

THE North Star MONTHLY
Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

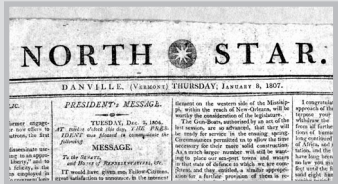
GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

JANUARY 2007
Volume 18, Number 9

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Ebenezer Eaton First
Printed the STAR on
January 8, 1807

See His
Vol. I. No. 1.
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Soup is the Solution
to Cold Days
and
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MORGAN HORSE LINEAGE WINDS THROUGH ST. JOHNSBURY AND DANVILLE

LOIS (FIELD) WHITE

People who saw him said he could "outdraw, outrun, outwalk and outtrot any other horse in the area." That was the description of Figure, the rugged little stallion who would become famous throughout Vermont and better known as Justin Morgan.

Posters printed in the spring of 1867 and advertising the services of the "Stanton Horse" of Danville still hang on the walls of homes in Danville and Peacham. The Stanton Horse was a Morgan stallion. When I saw one of those posters, I was reminded that the horse once known as Figure and famously remembered as Justin Morgan, spent several years on

(Please See Page 12)

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St. Johnsbury Center 802-748-3127

Fast Isn't Fast Enough on the Internet

TERRY HOFFER

It's no idle speculation that low speed communication is a handicap to economic development. Where would we be with nothing but smoke signals for transmitting messages or handbills for broadcasting the news? Would it matter if our letters arrived on horseback or overnight delivery was science fiction? Would medical care be any different if the communication between doctors traveled only by first class mail?

Many of us still think that an Internet connection is an Internet connection and that whatever they mean by "broadband" is simply over the top. That's not so.

Broadband is the expression that is used in referring to high speed data-transmission by Internet connection, which is faster, by any measure, than "narrowband" or the rate that is generally available over telephone lines. A variation of the speed known as broadband is available through DSL (that's distribution subscriber lines, a beefed up telephone line service), by cable, satellite, cellular or, what are called, fixed wireless beacons.

So what's up in northern Vermont and northern New Hampshire and other rural places where population densities don't attract the enormous investment

required to keep services at the state of the art and subscribers satisfied with the latest technologies? What's up in rural America is that it's not the state of the art, and some say that's a serious problem.

Wherever there are telephones there is dial-up Internet access. A subscriber can hang up the phone and direct a computer to dial up the connection to an Internet Service Provider. You've heard the sound. The number is dialed, the computer is connected, and information gets transferred at the rate of 24-56 kilobits per second over the phone lines. When measured against smoke signals that's fast, and when sending email and text documents it's probably fast enough. But when great quantities of text or pictures (masses of information representing all kinds of colors) are sent, dial-up users see the downside, the handicap that is, of that maximum speed limit. And when pictures from people using modern cameras, which make high resolution pictures that become huge digital files, or multiple pictures (think video) are sent - it's just not fast enough.

It's not fast enough for people wanting Internet access at their homes - just as a rooftop antenna for television watching is almost primitive. However, (Please See Everyone on Page 6)



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Jon Freeman, President of Northern Community Investment Corporation in St. Johnsbury, has plans for taking broadband Internet access to the more remote areas of New Hampshire's North Country and Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

There Is a Buzz About Ramunto's Pizzas



Photo By: North Star Monthly

There's a new pizza place in St. Johnsbury, and people are talking. Known as Ramunto's it's located at the intersection of Railroad Street and Hastings Hill in the brick building some still remember as the H.P. Hood company. Vinny Cantore opened his restaurant in October, and customers are rushing back for more. Cantore makes fresh dough daily and turns out his pizzas sometimes barely keeping up with demand.

ADRIAN DUCKETT

The food at Ramunto's Brick Oven Pizza in St. Johnsbury is the talk of the town. The delicious aromas and wonderful tastes have been attracting great numbers of people to the brick building on Railroad Street, which some remember as a creamery and the source of H.P. Hood's ice cream for all of northern New England. The buzz of enthusiasm can be attributed to the efforts of Vincent Cantore. Vinny is sole owner of the place, but pays a franchise fee to John King and Cliff Ramunto, owners of the original and famously popular Ramunto's in Hanover.

People reading this article may ask, "How's this place different from any of the other pizza places in town?" Ramunto's offers many things that other places do not, but what it really comes down to is flavor. Water purification was one of the most important things Cantore invested in. He says, "I think it makes a big difference." Fresh water and fresh ingredients are large parts to the great taste of these pies, and coupled with recipes from the original Ramunto's they make a winner.

Cantore makes dough fresh every morning, and the ingredients are delivered 4 to 5 times a week. Despite the fact that the Ramunto's restaurants share the same menu, Cantore's customers tell him that some of his dishes are better than those of the others.

When asked where he got the idea to open a restaurant, Cantore (Please See It All Comes Down to Flavor on Page 8)

THE North Star MONTHLY
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The North Star Bicentennial

Sooner or later we all get interested in genealogy and history. Who came before us? Where were they from, and why did they stop where they did? And what was it really like?

I've been watching the calendar out of the corner of my eye as we closed in on January 2007. This paper was headed for an anniversary and a big one. Ebenezer Eaton first printed the *North Star* on January 8, 1807, and a bicentennial for anyone or anything is worth recognizing. It's our history, and it's this paper's genealogy.

I'd heard and I'd read the stories before, but to tell you the truth I've always been more than a little skeptical as to the one about our founder coming from Connecticut by ox-cart in 1806. As our *North Star* columnist and good friend Lorna Quimby says, "Just because it was a long time ago doesn't make them fools."

Why wouldn't Eaton have come by flatboat on the mighty Connecticut River, I thought. Those flat bottomed boats could carry 30 tons and draw less than three feet of water. Pushed by oars, poles or even sails the flatboats could go round-trip from Wells River to Hartford, CT and back in 25 days. There must have been some boatman who carried freestone, shingles, hides, potash and lumber south to Hartford and was headed back with iron, sugar, salt, rum and enough room to squeeze in a printing press and maybe even a cart and an ox-team. I know we were hardier 200 years ago, but why walk when you could ride?

We scoured the microfilm archives in the state library in Montpelier and asked everyone who we thought might have information. There must be an answer, we figured, somewhere. We found crumbs in the Fairbanks Museum archives and those of the special collections at the University of Vermont. Finally, it was the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA where we found a copy of the original paper on paper - dated January 8, 1807. We have no idea how many copies were produced on that winter day, but the population of Danville in 1807 was about 1,600, and Eaton could not have run off more than a few hundred. To cross paths with an original of the first issue of the *STAR* was a highlight in our search and a bit like tracking our DNA to the suburbs of the Garden of Eden.

Ultimately we didn't answer the question about how Ebenezer Eaton and his wife and young son came to Danville, and that's still a puzzle. We don't know if it was on foot or by some other means, but we do know the path included several years of writing and printing in New York.

We have had a great time gathering what we could and trying to imagine those first weeks in Danville. It is our history, and the trip more than made up for any disappointment from not finding exactly what we were looking for.

And so we stand in honor of our forefather Ebenezer Eaton and his vision for the *North Star* 200 years ago. This paper, as a friend and faithful subscriber correctly pointed out, is celebrating its bicentennial - "with the brief exception of a one hundred year interlude from 1889-1989." Established in 1807 and re-established in 1989. For your interest and pleasure we have provided an account of the early history as we understand it and a reproduction of that first four-page paper. Please see page 16 and our centerfold insert.

Terry Hoffer

It's a Big Job

Imagine this scene: Sistine Chapel, 1508, Pope Julius II and Michelangelo Buonarroti have just completed their job site walk-through. Michelangelo rubs his neck after staring at the expansive blank ceiling, intimidated by the massive undertaking before him and says, "Well, Your Eminence, there is a classy simplicity in a warm off-white."

Envision four and a half centuries later Edmund Hillary standing at the base of Mt. Everest. He turns to his guide and proclaims, "Tenzing, it's bloody cold, I've a pesky blister on my foot, and it's just too big a mountain. Let's pack it home."

