliage festival to entertain visitors to our area and as a way to earn a bit of extra money, and the Christmas Wreath Project started in 1973.

Several extension agents have helped us over the years since Mary Danforth left. Edna Kennelly (1949), Alice Blair (1958), Melody Morrison (1979) and Dale Steen (1984) followed until the Extension Service changed. Now we have speakers to give information or help with some specific project.

The Walden Home Demonstration Group is celebrating its anniversary with a night out at the Danville Restaurant on July 12. Former members have been invited to join us to look back over these many years with the same president continuing the leadership.

Editor to Mother Nature On Your Work In Progress: "Garden"

Dear Mrs. Nature, or should I say "Ms?"
This effort is promising, really it is.

Your lupines are lovely, Your roses exquisite,
I see that your peony's blooming ... or is it?

But frankly, Ms. Nature, or could it be "Miss?"
The piece needs some work. I will summarize this:

First, it lacks **clarity**. Such a profusion
Of sights, sounds, and scents could create great confusion.

Next, for gosh sake, when you make things with wings,
You should **stet** if it sings, but **delete** if it stings!

Third, on your **weather**, I need to explain
The rule for success is **more** sunshine, **less** rain.

Another flaw Madam, I fear, is **redundancy**.
Weeds appear here in excessive abundance.

Burdock **and** Witch grass **and** Pigweed **and** Vetch?
A touch would be nice, but so much is a stretch.

Therefore, and sincerely, I wish you good luck
In placing this elsewhere. Your talent and pluck

May carry you far, but the flaw and the weeds
At this time, I'm afraid, just do not meet our needs.

Reeve Lindbergh

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



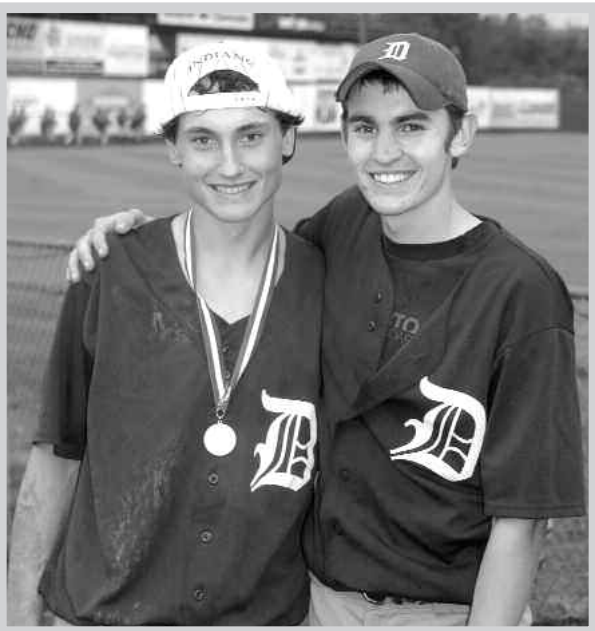
Danville's Brandon Lumbr (third base) and Justin Chamberlin (shortstop) made base hits to the left side of the infield a tough way to get on base.



Logan Calkins gets a hard hit single in the state championship game against Blue Mountain Union High School. Danville won the game 4-1 finishing the season with an overall record of 13-6.



Senior Stone Conroy started pitching for Danville as a freshman and finished his four years on and off the mound pitching Danville to the 2006 state championship.



Danville Catcher Jared White and Pitcher Stone Conroy share the great pleasure of standing under the lights at Centennial Field in Burlington and winning the Division IV championship game.

Danville School Baseball

Vermont Division 4 State Champions

Centennial Field, Burlington VT
June 9, 2006



Julian Kempton (left), Batboy Matt Chamberlin (right) and Danville Scorekeeper and Team Chef Paula Bystrzycki (center) celebrate on the infield after the final out.



Photos By: Jim Ashley
 Celebrating for Danville are (L-R) Assistant Coach Randall McGrath, Jordan White, Ian Callahan, Chris Elliott, Jess Murray, James Kuligoski, Jared White, Logan Calkins, Julian Kempton, Richie Benoit, Brandon Lumbr, Stone Conroy, Justin Chamberlin and Head Coach Dave Chamberlin. Hidden in the picture is Asa White.

You Can Go Back Again

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

In early June I had an experience that surprised me because of the effect it had on me emotionally. It was when I went back to my Alma Mater for my 65th college reunion, accompanied by my husband, who for some reason enjoys my reunions as much as his own. I hadn't been back to Wellesley since my 50th, which was a lively, well-attended occasion.

The 65th was more subdued, as you might imagine. Forty three classmates of a class of about 400 felt spry enough to roam the campus, eat under a huge white tent along with other 'reuning' classes and attend the interesting lectures. My only disappointment was that only a few of the 43 returnees were people I knew well in college. Happily, we were able to stay with a dear friend from my class, whose home is in the town next

to the college.

Moving through the large and beautiful campus was like a dream in which you know where you are, but nothing is quite where you expect it to be. The modest trees of the 40's have developed into giant, almost interlocking, masses of greenery. It was difficult to see the buildings for the burgeoning forest.

When we arrived on Friday, we were in the same soggy weather I thought we had left in Vermont, and Saturday was more of the same – all day. But we were determined not to be daunted. After attending a slide show on current politics ably presented by a young member of the faculty, we were very much attracted to a walking tour of the botanical gardens and arboretum that have been developed by the college over the years.

After donning an extra layer of slickers, we were led on the walk along mowed grassy paths

by another faculty person, a bright-eyed sturdy young woman in the botany department who was in charge of the ever-changing plantings on the campus. She was knowledgeable and pleasant, and we saw a dazzling variety of trees and shrubs, beautifully arrayed. We slogged through groves, along a small brook and beside a pond, interestingly named Paramecium Pond.

Returning soggy to the dorm where members of our class gathered, we left our shoes and socks clumping around in a clothes dryer in the basement and collapsed contentedly in a lounge with fellow 41ers. We chatted happily about lives and families and reminisced about the past.

On Sunday we were blessed with beautiful sunny weather, the first in days. We gathered in the gray stone chapel for a 10 o'clock service. It was led by the head of the department of religious studies, a dynamic and charming man who talked about how Wellesley had grown over the years – from a comfortable, fairly homogeneous group of young women who had managed to meet the college's high scholastic requirements, but who were eager to have fun and meet nice lads from the nearby colleges – to a very scholarly institution that reached out to, and was concerned with, the wide world into which they would graduate. The service featured participants from many faiths



Photo By: Peter Albright

Bets Parker Albright joined her gathered classmates at their 65th college reunion at Wellesley College in June and found that the place and the people, however much they may have changed, are still familiar.

who were active in the religious studies program. It was moving to see members of Hindu, Muslim, Hebrew, Unitarian and Buddhist persuasions lead various parts of the service. A college choir sang, as did returning alumnae of all faiths, and the chapel was filled to the walls.

The final event we attended was a traditional parade of the returning classes. It was fortunate that the weather had become fair, as this was strictly an outdoor affair. The classes that were

celebrating reunions – every fifth year – gathered chronologically. The women were all dressed in white. Bearers of the class banner led each group, and we paraded across the campus accompanied by a band. The path was lined by families, visitors and students who stayed on to help with the reunion. As the oldest group there, we were cheered wildly by the onlookers. No, I'm wrong – there was one member of the Class of '31 who marched sturdily along by herself, smiling and waving a banner!

It was a delightful weekend, and there was a warm feeling that our Alma Mater was holding its own in the world, providing excellent education with far more varied courses than were offered to us.

Wellesley's motto is *non ministrari, sed ministrare* – not to be ministered to, but to minister. I am proud to be a graduate.

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When Enough is Enough Discover the "Power of Plants" in Peacham

VAN PARKER

On a recent family trip to Michigan I found myself browsing through the magazine section at a large chain bookstore. I don't think I've ever seen more magazines in one place. The titles covered almost every subject you could think of: news, fashion, sports, automotive, cooking, glamour. They were left, right and center politically. Some were on the sleazy side. Others looked quite learned and highly technical. One that attracted my attention simply bore the title MORE. That was it, just "more." More of what? I didn't stop to look but the title still intrigues me.

For most of the last several years I've added a little space to the vegetable garden. This year I thought about it but decided against turning up more ground. Why? Probably because the present size covers about all I want to handle and, frankly, about all I have the energy for. It's just about right. It's enough.

Wendell Berry has become a kind of patron saint of mine. In case you haven't heard of him, Berry is a farmer who lives in Kentucky. He is also a writer of novels, poems and of books about the land. He doesn't like what he calls "agribusiness." He's referring to huge agricultural combines that often take more out of the soil than they put back.

In agribusiness people become numbers and the "bottom line" replaces personal relationships. Berry believes in limits, in smaller units for farms, in communities where people can interact and know each other. His message seems to be that we need to get back in touch with our neighbors and ourselves.

That means living within limits.

It's not trying to take up all the space. It's knowing when enough is enough.

A man in his 90's was interviewed about what he thought made people happy. Not taking very long to answer he said that he thought the key to happiness was having enough - but not too much. He seemed to say that too much was about as bad as having too little.