Think where we would be without individuals such as Michelangelo and Sir Edmund who attained such monumental goals. Throughout time, individuals motivated by vision or spirit, possessing more than the usual perseverance, have proceeded note by note, word by word, step by step (as in Sir Hillary's case) to attain comparably remarkable achievements in music, literature, science and engineering. History rightly remembers these individuals. Yet, there are probably more individuals lost to history who, each making small contributions, have incrementally accomplished equally great works.

The first holiday catalog arrived in our mailbox in October. Since then, we have received a total of 27.8 pounds of holiday catalogs, and they keep coming. This is the weight of just the holiday catalogs, not the entirety of our junk mail. We are modest, at best, mail-order consumers. If I conservatively assume ours is an average number of holiday catalogs, imagine the cumulative weight of all the holiday catalogs delivered to, say, Danville. It is a job, done in small increments, that befalls our mail carriers. These men and women tote to and stuff in our mailboxes these bulky tools of commerce. Admittedly not a Sistine Chapel or Everest, nevertheless it is a big job.

I suppose mail order businesses perform a cost-benefit analysis of their catalog sales to justify this form of marketing (if ours is a typical case, not a very effective use of resources). This, however, is not my point. I celebrate the fortitude of those who get up each day and literally carry on the service of delivering the mail. Thanks for the job well done during this busy time of year.

Tim Tanner

Barack Obama for President?

Several articles in the December 10 *New York Times* suggest that the country is probably willing to elect a woman president. But they also indicate that there is considerable doubt about electing a black (or brown) president, unless he or she is like Colin Powell with considerable prestige and a record of substantial accomplishments.

On the same date, Senator Barack Obama concluded what can only be described as "triumphal" visits to Portsmouth and Manchester, NH, where 1,500 people paid \$25 each to hear and see him.

In about 18 months Democrats will choose a nominee for president. Many unexpected developments can arise in that time, and one could be that Barack would decide in January not to seek the office. If this is his decision, it will be a wise one. I like him immensely, but I would rather vote for him in 2012 or 2016.

Remembering the election of Jack Kennedy in 1960, I believe Barack is just as qualified to be president as was Kennedy. Before getting into politics, he was an innovative community organizer for two years in South Chicago, an area teeming with underprivileged blacks and poor families.

His experience at Harvard Law School is almost unbelievable to this columnist, who is also a
(Please See *Barack and Hillary* on Page 4)

THE North Star MONTHLY

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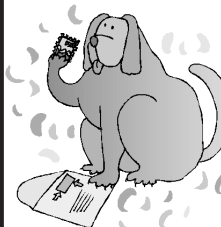
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Write to Us



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

ARTICLES: We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to your 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:

Money to Burn?

Dear North Star,

On November 8, 2006, 85 Danville voters met at the

Danville School and voted 70 to 15 to authorize the School Board to proceed with the wood chip heating system project. Eighty-five voters (5% of the registered voters) voted to spend \$1.2 million in about an hour. [See *North Star*: December 2006].
(See *Letters* on Page 4)

Committee Seeks Special Legislative Session for Vote on Centennial Exhibit

Early Morning Fire Wreaks Havoc in Danville Village



THE NORTH STAR

January 7, 1876

Proposed "Dead Head" Session - The Centennial Committee for Vermont has issued a circular to members of the Legislature asking them to agree to assemble in a "dead head" extra session to make such an appropriation as will cause Vermont to be represented at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. We see no occasion for an extra session to vote away the people's money. Times are hard, the people have taxes enough to pay now, and if anybody wants to go to the Centennial they should be allowed to do so provided they wish to pay their own expenses. If the Legislature should appropriate \$50,000 or \$100,000, which we earnestly hope they will not, it would be used up principally to pay the traveling and other expenses of a set of loafers and hangers on who haven't money enough to get there any other way. Then the crowd must have

two or three brass bands and all the drinks they need, and it is proposed to have the great mass who stay at home pay the entire expenses for a favored few. If the patriotic few in Vermont, who are running Centennial matters are not able to buy their own "hash" and "rum," we would suggest that they resign and let others be appointed. Let there be no extra session.

The year that has just closed has been a more prosperous one for the railroad companies than its predecessor, according to the American Railroad Journal. The finances of the railroads have been in a much steadier condition than previously. Few new defaults are chronicled, and railroads in good standing are still the safest customers to which our banks can lend their surplus.

Tramps now frequently arrive at our towns and villages, without a cent of money, and have to be kept over night at the expense of the town. Within the past ten or twelve days, we learn that five or six cases of this kind have occurred in Danville.

January 14, 1876

There are five Negro members of Congress. Three of them before the war were unacquainted with the alphabet and one of them served in the army and navy off and on during the late unpleasantness.

Little Charley Durget, who was kidnapped in Merianus, Florida, has been returned to his

parents. He is too young to give an explicit account of his experience, but he says he was kept in a log cabin and that the two men who stole him brought him back, put him on the doorstep and escaped unobserved. His parents are poor, but it is supposed the kidnappers believed otherwise and returned the boy when they learned that no money could be extorted.

The railways in India seem to run to bridges. A single English firm has built no less than sixteen thousand iron bridges for the Bombay, Barodo & Central India and Indian railways. The last one constructed and sent out is to have an entire length of nine thousand and sixty eight feet.

The new safe recently purchased by the Caledonia National Bank of this village was put into the vault on Tuesday. It was manufactured by Hall & Co. of Cincinnati, has the latest lock improvements and is calculated to be perfectly burglar proof. The weight is from 4,000 to 6,000 pounds and the cost was \$1,000.

January 21, 1876

Curious Lawsuit - A case has been recently tried in the Orange County court, where one man was accused of a conspiracy to thrash another at a town meeting in Orange. The affair has created a good deal of feeling in that town. It was several days on trial and over forty witnesses were examined. The jury found a verdict against both defendants for one cent damages and costs.

Fire at Northfield - The Northfield Graded School building burned to the ground last week on Thursday night; cause unknown. The fire was first discovered at 1 a.m. by the engineer of an incoming train, who gave the alarm, which soon became general. The fire when first discovered at broken out around the belfry. Both fire companies were sent out but the fire was too far under way to be stopped and efforts were directed to saving the property in the building and about it. The organ, the largest part of the cabinet and library, settees, stoves and other movable property were saved. Arrangements were made to start school in another building at an early day.

We learn that the canker rash is now quite prevalent at North Danville and vicinity, among the children. There have been one or two fatal cases

January 28, 1876

Fire in Danville - On Friday morning last, at about one o'clock, our village bells rang the alarm of fire. Mr. Chas. Baxter discovered a fire in the shoe shop of D.J. Saunders. The building was completely enveloped in flames and past all hope of saving. Soon a goodly number of citizens had assembled to help save the buildings contiguous. Mr. Pierce's shop and dwelling were cleared of their contents. The next buildings expected to burn were Dr. Woodward's drugstore and the hotel of A.H. Smith. Our

engine was brought to the scene of the fire, but the hose was found to be of insufficient length, and a dispatch was sent to St. Johnsbury for help, which call was promptly responded to by Deluge No. 2, which was conveyed to this village by special train. Dr. Woodward's store was saved, as in the meantime the wind had sprung up and turned the fire north. Here a barn and dwelling house belonging to Charles Weeks took fire. Next to this was the Masonic hall which was saved after a courageous fight and here the fire ended.

Owing to the exertions of many friends on Friday last we are again permitted to issue the STAR. This is the second narrow escape we have had from fire in the past three years. We are probably fire proof.

H.K. Haviland of this village has purchased of Chas. A. Weeks the lot of land on which his house and barn recently stood, together with a garden spot. Price \$150.

Two births and eight deaths during the year 1875 is the way the thing foots up in school district No. 26, which comprises part of this village. At this rate how long will it take to depopulate our village?

Blown Up - About three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, the boiler in W.H. Story's peg factory, in Barnet, burst. It was blown from the foundation up through the second story and out of the gable end of the building. No one was seriously injured.

THE North Star MONTHLY

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Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 2)

The estimated savings per year is \$30,000 for a system that is going to cost 1.2 million dollars. That is a 40-year payback for a heating system expected to last 30 years. The School Board is promoting this project based on the fact that "Danville would only pay 10%" and "the state" would reimburse the remaining 90%. The problem with this thinking is that the same people pay Danville taxes and State of Vermont taxes. There is no free lunch. Another unanswered question is when will the State of Vermont pay the 90%. It could be years. A lot of promises have been made by "the state" without adequate funding. In the meantime, Danville will have to pay \$48,600 interest per year on the \$1.2 million loan. This project does not add up.