The question I'm dealing with in the vegetable garden is: what is enough garden. For now I've come to an answer that's comfortable for me. Maybe in five years I'll cut down a bit, and perhaps in ten, if still around, I'll plant it all to grass. We'll see. Time will tell.

That magazine called MORE describes the atmosphere in which we live. That atmosphere encourages more of everything: more money, bigger houses, more oil, more status, more recognition, more achievement. Wendell Berry, and others like him, talk about moving from a "more" world into an "enough" world.

They say it's for our own good. ★

The Peacham Historical Association has invited renowned herbalist, Rosemary Gladstar to give a lecture on the uses and benefits of plants. On Wednesday, July 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the Peacham Historical House, Gladstar will offer a lecture referring to the PHA garden, which was planted in honor of the past PHA President Lorna Quimby.

Gladstone, a pioneer in the herbal movement and the author of nine books, is referred to as the "Godmother of American Herbalism." Her herbal remedies address everyday ailments, ease stress and anxiety and promote radiant beauty within and without while nurturing longevity and well-being throughout the life cycle.

Gladstone has been practicing, living, learning, teaching and writing about herbs for over 30 years. She is the author of *Herbal Healing for Women* and the *Gladstar Family Herbal*. She is founder and director of Sage Mountain Herbal Retreat Center and Botanical Sanctuary located in East Barre and founder of United Plant Savers, a non-profit group dedicated to saving

endangered wild plants from extinction throughout the United States.

Galdstone's talents are known throughout the world, and this is a rare opportunity to share in her passion for the "power of

plants." Donations will be accepted. The event will take place rain or shine.

For information regarding the event, contact Mel Reis at the Peacham Historical Association, (802) 592-3079. ★



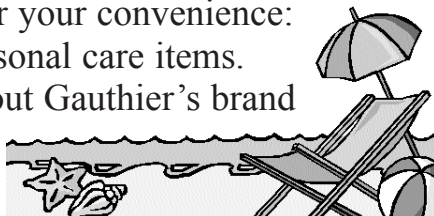
Photo By: Stan Pekala

There's a bull moose and his family, as he knows it, in the vicinity of US 2 near Molly's Pond between West Danville and Cabot. Drive carefully as you pass (night or day) for the east-bound traffic has been frazzled by the all-summer road resurfacing behind it, and west-bound drivers may slam on their brakes to watch. A collision with either this fellow or another vehicle will be an unfortunate experience.

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- Carlo Carretto

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No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

Recreation reigns supreme from the 4th of July on through Labor Day. We don't have a lot of time to spend in the kitchen and usually abandon our stoves for the convenience of the grill. But, don't let your outdoor cooking become boring.

Add creativity with different rubs, sauces and unusual condiments to serve alongside the meats and vegetables that find their way to your grill. I like the idea of savory condiments to enliven grill fare. The more popular condiments such as bread and butter pickles, chutneys and relishes are readily available and easy to buy, but the following recipes are a little different and will add a personal touch to your meals.

Condiments are also the perfect food to bring to a barbecue - they are always a welcome addition because they compliment rather than compete with any of the food being served.

can add a real depth to a number of dishes such as rice and beans. It is a tasty condiment for pork, beef or sausage and is also a great sauce for fish. There are recipes that do not require you roast the peppers, but it makes such a difference that I don't recommend omitting this step. Besides, this method of cooking and peeling peppers has become one of my favorite cooking chores, and I want to pass it on.

Roasting Peppers on the Grill

I like to use a mix of peppers - Red, green (both bell and poblano if you can find them), yellow, orange and a couple of jalapenos. Two of each is a good number. I usually taste the jalapeno to see if I need one or two for heat.

Put the grill on high and get it to temperature. Place the whole peppers on the grill (make sure you take those nasty stickers off) and close it up. Let the peppers char totally on one side and turn over to do the same on the other side. Once they are totally blackened take them off the grill (with tongs) and place in a plastic Ziploc bag. You can stuff as many in as you want. Close the

bag and let sit until they cool off. You will want to leave a small opening for the heat to escape.

There are a couple of things to remember:

- ♦ While you do want the peppers to be black on each side - you can overcook them. Don't let the charred surface get too thick. You really only want the skin to char.

- ♦ On the other hand you need to get the skin blackened fully on high heat and you don't want to undercook them.

- ♦ Don't try to peel them when they are still hot. It just makes the chore harder and less enjoyable.

- ♦ Be careful with the poblano and jalapeno peppers - they can have a little heat to them and you want to wash your hands after working with them.

Set yourself up with a bowl for the seeds and skin (to throw out) and a bowl for the finished product. Give yourself a nice flat area to work on. When the peppers are cooled open the bag and take one pepper out at a time. Take as much of the skin as will easily peel off with your fingers (most of it will) and then pull out the stem end with the seeds attached. Put the stem in the garbage bowl and slice the pepper so it will lay flat on the surface. Gently scrape the rest of seeds out of the pepper and put the seeds in the garbage bowl. Keep the surface free of seeds so you don't have them in your finished product. Turn the pepper over and gently scrape away any skin that is left. Put the pepper in the finished product bowl and continue on with the rest of the peppers.

You will be amazed at how beautiful these peppers are and

how flavorful they have become. People that don't usually eat peppers will love them. I always keep a supply in the refrigerator for use in a lot of dishes. They make a great condiment on their own with a little salt and pepper.

Make the Sofrito

3 or 4 whole roasted and peeled peppers from above recipe - chopped

Olive oil

2-3 cloves garlic

2 medium (or one large) onions chopped fine

2 ribs celery chopped fine (optional)

1 tablespoon dried basil

2 teaspoons dried oregano

1 cup chopped fresh flat parsley

3 or 4 chopped peeled fresh tomatoes (if you don't have fresh - canned whole tomatoes will do)

Salt and pepper to taste

In a large sauté pan lightly brown the garlic in olive oil and add the onions. Sauté the onions until they are soft and add the celery. Sauté until these vegetables are cooked through. Add the basil, oregano, parsley and tomatoes. Cook for about 5 minutes and add the roasted peppers. Cook for another 5 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

You can store these in the refrigerator for several days and use them as you see fit.

side burner is that as you cook the vinegar down (reduce it) a sugary steam tends to coat the area around the cook space. This creates a hard to clean situation in your kitchen.

This reduction is very versatile. Pour it in any barbecue sauce or brine, use it in a marinade, rub it on meat before you barbecue or put a few drops beside grilled meats for dipping. There is no need to refrigerate this reduction. I keep it on the counter to use in many ways.

32 oz. balsamic vinegar
½ cup sugar
1 cup red port wine (optional)

Put all the ingredients in a large saucepan and heat to boiling while stirring constantly. When it reaches the boiling stage turn it down to simmer. Be careful when this mixture is boiling because it is like jelly and will boil over the sides of the pan at that temperature. Don't leave it on high heat unattended. When you have it at a simmer that will not boil over you can leave it for short periods of time. It will take about 30 to 40 minutes to reduce the mix by half and get it fairly syrupy. Remove from the heat and let it cool a little before putting it in glass jar for storage.

Cuban Sofrito

The Cubans use this simple sauce as the basis for many dishes. It is great used on its own or

Onion and Scallion Jam

At once sweet and tart, this jam is great with almost anything you can put on the grill. Put a sprinkle of hot pepper flakes in it as it cools to add a little spice to the recipe.

4 onions - sliced in half lengthwise and then cut into thin half rounds (peeled and chopped fruit can be added now - optional)
2 bunches of scallion - chopped fine with greens included
1 cup white balsamic vinegar or cider vinegar
1 cup dry vermouth
½ cup sugar
¼ cup pimento or red roasted peppers - chopped
¼ cup parsley

Balsamic Vinegar Reduction

If you have a burner on the side of your grill this is something you should try. The reason I suggest you do this on an out-

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7 A.M.	Morning Edition with Mitch Wertlieb	Only a Game	Sunday Bach
8 A.M.		Weekend Filmm	
9 A.M.		Car Talk	On the Media
10 A.M.	Classical Music with Walter Parker	Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!	Studio 360
11 A.M.	Military Report with Steve Delaney at noon	Interlude	A Prairie Home Companion
NOON	(Wednesday) Weekend Edition	Saturday Afternoon at the Opera with Peter Fox Smith	All The Traditions with Robert Hesnik
1 P.M.	Performance Today with Fred Child		
2 P.M.	Fresh Air with Terry Gross		
3 P.M.	All Things Considered with Neal Charnoff		
4 P.M.			
5 P.M.			
6 P.M.			
7 P.M.			
8 P.M.			
9 P.M.			
10 P.M.			
11 P.M.			
Midnight			