The existing heating system consists of nine boilers operating in series. Six of these boilers are 26 years old, and three are 17 years old. It is estimated that 1/3 of the heat will come from the existing oil system. The efficiency of oil-fired boilers has improved greatly in the last 26 years. It makes more sense to

update what we have and not add a duplicate heating system.

I am a Lister for the Town of Danville. The Listers and the Town Clerk get the phone calls and personal visits with questions and complaints from property owners about their tax bills. Many of these come from non-residential property owners who pay a higher tax rate and have no vote on special projects or at Town Meeting.

I hope that the School Board will reconsider this project. We all want to reduce our dependence on oil, and burning wood feels good and smells good. Vermont's tax revenue per capita is one of the highest in the nation at \$3,600. Vermont does not have a tax revenue problem. The State of Vermont has a very serious spending problem that needs to be addressed. I think Vermont and Danville taxpayers are all out of money to burn.

Tim Ide
Danville

North Danville Brainerd Library

Winter:
2:00 -4:00 p.m. MWF

Barack and Hillary - What a Ticket

(Continued from Page 2)

Harvard graduate. He was elected president of the Harvard Law Review, the most prestigious position available to a qualified student.

Barack served three terms in the Illinois senate. For two of them he endured partisan Republican control of the state legislature. In his third term he had an opportunity for accomplishments when the Democrats finally took over.

Barack has written two best-selling books about his family and life. His boyhood years in Hawaii and Indonesia and tribal life in Africa were unusual and fascinating. Barack would bring to the political arena a much needed vitality and fresh optimism about the future of the United States.

In the realm of presidential politics, with hard-nosed operatives raising funds and running campaigns, charisma and blind optimism can carry a candidate only so far. Perhaps, like me, they may have serious doubts that Barack can defeat Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

She would be a formidable opponent and would not run from a bruising primary battle that could leave the party divided and hard pressed to raise money enough to finance the November election. She is presently the front-runner for the nomination and has raised a lot of money with some of her campaign staff already in place.

Perhaps the most important factor in Hillary's favor will be the presence of her husband President Bill Clinton on her team. He is one of the most astute politicians on the national scene. Just imagine the help he would provide with his contacts and experience.

Hillary is no political slouch, either. She was a president's politically active wife for eight years and is familiar with the operations of the executive department. She has served in the Congress for six years as a senator from New York and is likable and competent. Her crowd appeal is substantial, although she has made a few enemies.

If Barack were the nominee he would have to defeat the popular Senator John McCain or another worthy opponent. The negative political baggage associated with President Bush would be substantially diminished, and Republicans would no longer be burdened with an ideological approach to government.

Given the reality of the present political scene, my hope is that Hillary will be the nominee for president and Barack for vice president. There are political benefits for both. In my judgment, Barack's presence on the ticket would virtually insure a Democratic victory in November 2008 and 2012.

Without Barack, Hillary could well lose, for there is political baggage attached to her husband that could rub off on her. Many would not want to see Bill Clinton back in the White House as the principal confidante of President Hillary. Barack's presence on the ticket could dispel much of that negativism.

From Barack's point of view, as Hillary's running mate, the barriers to eventually becoming president would be removed. If Hillary loses in 2008, Barack would be first in line for the 2012 nomination at the age of 51. If Hillary wins reelection, Barack would accumulate eight years of executive department experience and be the golden candidate in 2016 at the age of 55.

If this scenario develops, a dividend for me would be to observe how closely and effectively Bill and Barack work to deal with serious world problems with which they are both familiar. Could there be better training for a future president than to work with the ex-president, while providing vision and courage to President Hillary?

A Hillary-Barack ticket would insure a peaceful Democratic primary, permitting energies and campaign funds to be devoted to the real fight in November against a Republican nominee.

My answer to the question at the top of this column is: "Not now."

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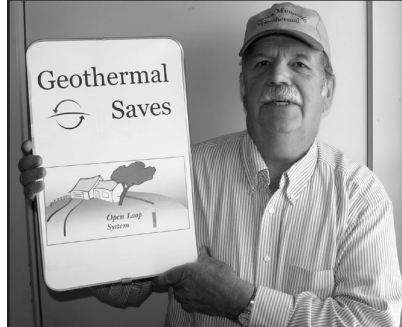


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Intolerance and Belief

On a recent trip to southwestern France I visited a part of the Languedoc, just north of Spain between Carcassonne and the Pyrénées mountains. The area has long fascinated me for the mountain top castles that seem to grow out of the rocky crags on which they are perched. Truly they are "castles in the sky." This region endured violent Crusades in the 13th century. The word "Crusades" may conjure visions of desert battles for possession of religious sites in Palestine, but there were others on French soil.

During the 12th and 13th centuries, the Catholic Church had become focused on preserving its power, aligning itself with wealthy patrons and influencing political decisions, rather than ministering to the spiritual needs of the poorer people. It was also intolerant of other religious sects, Christian and non-Christian. The Cathars were an example; their beliefs were basically Christian, and that is what they considered themselves to be, but those beliefs were tempered with less common eastern influences. Unlike Catholics, they believed in dualism: the equal existence and power of good and evil in the world; that material things and most human desires were evil; that spirituality and self-denial were good and the only pathways to everlasting spiritual life.

These beliefs were undemanding of the simple believers called credentes. They could choose greater commitment to their faith later in life, even right before death and accept their only sacrament, the consolamentum, the final demand of total self-denial. Their leaders, the Perfects or Bonshommes, (some of whom were women), led celibate lives, ate simply and abstained from meat. Many traveled with the nomadic shepherds and laborers through the mountain villages and towns spreading their faith.

The Catholic Church perceived the Cathar view of religious life, gaining in popularity among the common folk, as a threat. So the Cathars were labeled heretics by Pope Innocent III and became targets of inquisition and violent attempts at conversion. Seeing an opportunity to take political control over this independent region of France, so close to Spain and remote from Paris, King Phillip II of France readily supported the Pope's call for a Crusade against the Cathars.

Joining a Crusade was a way for soldiers and even common people to have their sins forgiven, like getting a free pass to heaven. A Crusade on home soil was an even better option than a foreign one, as less travel was involved. In 1209 in the first Albigensian Crusade, as these were named, 20,000 people were burned alive in the city of Béziers in south western France, today a thriving city of 80,000. Many of the murdered were not Cathars. The Inquisitor had told the crusaders to burn the whole population, Catholic and Cathar, "God will know His own," he was quoted as saying. Those Cathars who managed to escape retreated farther southwest and gained temporary refuge in the mountain top castles that still stand today in the rugged Pyrénées.

In 1243, 600 people in the mountain top castle of Montségur endured a 10-month siege lasting through a bitter winter. To get some idea of the conditions they suffered, visualize that the space inside the walls of that castle is smaller than half a football field. By March of 1244 the survivors were starved and bombarded into surrender. They were given 15 days by the Inquisitor to recant their beliefs, and when they refused, 205 men, women and children were burned alive at the stake in a meadow below the castle. Today a small stone memorial commemorates their brutal end. The inscription (translated) reads: To the Cathars, Martyrs for Pure Christian Love. Offerings of lavender, holly, roses and wheat lay on it when I saw the memorial. There was no monument to the Inquisitor.

I find it interesting that, though this sect seems to have disappeared into history, their beliefs, castles, legends and details of everyday life have not faded out of memory. Is this the power of a heresy at work, or is it respect for the power of the human spirit that will not bow to domineering religious and political forces that wield the evil power of intolerance?

Life has changed in many ways since the 13th century, but human nature has not. Domineering political regimes still exist, as do powerful religious groups, both claiming to have all the answers to how societies should function. The stories of the Cathars, and the results of pre-emptive war in modern times, both show that intolerance cannot destroy belief, but will drive it into hiding and strengthen it; dangerous confrontations become much more likely.