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5 - Lowell Spinners	1 - Staten Island Yankees
6 - Lowell Spinners	2 - Staten Island Yankees
7 - Lowell Spinners	3 - Staten Island Yankees
12 - Batavia Muckdogs	9 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
13 - Batavia Muckdogs	10 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
14 - Batavia Muckdogs	11 - Aberdeen Ironbirds
15 - Brooklyn Cyclones	17 - Williamsport Crosscutters
16 - Brooklyn Cyclones	18 - Williamsport Crosscutters
17 - Brooklyn Cyclones	19 - Williamsport Crosscutters
25 - Auburn Doubledays	22 - Tri-City Valleycats
26 - Auburn Doubledays	23 - Tri-City Valleycats
27 - Auburn Doubledays	24 - Oneonta Tigers
30 - Lowell Spinners	25 - Oneonta Tigers
31 - Lowell Spinners	28 - Lowell Spinners
	29 - Lowell Spinners
	30 - Hudson Valley Renegades
	31 - Hudson Valley Renegades

Ticket Prices:
Reserved \$7
General Admission:
Adult \$6, Senior \$5, Child \$3

SEPTEMBER
1 - Hudson Valley Renegades

Starting Times: Monday-Saturday 7:05 p.m.; Sunday 5:05 p.m.; Except: Wednesday, July 27 Game at 1:05 p.m.



hot pepper flakes (optional)
salt and pepper to taste

Put the onions, vinegar, vermouth and sugar in a medium saucepan over and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and let simmer slowly for about 1 hour, stirring occasionally until the liquid has reduced to almost nothing. The onions should be transparent. If at any time the liquid is evaporating too fast and you fear it will burn, just add a little water. You don't want this to brown at all if you can help it.

Take it off the heat when done and immediately add the scallions, peppers and parsley. If you are using hot pepper flakes add them now as well. Stir well and let cool. Season with salt and pepper to taste after it has cooled down.

A nice variation includes the addition of peeled and chopped pears or peaches at the beginning along with the onions. It gives it a chutney type texture and deepens the flavor.

Zucchini Caponata

Caponata is traditionally made with eggplant, but plentiful summer zucchini is a good substitute in the North Country. The capers and green olives in this recipe add a pungency that compliments chicken, pork or seafood.

6 medium or 4 large zucchini finely chopped
¼ cup olive oil
2 cloves garlic finely chopped
2 celery ribs finely chopped
1 onion finely chopped
1 tomato - peeled and chopped
4 tablespoons capers
½ cup pimento stuffed green olives coarsely chopped
3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar (or 1½ tablespoons balsamic vinegar reduction)
1 tablespoon sugar
salt and pepper to taste

Sauté the garlic in a little olive oil until it is barely browned. Add a little more oil and the onion and cook until it softens. Add the zucchini and celery and cook until they are soft. You might have to add a little water if the vegetables are browning too quickly - just don't get it too soupy. Add the tomato, capers, olives, balsamic vinegar and sugar. Cook for about 10 minutes to meld all the flavors and reduce any liquids. Season with salt and pepper and serve at room temperature. I also make a version with black pitted Kalamata olives instead of green ones. It makes a whole different condiment.

You may store in the refrigerator for 3 or 4 days. It is actually better after a day or two. ★



Photo By: Stan Pekala

Lisa Whitney and Stan Pekala are veterinarians at the Danville Animal Hospital. Whitney's dog and close friend, Lexie, had a bad day recently after a run-in with a porcupine. Lexie would like us to know that this was no laughing matter. The common porcupine lives in or near the woods and has wiry hairs on the front of its body, but give it a chance to turn around, and its rump and rounded tail may deliver a full load from up to 30,000 heavier hollow quills. As anyone who has been stuck by even a single quill knows, these things hurt.



AIDS - LifeCycle 5

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June 4 - 10, 2006

For seven days and 585 miles, 1,800 cyclists rode from San Francisco to Los Angeles to benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. Together we raised more than \$8 million. Along the way we passed people with signs saying that we were changing the world.

Whether your cause lies in the battle against the AIDS epidemic or somewhere else, being part of such a passionate community of people can make you feel that, indeed, you do have the power to change the world.

And that excitement lasts longer than any bike ride. From the Bates College team to our sponsoring families and friends, thank you.

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They'll Celebrate the 4th in Peacham

What could be more inspiring on the 4th of July than a marching band leading a parade? Or a pair of Air Force jets flying overhead? This year Peacham's 4th of July celebration will have both.

The 40th Army Band of the Vermont Army National Guard will lead off the Peacham tractor parade starting at 11:30 a.m. marching up Main and Church Streets. Last year's tractor parade included over 45 different vehicles, and it looks like it will expand even further this year. Accompanying the tractors and the band will be Peacham's fire department, children on bicycles, horses and ponies and anyone else who can't resist the urge to march to the beat of the band. And if that

weren't exciting enough, the Air National Guard will shake us all up with a flyover during lunch.