Understanding, negotiation and compromise are much better alternatives in the long run. As individuals, this is a concept for all of us to consider. Nationally, it is very relevant to how our country is perceived by others and to its place in the modern world.

Isobel P. Swartz



Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

Happy New Year from all of us at the Pope Library. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year filled with great books. As we wrap up our 2006 annual appeal we would like to thank all who have donated. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue to operate a first-rate, small town library. We are grateful for your support.

We are pleased to offer our patrons the chance to borrow our new Library ECHO Pass. Your passion for books can now translate into an astonishingly low cost admission to ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Borrow the pass, show it to the ECHO's front desk staff, and up to two adults and three youths will be admitted for just \$2 each.

Our first book discussion in the "Portraits of the Artists" series is on Wednesday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" by Tracy Chevalier. This discussion will be led by our group members. All other discussions will be led by a scholar from the Vermont Humanities Council. Books and schedules are available at the Library. We hope you will join us.

We have many new books and books on CD for your reading and listening pleasure. Some of our newest CD's are: *The Ice Queen* by Hoffman, *Hannibal Rising* by Harris, *Next* by Crichton, *The Shape Shifter* by Hillerman, *The Road* by McCarthy, *Nature Girl* by Hiaasen, *The Keep* by Egan, *Rise and Shine* by Quindlen, *Mother-Daughter Wisdom* by Northrup and *Marley and Me* by Grogan.

Our newest book acquisitions include: *The Audacity of Hope* by Obama, *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast* by Brinkley, *Jesus Land: A Memoir* by Scheeres, *Dear John* by Sparks, *The Boleyn Inheritance* by Gregory, *Brothers* by Chen, *Lisey's Story* by King and *Restless* by Boyd. Come check them out.

From the Children's Room

Story hour resumes on January 8 at 10:00 a.m. It is a fun and social time for children and their grown-ups to experience the Library, books, stories, activities and snack. Call (802) 684-2256 for details.

The children's room is also filled with new books and CD's. Some of our newest books are: *The Narnia Chronicles* by Lewis, *The Snow Globe Family* by O'Connor, *Looking for a Moose* by Root and *Acka Backa Boo! Playground Games from Around the World* by Dunn. Our newest books on CD include: *The Tale of Despereaux* by DiCamillo, *Bread and Roses, Too* by Paterson, *Amelia Bedelia Audio Collection* by Parish, *Criss Cross* by Perkins, *Gossamer* by Lowry and *The Sign of the Beaver* by Speare.

We also have new YA CD's: *Maximum Ride*, the *Angel Experiment* and *Maximum Ride, Schools Out - Forever* by Patterson.

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Everyone Wants it Faster

(Continued from Page 1)

unlike wanting 57 channels on a television, high speed Internet (as in broadband) is, some say, an "essential service" - like electricity for heat and lights and telephone service for phone calls.

Where would we be with nothing but smoke signals for transmitting messages or hand-bills for broadcasting the news?

Internet access at speeds less than broadband is just not acceptable for the applications required in competitive business, video-conferencing, sending electronic medical records and emergency telemedicine, distance learning, music downloading, off-site computer storage and all kinds of applications we can barely imagine.

There are examples for all of these applications, but let's use just one. Recently a fellow was rushed by ambulance to Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital with complications from the side effects of prescribed but conflicting medications. The emergency room personnel sus-

pected the cause of the problem, called for a CAT scan, and then, by means of telemedicine and broadband Internet access, they sent the description and visual images of the patient's condition to a specialist in Houston. In less than an hour the initial diagnosis was confirmed, the medications realigned, the problem corrected and within four hours the patient was fine. So much for smoke signals.

Broadband (that's faster than dial-up narrowband) is available in limited areas as DSL service over existing phone lines provided by telephone service providers. However, DSL has a limited range (approximately three miles beyond the last switch). The decision to run DSL service into rural communities is overshadowed by the cost (size of the investment) when compared to the benefit (potential for return) for the company. It makes more sense to invest in DSL in Newark, New Jersey than it does in Newark, Vermont.

Some businesses have turned to fiber optic connections, and they are excellent but a very expensive proposition costing as much as a thousand dollars each month.

Broadband is available at high speed by cable companies, but cable service providers typically deliver cable only along corridors that represent 18 or more potential customers per mile.

Satellite service is good, too, but the installation cost is high and the performance, especially up, from customer to the satellite, is relatively slow.

Some cellular systems have broadband options, but they depend upon a line of site to a tower and are therefore limited in mountainous areas or where the frequency of towers is still limited.

Other than satellite based systems, these all are driven by population densities greater than what most of us see out our kitchen windows in northern New England. So what?

Jon Freeman is the president of Northern Community Investment Corporation (NCIC) in St. Johnsbury. For more than 30 years NCIC has been an advocate of regional economic development in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom and the New Hampshire North Country. NCIC makes business loans where traditional banks fear to tread and gets grant funding at times to act as seed money to make things happen where private investment doesn't get the return to be found in more populated places.

Freeman understands the value of high speed communication and he cites a 2005 study by members of the faculty at MIT and at Carnegie Mellon University. The study found that advancements resulting from broadband communication access transformed business and pushed regional economies forward. Data from the study shows that "communities in which mass-market broadband was available experienced more rapid growth in employment, the number of busi-



NCIC Photograph

One beacon for wireless Internet Access, like those proposed by NCIC, was installed on a 35' utility pole on Upper Road in Plainfield, VT. Even with a switch building located at its base, the structure is inconspicuous as it transmits its high speed communication signal into the air.

nesses overall and specifically among businesses in the Internet technology sectors."

Freeman says, "We have a weakness when it comes to our communications. There are people getting Internet access over telephone systems that date to the 1920's. The phone companies have their lines on steroids. Where it's available their DSL performance is good for now, but customer expectations are growing."

Freeman and NCIC have a plan and a budget to strengthen that weakness and establish the beginning of a network that will make broadband much more widely available. The numbers are not small, but neither is the vision.

The plan is to bring high volume broadband to the St. Johnsbury Lyndon Industrial Park

and from there to Burke Mountain for relay to a network of telephone pole-like towers with beacons and repeaters. A signal in New Hampshire might be sent from a place like Cannon Mountain.

The wireless signal would be transmitted like radio or television signals and then captured at home- or business-based computers providing Internet access at speeds of 5 megabits per second (approximately 100 times faster than the old dial up connections and faster than any of the commonly available "broadband" alternatives today). Freeman says the signal will travel on a line-of-sight for about 15 miles and then repeated as necessary around corners and into the shadows of our mountains.

Freeman is cautiously hopeful. (See **Broadband** on Next Page.)

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Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



During the winter of 1951-52 I drove from the South Part of Peacham to my job at the Luce Manufacturing Company, which was located on Route 302 in Groton. The company made "household dehydrating devices" using, instead of silica gel, activated alumina. The company had a line of canisters and salt and pepper sets, all of which featured their Blue Magic© knobs. My job, which I started in August of that year, was keeping their accounts receivable. It was the first time I'd driven on snow-covered roads.

John Ashford was Peacham's road commissioner at the time. The road equipment consisted of the tractor-driven snow plow and

one truck plow. For some time, the crew began plowing during a storm instead of waiting until the snow stopped.

There was an inch or so of snow. I was driving Dad's Ford coupe, for I did not have a car of my own. I usually gave myself 15 or 20 minutes for the drive to Groton. I started in first gear - we had only three forward gears - on the gentle incline towards the woods. The tires spun, the car skidded toward the left ditch. I overcorrected and spun toward the right ditch.

I finally realized what Dad had yelled at me. "Back off the gas! Back off the gas, dammit!"

I eased off the gas pedal, shifted into second, and, wonders of

wonders, the tires took hold. Trembling with tension, I continued slowly on my way to Groton. "I'll never make it, driving like this all winter," I thought.

I learned to adjust to the driving on snow-covered roads. I slowed down long before I wanted to stop, shifted down on hills, especially Minard Hill, the killer that led to the state highway at its foot. I put on chains and took them off. And I got stuck.