With the support of our Vermont Army and Air National Guard and the reading of the *Declaration of Independence* at the War Memorial on the upper green, Peacham will celebrate the true meaning of independence in our own small-town way.

Festivities begin at 11:30 and, once the parade has concluded, will be concentrated along Church Street. (Guests are encouraged to park in the large parking lot halfway up the hill, behind the Peacham Historic Association). From the Church at the base of the hill to the War Memorial at the crest, visitors will

find interesting things to entertain them from the working Blacksmith Shop, to the Historical Association, to the Cemetery and Firehouse.

Once the parade disbands, lunch will be served by the Peacham Elementary School. Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, pies and drinks will be offered outside the fire house. The balance of the day will include events to delight both young and old, music to energize the soul and food to satisfy the stomach.

In addition to the Declaration of Independence, there will be a variety of opportunities to explore Peacham's history including the Ghost Walk which this year honors Peacham 49'ers who sought their fortunes in the hills of California. Over 65 individuals, 30% of all those who left

Caledonia County, left Peacham to go West, and, unlike most fortune-seekers, many of these men returned with money and were able to set up new lives for themselves in Vermont. There will be only two half-hour performances this year, so get your tickets early for this wonderful Peacham tradition.

The Peacham Historic Association with its lovely gardens will be open and honoring the 200th anniversary of the Peacham Congregational Church. There will be tools, artifacts, period clothing, a floor plan and photographs related to the church on display. Docents will explain the materials. Visitors will have the opportunity to see our beautifully restored blacksmith shop, which will be manned by a smith using traditional methods to create

items for sale. For children there will be games provided by the fire department including drills similar to those used by the firemen. There will be face painting, and the water slide will be set up at the top of the green. For the more grown-up children (masquerading as adults), there will be a horseshoe tournament, which grows in size every year. The horseshoe tournament will start at 9:30 a.m. before the parade. In addition, we're adding a croquet tournament as well as a Mexican Volleyball game.

To keep your feet stomping, and your face smiling while you digest your lunch, there will be music. Having thoroughly entertained us last year, the Back Street Shed Band and Alan Greenleaf will be returning to play a few sets apiece.

And when you've played yourself to exhaustion, have learned all that you can learn, heard all that you could hear, come join us for a wonderful pork roast supper at the church. There will be two settings, and tickets will be available on Church Street.

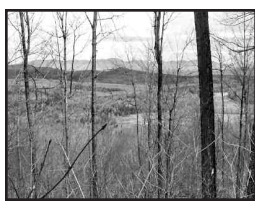
We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, July 4th. Most events are free to the public (other than meals and the ghost walks). To obtain further information about the Peacham 4th of July Gala, call (802) 592-3051.

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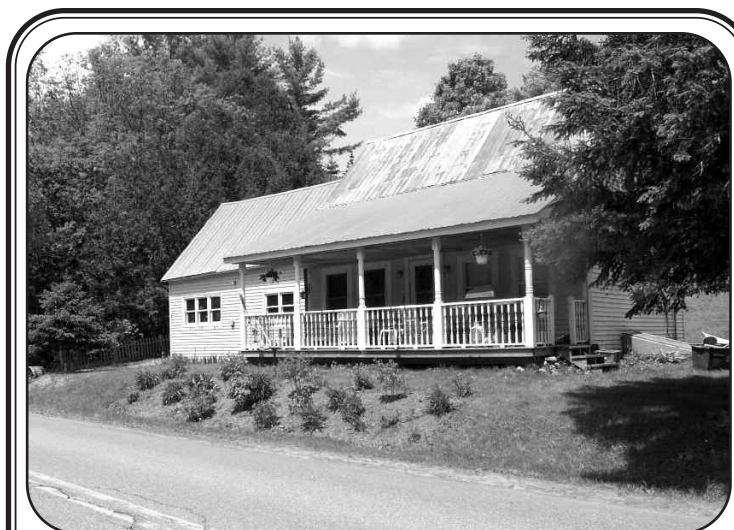


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Call for an appointment to see this property offered at \$209,000

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Danville Senior Action Center

July Meal Schedule

July 4 - Independence Day. No Meal.

July 6 - Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Carrots, Orange Juice, Strawberry Dessert. Library Day.

July 11 - Chop Suey, Homemade Bread, Peas & Carrots, Fruit Cocktail, Tomato Juice, Brownies.

July 13 - Chef Salad with Ham & Cheese, Homemade Rolls, Coleslaw with Pineapple, V-8 Juice.

July 18 - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Biscuits, Orange Slices, California Vegetables, Oatmeal Cookies.