Didn't that "put on chains and took them off" sound simple? In the 1950's, office workers dressed for the job. We wore nylons, skirts, blouses and cardigans. I had boots, with fake fur tops, that zipped up. The fur was supposed to keep the snow from sliding inside the boots. I'd bought myself a heavy, rough textured gray coat, a long one. In the trunk of the car, as well as chains and a shovel, I carried an old bran sack, opened to its fullest. Although I soon learned to put on chains ahead of time, sometimes when I was stuck I had to put them on in situ.

The bran sack protected my coat and knees from the snow. First I laid the sack down, then I'd kneel down to slide the chain over a rear tire, hook the outside links together. Then I'd move the sack, slide underneath the car and hook the inside links. Then I repeated

the same actions on the other tire. If you drove your car with chains on the blacktop it wore the chains. It also made a horrible racket that made your teeth ache. Besides, it wore out the chains. Another hazard was a broken section on the chain. A familiar winter sound was the "thunk! thunk!" whenever the loose section hit a fender. When I finally reached the main Peacham/Groton road, I would go through the procedure again, this time unhooking the links, sliding off the chains and driving forward until I could retrieve the chains, give them a shake and throw them into the trunk. With any luck, I could brush the snow off my coat, remove most of the same from inside my boots and find my nylons unladdered. I wasn't always lucky. Winter driving was hard on nylons.

One morning after a storm I heard the town rig go by before breakfast. "I won't have to go around, so I won't have to hurry," I said to myself. Alas, when I reached the Peacham/Groton line, I found John and his crew had neatly plowed themselves a place to turn around by the cemetery. I realized that Groton had not yet plowed its end. The road was drifted full beyond the cemetery. I had to turn around - I fully appreciated the well-cleared turnaround - and drive to South

Peacham, to the blacktop road, and on to Groton. I was late to work.

By the time spring came I realized I didn't drive all of the winter's roads at one time. Some days were clear and cold, the roads were good, and the driving was easy. Other days, wet snow had been falling all night. Three to six inches of snow filled ditches and tire tracks.

Not many people commuted at that time. Sometimes I made the tracks the mail man and the milk truck would follow. Snow banks at the sides of the roads grew higher and higher - and so did drifts when the wind blew. There was a stretch between Eddy Bailey's and our woodlot that was not traveled except for the mail man. By the time I drove home after work, his tracks would be filled and sometimes entire stretches would be drifted full. If I was lucky, chains made it possible to break a path through the drifts. Sometimes I had to shovel a track through the deepest part. I made the trip to work each day, even if I did arrive late a few times, and I managed to reach home each night.

What a feeling of accomplishment (and relief) when I finally drove into the garage, turned off the gas and realized I'd completed the trip for that day.

Broadband Is on the Way

(Continued from Page 6)

ful as to federal funding to take a big bite out of his \$6.7 million project proposal for northern New Hampshire and the \$5.5 million proposal for northeastern Vermont and for private investment to make up the rest.

He says, "We are being encouraged by people in Washington who see this important as we do. We're not talking about creating a couple of jobs here and a couple of jobs there." Freeman grins, and he says, "This could transform the area."

Wireless Internet, widely distributed and available, as Freeman projects it, at \$40 per month, will be meaningful to homeowners, first responders, fire and police services, educational and medical institutions and businesses whether they are centralized and big employers or they are like the software developer with a contract for Microsoft living on a dirt road in Newark - Vermont that is - not New Jersey.

Freeman is quick to say that

even with a flood of grant money the idea is to develop a series of pilot projects, maybe three in Vermont and three in New Hampshire. They could be in traditional economic development growth centers, and they might include places that one wouldn't normally expect. "The object," Freeman says, "is to demonstrate the functionality and the benefits of technology of this kind so that when it lights up people (and private investors) say wow."

Freeman's (and NCIC's) business is creating jobs, and, like the authors of the MIT and Carnegie Mellon study, he believes this will make a difference. "There's always the argument that another technology is coming that will be better. That may be so," he says, "but one thing we know for sure is that as software ratchets up, the hardware follows and customers and their expectations are close behind. This will make a difference wherever it goes, and that's what's important to us." ★

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It All Comes Down to Flavor

(Continued from Page 1)

says he saw the need for it in St. Johnsbury. After being a stay-at-home dad for three years, he had saved enough money to open a business of his own. Originally the location he wanted was Littleton, where he looked for suitable space, but luckily he decided to pursue a place in St. Johnsbury instead. When Gerardo's, the previous occupant of the space, went out of business, Cantore snatched the opportunity and became its new tenant within days.

His family was encouraging, specifically his father and wife. "My wife was the biggest motivation I had during the process of opening. She encouraged me and told me that she had no doubts that I could pull it off."

Cantore, who is Italian by the way, has a well-balanced background in the restaurant industry. When he was younger he worked as a prep chef in a restaurant and learned the flow of activity in the kitchen. His father was one of the original owners of the Dirt Cowboy Café in Hanover, as well as having his own restaurant. Cantore learned a great deal about marketing at Champlain College, where he graduated with an associate's degree in business. When it came to designing the kitchen and the atmosphere of his restaurant, he used skills from his experience to create a concept that he liked. On October 9 he turned on his brick ovens and opened the door for business.

"I basically jumped in head first," says Cantore. The response from the town was always a concern, but encourage-

ment from everyone quickly eliminated any doubts. Shortly after he started selling his pizzas, he began to hear positive feedback from people, sometimes by accident. "I'd be standing in White's Market or some other place in town, and I would overhear conversations. People didn't recognize me, and they would be saying right next to me, 'Have you tried that new pizza place? It's great!' So that was a big boost to my confidence."

With such feedback from the area, Cantore discovered public opinion, both the good and the bad. "It's a great way to figure out what we need to work on, or to find out what we do well."

The great majority of those who have tried Ramunto's pizza are ecstatic. People (young and old alike) from St. Johnsbury and beyond say they love it. Despite the size of the community (as compared to the other locations of Ramunto's stores like Claremont or Hanover), Cantore says he's happy with his business.

He is making more than a thousand pizzas each week and, what he calls, the "Old School approach" works well. They are recipes proven in Long Island and tested with success in Hanover. Cantore uses a revolving rack oven with shelves lined with Vermont soapstone. He uses 100% mozzarella cheese and ingredients that are nothing less than fresh.

When I spoke to Anthony Gallotto, from St. Johnsbury, he said, "I lived in the New York-New Jersey area for a long time, so I've had pizza that's the best of the best. This Ramunto's



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Vinny Cantore opened his pizza restaurant in October. A franchise of the famously popular Ramunto's of Hanover, it has developed an enormous following among pizza aficionados in St. Johnsbury and beyond.

place knows how to do it. He sells pizza by the slice as well as by the pie. That's a real pizza place. A lot of other places don't do it that way. I think it's wonderful, absolutely wonderful."

Sarah Zabek, a student at St. Johnsbury Academy, when asked what she thought of it, put it very plainly, "It is cheesy deliciousness."

Cantore, like most other businessmen, has a long day. He arrives at Ramunto's by 8 o'clock and begins his administrative duties, which include

making sure the building is in order and taking care of finances. Like any small business operator he does it all, and he is mindful of keeping an eye on his budget with a daily check of his sales and expenses. At around 9 o'clock the manager and preparation people come in, and the produce arrives.

After preparing the dough Cantore or his employees make the "house pies" at 10:30. The restaurant opens at 11, and closes finally, depending on the day of the week, at 9 or 10. Despite the

long hours and heavy work load, Cantore says there's hardly anything he'd rather do.

Vinny and his employees talk constantly about new ideas for the business. They come up with ideas for specials, as well as other menu ideas or adjustments to their work area. They don't have to keep strictly to the same guidelines as the other Ramunto's, so the menu is always being adjusted. Cantore has thought about deliveries, but he is hesitant. The insurance can be high, but the real question, of course, is whether the benefit is greater than the cost. "I didn't think I would make deliveries," he says, "but with so many customers asking for it, I might."

Cantore says that he and his 17 employees have a great understanding. "We get along and like to have a good time, but they know that when it's time to work, it's time to work. We treat each other well, and I couldn't

(See **Over a** on Next Page)

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Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

“When Money is No Object”

The real estate market has soared in the past five years and is now coming down for a landing: prices have been falling, demand waning, unsold housing stock rising. Some of this is due to the inevitable correction after such a bubble, but to a large extent, the correction was precipitated by a rise in interest rates, and specifically, mortgage rates.

The high end of the housing market, where properties sell for more than \$5 million, is still booming. Buyers in that market have diversified wealth that produces large incomes, and they do not have to worry about the cost of financing such a purchase. Mortgage rates do not affect their demand. Price does not affect their buying decision, nor, seemingly, does the eventual return on investment (which assumes that prices will keep rising past these historic highs). This is not merely market segmentation, but an entirely separate market, where demand takes an entirely differ-

ent shape.

One effect of having extreme wealth is an ability to shake loose the shackles of demand elasticity – sensitivity of consumer demand to price changes. Consumers will be sensitive to price changes, and will actually change buying behavior, when they have to be: when that price represents too significant a sacrifice. If the cost of an item consumes too much disposable income, that limits the other choices consumers have. As prices rise, for most items, consumers will simply seek out substitutes or decrease consumption, if constrained by income. In the housing market, eventually, most consumers had to be sensitive to price as, finally, demand elasticity kicked in.

There are now about 35,000 people in the United States whose net worth, excluding the value of their primary residence, is over \$30 million, according to a recent article in Barron's. While this is only about .01% or one one-hundredth of a percent of the overall population, still,

it's a lot of folks. These are people who are not going to be inhibited by sensitivity to changes in prices.

The extent and effects of income inequality in America have been studied and debated by philosophers, politicians and pundits for decades, but the debate is intensifying with our prolonged prosperity of the past 25 years. Statistics and arguments about who is creating and enjoying the tremendous increase in our national wealth (even accounting for inflation) are plentiful; and it is generally agreed that both income and wealth inequality are greater now in America than they have been in the last half-century.

Now there are consumers who are weightless, whose seemingly infinite wealth puts them beyond economics as we know it.

If the real estate markets are at all typical, we are living in truly parallel economies: in one, demand elasticity matters because incomes are finite and consumers must make choices; in the other, beyond elasticity, consumers really aren't making choices at all due to their limitless wealth.

This is not the first time in our history that we have seen dramatic increases in income and wealth inequality - the era of the Robber Barons comes to mind - but it is the first time we have seen it in our more developed, diversified and relatively transparent capitalism. This wealth is not going to be redistributed by

government fiat, by the creation of income or wealth taxes – we've already done that, and in fact, have been undoing it for the past 20 years. Nor will this wealth be wiped out in a market crash, as in the 1920's, because it is so much better diversified in our so much more transparent and liquid capital markets.

When F. Scott Fitzgerald noted that “the rich are different from you and me,” Hemingway famously quipped that “they have more money.” The numbers of them in our economy now, however, and the lack of impediments to retaining their wealth and using it to create more, suggest that they are different – and creating a substantive shift in our economy.

Our understanding of a market economy is based on the notion that buyers must make choices, and sellers must compete to be those choices. Most consumers are constrained by those laws of supply and demand, forced to make the choices and sacrifices that their finite incomes prescribe.

Now there are consumers who are weightless, whose seemingly infinite wealth puts them beyond economics as we know it. They are growing in number and in permanence, and the effects of this satellite of wealth orbiting our conventional economy – defying our economic laws of gravity – may change the way we understand our economy.

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. ★

The Missing Piece

The perfectionist would spend his waking hours trying to find the actual piece that's missing. The optimist would be sure it will turn up one day. A practical person would use a worthy substitution. The procrastinator might postpone looking for now. The realist would know every probability and the dreamer could just imagine every impossible possibility.

Paula LaRoche

Over a Thousand Pizzas Each Week

(Continued from Page 8)

ask for a better group to work with.”

Witnessing their smiles and cheerfulness firsthand, it is easy to believe they work together contentedly and effectively. Cantore's relationship with the original owners works the same way. “We have a super relationship. They're both really good guys, and if I ever have a question or a concern they're only a phone call away.”

The aroma of fine pizza lingers over many customers after the last slice of the pie is gone. The blissful taste of Italy rests on their taste buds as they look wistfully at the empty box. There is nothing better than being full of good food.

Hopefully, Vinny Cantore

and his people will stick around for a while and treat their community to good food and good times for years to come.

Adrian Duckett is a senior at Danville School writing for The North Star as part of his senior project requirement for graduation. ★



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Barbara Riley - Owner

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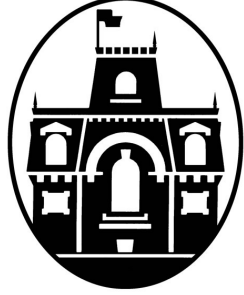
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Barb Riley Opens Frame Shop in Danville

TERRY HOFFER

"I don't want anyone to take something home from this shop and be less than satisfied." Barb Riley doesn't say that casually. She guarantees that her custom framing is satisfying as it goes out of her door and that it stays that way as it hangs on a wall in her customer's home.

Riley modestly calls herself self-taught in the business of framing, but her experience includes two years at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University, two years at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia and a degree in visual arts from Vermont College. She is a trained visual artist with a preference for pen and ink drawings, and for many years she has been responsible for the presentation and display

of her own work.

Riley, a widow, worked as a professional framer at the Ross Business Center in Wells River, and she watched the demand for her service expand. "Last year," she says, "I realized I wanted to invest in myself."

With a business plan and an encouraging banker she purchased a commercial building with a few apartments and a retail space on Central Street in Woodsville. The plan was sound, and the encouragement was helpful, but ten days after she bought the building the neighboring structure was destroyed by fire, and hers had the windows blown out and water damage totaling \$30,000 in necessary repairs.

Riley doesn't want to talk about luck, be it good luck or bad, but two weeks later she



Photos By: North Star Monthly

Barb Riley who has operated her Shadow Box Art & Framing shop on Central Street in Woodsville since October 2005, recently opened a second location on Hill Street in Danville. She provides custom framing services and sells art supplies.

opened for business, and she says that in the year that followed her business has been good. With banks, schools, and all kinds of people forming a solid customer base the Woodsville business known as Shadow Box Art & Framing has done well.

Early in the fall of 2006 Riley found that a space was available in the recently renovat-

ed Beattie block at the corner of US 2 and Hill Street in Danville. "Living in Barnet," she says, "I'd always loved Danville," and following a few phone calls Riley met with building owner Marty Beattie with an eye to opening a second location.

"Marty did a great job representing the community," she says. "He made me feel welcome and so did the other business people in the area."

In November she finished the installation of her framing studio and art supply shop in the second location, in Danville, and she has found that traffic is beating a path to her door.

"It's like having two full-time jobs," she says, with no hint whatsoever of the frazzle that one might expect from someone deep in the holiday rush of requests for custom framing.

People bring me their valuable possessions, and I just want them to think how wonderful they look when I'm finished.

- Barb Riley

Despite the flurry of activity, the Danville Shadow Box Art & Framing shop is pleasantly quiet in its business. Riley speaks thoughtfully with her customers knowing well that one customer's treasure may be the object of the next customer's disdain. "My goal," she says, "is to conserve the work of art - what-

A holiday message
from Paul Bengtson and
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The people at NVRH have found meaning and purpose in their work, and have made a huge difference to the quality of life in our region.

On behalf of the employees, volunteers, medical staff, and Board of Trustees at NVRH, I wish you a happy and safe holiday season, and a healthy new year.

Paul R. Bengtson
Paul R. Bengtson
Chief Executive Officer

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The new Shadow Box Art & Framing Shop is located on Hill Street in Danville.

Like Entering a New World

VAN PARKER

It was like entering another world when we walked into the computer store. I said to my wife that we looked like the oldest people there.

The holiday season was in full swing. Attired in red shirts and mostly in their 20's, the employees seemed friendly, businesslike and if I asked them to slow down because I was hard of hearing, they did.

The occasion was the pending purchase of a new computer. For various reasons the "old" computer (all of five and a half years old) wasn't right for us anymore. We needed to get a new printer and the printer didn't fit the computer. And besides that heavy computer was too big to haul back and forth between West Hartford, CT and Danville, VT. We needed a laptop.

So a few days later with the I Mac computer properly deprogrammed I walked out of the store with our new laptop and no idea how to use it.