July 20 - Salmon Patties on a Bun with Hollandaise or Tarter Sauce, Pasta Salad with Broccoli and Red Peppers, Melon, Tomato Juice. Library Day.

July 25 - Chicken with Broccoli Alfredo Linguine, Orange Juice, Cantaloupe, Blueberry Scones.

July 27 - Grilled Hot Dogs and Hamburgers on a Bun, Potato Salad, Tossed Salad with Homemade Croutons, Watermelon, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.

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.

Friends of Joe's Pond Are on the Case of Water Quality

TOM DENTE

Members of the Joe's Pond Association have created a means to defray the costs of improving water quality and safety at Joe's Pond.

With over 200 members, the Association is committed, with community support, to protecting and enhancing water quality and aquatic habitat at Joe's Pond. Significant among these programs is prevention of Eurasian watermilfoil. Eurasian watermilfoil, is an invasive exotic plant, which grows rapidly, may crowd out native species, is detrimental to fish populations and will impair swimming, boating and fishing. Once milfoil is established, it is difficult or impossible to remove. Joe's Pond does not have this plant or other invasive plants at this time. Through a schedule of volunteers to detect invasive plant species on boats entering the Pond, whole pond underwater surveys, education and other initiatives, the Association hopes to keep the Pond free of these nuisances.

To date more than 59 lakes, ponds and rivers in Vermont are

infested with invasive species. Lake Champlain, Lake Elligo, Lake Memphremagog, Lake Willoughby, Crystal Lake, Lake Elmore, North Montpelier Pond, Long Pond, Great Hosmer Pond and Berlin Pond are known to be infested.

The Association received technical support from the Vermont Water Quality Division, and local efforts to improve safe boating on Joe's Pond include placing danger marker buoys with

conspicuous and easily identifiable warnings where subsurface hazards are present, high profile buoys to alert boaters to no-wake areas, which safeguard the shoreline from erosion, and a loon nesting marker to keep nesting sites for loons safe.

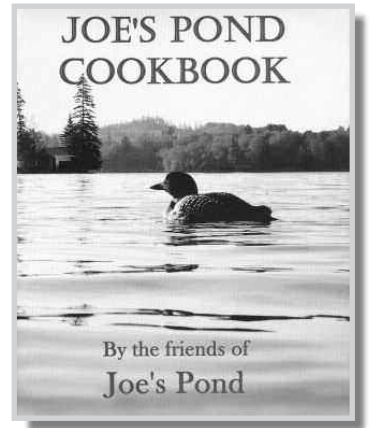
These efforts all take money. Community support from the Towns of Danville and Cabot is provided yearly, and grants from the State of Vermont defray some of the costs. But more was needed if the Association was to be successful in protecting and improving the water quality at Joe's Pond.

In 2005, a committee of the Association set out to produce a hard covered cookbook consisting

of recipes from the "Friends of Joe's Pond." The committee determined that the "Cookbook" would be more than just recipes by adding "Old Joe's Pond" pictures and articles.

Committee members Susan Bouchard, Camilla Dente, Pam Hebert, Evelyn Richer, Cynthia Rouleau and Pat Rubalcaba produced a living memory of Joe's Pond friends and the community through recipes, pictures and articles to protect the environment we so dearly love. The Friends of Joe's Pond Cookbook is available for a donation of \$20 by calling a committee member at (802) 684-

3615 or (802) 563-3083. Proceeds from the project will help fund water quality improvements at Joe's Pond for many years.



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West Barnet Senior Action Center

July 2006 Menu

July 5 - Salmon Patties, Tossed Salad, Assorted Breads, Vanilla Pudding with Oranges.

July 7 - Buffet.

July 12 - Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Gingerbread with Topping.

July 14 - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Assorted Breads, Peaches with Cream.

July 19 - Potato Salad, Cold Cuts, Sauerkraut Salad, Dark Breads, Chocolate Pudding.

July 21 - Swedish Meatballs on Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Homemade Rolls, Cake with Frosting.

July 26 - Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes, String Bean Casserole, Dark Breads, Mixed Fruit Cup.

July 28 - Baked Beans, Hot Dogs, Cole Slaw, Sweet Breads, Ice Cream.

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



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6278, 6279, 6280 **PRIME LYNDONVILLE LAND** - Three 10+ acre lots in Lyndonville. Power along road. Village water available. One mile out of town on a paved road.

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6402 **WHELOCK** - 50+/- acres of pure pleasure. Your options are limitless on this wooded parcel with a year round stream. Build your year round home or vacation home. You can ride to the VAST trail, and you are only 20 minutes from Burke Mt. Ski Area.