It looked as though everything had changed. You couldn't

get your email the same way. It took a while to connect to the Internet and to learn how to answer emails. Our Address Book got lost, found again and then temporarily lost a second time.

For a while I couldn't understand how to answer email. All of a sudden figuring out this computer became a full time occupation. My wife was too busy doing Christmas shopping to spend much time with it. As one who never felt very competent at stuff like this I slowly discovered that it was possible to learn, even when it's a little like a toddler learning to walk. You just pick yourself up and set out again.

But not without help. One of the people who helped was Andrea, the woman at the Apple Store, who took the stuff off my old computer and put it on to the new one. Besides being encouraging she carried the old computer to the car, something definitely above and beyond the call of her duty. When I thanked her she said she was used to carrying her 2-year old son around so it was-

n't really that heavy.

Then there was my friend Lowell. One afternoon Lowell spent a good three hours explaining the mysteries of our new purchase, patiently exploring this wrinkle or that. Then he followed up with inquiries as to how it was going and offered to come back again to try to answer any other questions that might have popped up.

And there was John, a representative of "Apple Care." When I went in to the store for an appointment he sat down with me and patiently answered the list of questions I'd drawn up. I don't know what John thought, but when a new question came up he would answer, "No problem." John signed me up for an appointment the following week. "You probably want to continue with the basics," he said. I agreed.

That computer store is becoming a bit more familiar. It still seems like another world, but not as strange as it first did. Perhaps that's progress. At any rate it will be good to be in Vermont for the holidays, carrying the new laptop with us.

ever it may be. Whether it's my taste or not I want to preserve the artwork rather than try to repair it after it's damaged."

Riley says that custom framing is not for everyone. "But if someone wants to have a photocopy matted and framed, we'll talk about it. I'll suggest they consider all the possible options. But in the end ... just as you can't judge a book by its cover, you can't judge someone else's cherished artwork by your own standard." Riley will do a custom (and satisfying) job for your artwork be it a Picasso or a photocopy, and that work is guaranteed.

With her hours divided between Woodsville and Danville Riley keeps track of the shifting trends and emerging styles in her business as well as the materials required for time-

less traditions. "To be a good framer," she says, "you need an eye for styles and colors and all of the basic principles of design."

She laughs at the notion of "measure twice - cut once," and finally she says, "I measure carefully, at least twice, and I write down every detail. It's easy to make a mistake, and I don't want to spend a lot of time reworking things under my guarantee."

"People bring me their valuable possessions, and I just want them to think how wonderful they look when I'm finished." ★

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He Was Better Known as Justin Morgan

(Continued from Page 1)

David Goss' farm in St. Johnsbury. "That Stanton horse on the poster must have been a direct descendent of Justin Morgan, and there probably were others here, too," I thought. "Early Morgans in the area might make a story." And my research began.

We know that the horse known variously as Figure, Justin Morgan and the Goss Horse was owned by the Goss family of St. Johnsbury from 1804-1811, and Goss claimed to have bred him to 127 mares in a single season.

The elegant Pope Library on the Danville Green holds a hidden treasure. There on the second floor I found a four-foot bookshelf containing volumes of the *American Morgan Horse Register*, first compiled by Joseph

Battell in 1894. The *Register* has a comprehensive history of Justin Morgan, the horse that established a whole new breed and the lineage of his descendants.

The term "horse trader" took on a new meaning for me as I found in the *Register* that Justin Morgan had at least 10 different owners at various barns and pastures throughout Vermont.

Justin Morgan, was first called Figure. He was foaled in about 1789 in West Springfield, MA, probably sired by True Briton, a stallion who had been captured from British Army Colonel James Delaney. His dam was a mare owned by Mr. Justin Morgan, a school teacher who in 1788 moved north from Massachusetts to Randolph, VT. Morgan owned the colt he called Figure and took him to Randolph. That remarkably distinctive horse was known for his physical prowess and ultimately for his prepotency, the ability to stamp certain qualities on his offspring for generations.

The strong, fast, determined little horse worked, pulled and raced in the Randolph area, and the saying "Go Figure," heard even today, is alleged to have come from farmers shouting out encouragement as that horse competed against many bigger and better known horses.

By then, known as Justin Morgan after his owner, he stood

at stud on farms in central Vermont, and he came to the farm of David Goss in Goss Hollow, between St. Johnsbury and Danville, in 1804-05. The horse worked on the farm and sired many foals during his years until 1811. He was known for a time as the "Goss Horse" and sired at least 14 stallions, which were kept as studs, and they furthered the ancestral lines of distinction. Justin Morgan died in 1821 at about 32 years old. He was buried near Route 110 in Chelsea, VT.

In 1839 Samuel Jacques wrote a letter to the *New York Spirit of the Times*, which described the Goss Horse. "The Goss Morgan was the crack stallion in Vermont and that vicinity for more than 25 years, and he probably produced more foals than any horse on record. He was the sire of the famous Sherman Morgan horse, a stallion of merit, extraordinary powers and fine properties." Jacques wrote that Morgans should have "legs and muscle showing the bone and muscle of the blood horse; chest and body round, full and compact; shoulders well laid in, back short, with good coupling, neck rising prompt from the shoulders, and a good length, with a light head, well placed."

The Sherman Morgan was foaled between 1808 and 1811 in

STANTON HORSE

This Celebrated Horse

Will make the season of 1867 as follows:
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 And the remainder of the time at the Stable of the subscriber.

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The STANTON HORSE was raised, and is now owned, by W. B. Stanton, of Danville, Vt., was sired by the Wheeler Horse, of Concord, Vt., and he by the Vermont Champion or Knights Horse; his dam was a fine Morgan Mare, which makes him a superior stock Horse, as hundreds can testify who have known his stock for ten or twelve years. He weighs 1200 pounds, is jet black, sound and smooth and full of life and action. All who know the old Knights Horse cannot fail to recognize the Stanton Horse. Those who wish to improve their stock of horses will consult their interest.

TERMS: \$10 to warrant, \$5 single leap. All Mares disposed of before the usual time of foaling will be considered with foal.

WILLIAM B. STANTON, Proprietor.

NORTH DANVILLE, JUNE 8, 1867.
Union Job Establishment, Lyndon.

Courtesy of Sandra Goss

June 1867 poster advertising services of the Stanton Horse, great grandson of Justin Morgan, the namesake and progenitor of the Morgan Horse as we know it today.

Lyndon. James Sherman owned his dam. Sherman weighed 925 pounds and was famous at horse-drawing contests from Lyndon to Portland, ME, paired with a half-brother, a son of Sherman's dam.

James Sherman once drove Sherman Morgan the 120 miles from Portland to Lyndon in about 10 hours. Later the horse was owned by John Buckminster of Danville. Sherman Morgan sired 27 foals in 1833 and in 1834 had 57 "patrons." He died in 1835.

One of Sherman Morgan's male offspring was the Vermont Morgan Champion (foaled in 1826, died in 1848). His dam was Fanny Ann, a full-blooded English mare. He was sold to Colburn Knight of Concord, VT in 1830 and became known as the Knights Horse. He is described in the *Register* and was called one of the best sons of Sherman Morgan.

The Knights Horse sired the Wheeler Horse of Concord, who was owned by S. W. Wheeler of St. Johnsbury. It was the Wheeler Horse who sired the Stanton Horse (foaled 1845-46, died 1873). He was always owned by William B. Stanton of Danville, weighed 1,200 pounds and was jet black. His dam was a Morgan mare, fathered by the Batchelder Horse, a son of Sherman Morgan. This inbreeding was common as horse owners sought to preserve the best qualities of Justin Morgan. So the Stanton Horse was a great-great-grandson and also a great-grandson of Justin Morgan, and my hunch was right.