This property is being offered at **\$139,900**

6448 **NEWARK** - Top of the world views! 200 +/- acres, with long range mountains views. From Burke Mt. to Mansfield to Bald Mt. This parcel has about 20-30 acres of open meadow, and the balance is mixed woodland. There is power up to an old homestead site and a drilled well. Come and let your breath be taken away by the views!

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MLS # 272169 - Outstanding views and a spacious living area are the crowning features of this beautifully maintained home in Danville. There are four bedrooms and a large family room, two full bathrooms and a first floor laundry. Enjoy the sunrise in the four season room and the setting sun from the country porch in the evening.

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\$299,000



This little house has just undergone a total renovation and it absolutely shines from top to bottom. The master bedroom and 3/4 bath are on the first floor with 2 smaller bedrooms upstairs. The living room is spacious with lots of light and lovely mountain views out the picture window. The beautiful new kitchen with tile floor and cozy dining ell completes this picture-perfect cottage. The 2.5-acre maple woodlot provides ample privacy, but you're only 2/10 of a mile from a paved road. Whether you're looking for a second home, down-sizing or just getting started, this could be the perfect home for you.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

July

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

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

1 *Ferns of the Northeast Kingdom* with David Conant, 1 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

2 Fairbanks Museum Benefit Auction, Burklyn Mansion, Lyndon. 2-4 p.m. (802) 748-2372.

2 Vermont 40th Army Band concert, Danville Green, 7 p.m. (802) 684-2528.

4 North Danville 4th of July Celebration.

4 Peacham Historical Association Ghost Walk, *They We're 49'ers*, Portrayals of Peacham families that joined the California Gold Rush. Some returned; some did not. Peacham Cemetery. 2-3 p.m.

4 Old Fashioned Pig Roast with Strawberry Shortcake, Peacham Congregational Church, 5 p.m. (802) 684-3386.

6 Book Discussion: Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 7 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

7 Fridays at Fairbanks - Owls, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. 10 a.m. - Noon. (802) 748-2372.

8 Clyde River End-to-End canoe expedition, second leg, 9 miles



Photograph By: Frank Gold
In April Jeff and Ellen Gold from Danville were on the Larkspur Ferry en route to San Francisco. Jeff's brother Frank found them catching up on The North Star Monthly.

from VT 105 to Pensioner Pond, with the Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

9 Sierra Club Film, *Birdsong and Coffee*, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, 2:30 p.m. (802) 748-2372.

9 Beth El Speaker Series with Phil Fogelman from A World of Difference Institute describing an international program designed to empower all citizens to promote tolerance within communities, Beth El Synagogue, St. Johnsbury, 3 p.m. (802) 748-3711.

9 Nearly Full Moon Paddle, 7:30 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. (802) 723-6551.

12 Readings in the Gallery: C.D. Wright, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

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

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

14 Fridays at Fairbanks - Flower Fun, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. 10 a.m. - Noon. (802) 748-2372.

14 Sacred Circle Dance, Danville

Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.

15 North American Butterfly Count with Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

15 Lyndonville's Stars and Stripes Parade. 10 a.m.

16 Pope Library Concert on the Green with Skip and Debbie Gray, Danville. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2528.

21 Fridays at Fairbanks - Stuck on Magnets, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. 10 a.m. - Noon. (802) 748-2372.

22 Solving the Mystery of Lake Clyde with Soil Scientist Joe Homer, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 9:30 a.m. (802) 723-6551.

23 Sierra Club Film, *The Future of Food*, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, 2:30 p.m. (802) 748-2372.

23 Pope Library Concert on the Green with Bill Moulton and Friends, Danville. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2528.

26 Readings in the Gallery: Jim Schley and Robert Farnsworth, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

27 The Status of West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease in Vermont,

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

28 Fridays at Fairbanks - Shocking Thunderstorms, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. 10 a.m. - Noon. (802) 748-2372.

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

30 174th Anniversary and Old Home Day, Lamplight Service at Old North Church, Danville with Father Richard O'Donnell, Pastor, St. John Evangelist Church, St. Johnsbury. 7:30 p.m. (802) 748-4096.

30 Old Home Day Celebration, Newark. 10:30 a.m. Chicken Barbecue and Hot Dogs served from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (802) 467-3788.

30 Northeast Kingdom Audubon annual meeting, Hazen Union High School, Hardwick with a walk on the history, terrain and plant life of the Hardwick trails with Norma and Ron Wiesen, 3 - 6 p.m. (802) 626-8265.

30 Pope Library Concert on the Green with the St. Johnsbury Town Band, Danville. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2528.

See also the Arts Around the Towns Calendar Page 14.

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