We know that the horse known variously as Figure, Justin Morgan and the Goss Horse was owned by the Goss family of St. Johnsbury from 1804-1811, and Goss claimed to have bred him to 127 mares in a single season. His

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Photo Courtesy of Maurice Chandler

Knox Morgan was owned by Frank G. Chandler of Peacham and became famous at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

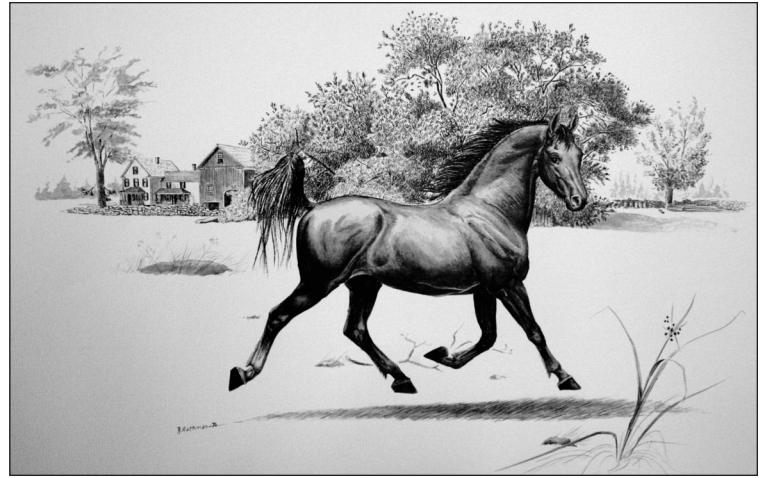
day.

Vermont Morrill (foaled 1850, died 1872) was related to Old Morrill. His dam was said to be by Sherman Morgan. John Way took Vermont Morrill to Northfield, MN in 1855 where he was recognized as the first Morgan stallion in Minnesota from Vermont.

Records show that as the art and practice of breeding Morgans grew more popular, and as the value of their colts and fillies rose some of the best were attracting a price of a thousand dollars or more, and it was not at all unusual for high value Morgans to leave Vermont as part of the westward expansion.

Knox Morgan, for instance, owned by Frank G. Chandler of Peacham became famous at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Knox Morgan was the Grand Champion over nine other Morgan stallions at the World's Fair and seems to have spent at least some of his later years in Illinois.

The *Peacham Patriot* of summer, 2000 featured an article by Lorna Quimby, who described Knox Morgan and his owners. His blood showed "seven points directly and seven points indirectly back to Justin Morgan." Knox Morgan's pedigree is among



Reproduction of Drawing Courtesy of Robin Rothman

This pen and ink drawing by Robin Rothman is based upon written history of Old Morrill Morgan and the farm owned by French Morrill of North Danville.

descendants were hardly uncommon in the fields of the Northeast Kingdom.

Weasel (foaled 1806) was another local son of Justin Morgan. He was called the Fenton Horse because he was owned by Richard W. Fenton of the Fenton Stoneware Factory in St. Johnsbury. The Fenton Horse probably sired a few colts, but there are no records showing that any were kept as stud horses.

Bulrush Morgan (foaled in 1812 or 1813, died 1848) was another famous stallion sired by Justin Morgan. He was owned by Ziba Gifford of Tunbridge and

was the progenitor of a long line of great trotters. One of Bulrush Morgan's sons was Randolph Morgan (foaled 1820, died 1846), also known as Little Randolph and by other names as well. He, too, was owned for a time by John Buckminster of Danville.

Randolph Morgan was the sire of the Jennison Colt (foaled 1841) who fathered the colt to be known as Old Morrill (foaled 1843, died 1862). Old Morrill weighed 1,225 pounds and stood 15 3/4 hands high when full grown. He was owned by French Morrill of Danville and was described as one of the fastest stallions of his

thousands in the *Register*.

The Morgan blood became diluted by the early 1900's. The Morgan Horse Club was organized at the Vermont State Fair in 1901 as a means to preserve the ancient Morgan type that had been so prominent in the state. Members of the Morgan Horse Club included E. A. Somers of Barnet, F. G. Chandler of Peacham, Edwin H. Hoffman of Lyndonville, C. W. Howland of West Burke and F. H. Orcutt and J. B. Jenkins of East Burke. Prizes were given at that 1901 Fair to horses that conformed to the ancient Morgan type.

One hundred and thirty seven Morgans were entered at the Vermont State Fair in 1911. That was called the "greatest exhibition of Morgans since the great show at Rutland in 1852." One hundred and eighty eight Morgans were entered in 1912, and advocates of the distinctive Morgan line agreed that it had been saved.

There were more than 7,500 registered Morgans in the United

States by 1956, and today there are about 95,000. The National Museum of the Morgan Horse is in Shelburne, adjacent to the Shelburne Museum, and the busy offices of the Morgan Horse Club are nearby.

Genealogists seeking relief from the study of their own ancestors might wish to visit the Pope Library and immerse themselves in equine genealogy. They will find that tracking their own ancestors is quite easy when compared to the tangled web of Justin Morgan's offspring.

Morgans are still one of the favorite saddle, family and endurance breeds in America. In 1961 the Vermont legislature designated the Morgan Horse as the official state animal, and many descendants of the rugged little stallion, who belonged to Justin Morgan of Randolph, stand today as members of the family that emerged from the Goss farm in St. Johnsbury. The horse could outdraw, outrun, outwalk and outtrot any other in the area. ★

Community of Concern Seeks Nominees for Volunteer Heroes Award

The Community of Concern is an organization that celebrates goodness in the Northeast Kingdom. One of its primary events is the annual Community Heroes award banquet. Last year 12 people were honored for unselfish volunteer work performed over multiple years in the Northeast Kingdom.

"It was heartening to see people recognized for service that seemingly went unnoticed," says Bruce Burk, the coordinator of the Community of Concern. "People whose names normally do not make the newspaper were very appreciative of being honored in front of 350 people. It was a very special evening."

Food for the dinner was prepared by students who had completed the Cooking for Life program sponsored by Vermont Blue Cross, The Community of

Concern, and St. Johnsbury Academy.

This year's banquet is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 23 on the campus of St. Johnsbury Academy. Once again Vermont Blue Cross will sponsor the Cooking for Life program. The selection committee will accept nominations for honorees this year starting Monday, January 15, 2007. You can send

your nominations to Bruce Burk, at bburk@stjacademy.org (802) 751-2025 or to Sarah Garey at sgarey@stjacademy.org or (802) 748-7718. Please include as much information as you can as to why the person you have selected is being nominated. This award is for individuals and not for groups.

Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, January 28
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Ride or Drive: Off Main Corridor 2 and follow the signs to the Danville School Cafeteria. Everyone is welcome. Takeout available.

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Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery Hosts "2 For 1" Show - Painting by Ann Young from Barton

Barton artist Ann Young, has devised a clever method of consolidating space while traveling and painting - painting that is on both sides of her canvas. In this case her canvas is a small board, 6 inches x 8 inches, and this body of work, begun a year ago, is called the Pochade Project. (A pochade is a small sketch on board) Her show, "2 For 1" at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild in St. Johnsbury, from January 13 through February 20,

includes approximately 50 pochades. Most of Young's subjects are landscapes, painted wherever she happened to be - Vermont, the Pacific Northwest or Mexico.

Young says, "Anyone who acquires one of my oil paintings, gets two for the price of one. They are hung in such a way that they can be turned over at the whim of the viewer."

Since 1970 Young, a graduate of Rhode Island School of

Design, has been widely recognized as a sculptor, first sculpting fine porcelain miniatures and, as of the past 13 years, whimsical figures of wood. But after decades of thinking that she ought to be painting, she finally began her exploration in 2001. And a prolific journey it has been..." in an effort to develop an easy and relaxed style, I have been painting at least one tiny (6" x 8") landscape on board every day, whether I am at home or somewhere else in the world. I have accumulated hundreds of these and am currently showing them at several venues in northern Vermont."

As well as landscapes Ann enjoys painting people and animals. "I like to capture people in snapshot-like poses in which the viewer is left not quite knowing what the subjects are doing or

thinking." She places her people in abstracted realistic settings or in surroundings that offer only a vague indication of ground and atmosphere.



Painting by: Ann Young

In addition to her shows at Studio Place Arts (SPA) in Barre from March 6 to April 14 and at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild at 430 Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury, Ann Young's work can be viewed online at annyoungart.com

Cobleigh Public Library Lyndonville

Monday: Noon - 5 p.m.; Tuesday: Noon - 7 p.m.
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Thursday: Noon - 7 p.m.; Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

the ARTS around

January

- 4 Hunter Paye, Middle Earth Music, Bradford
- 4-5 Stephen Petronio Company, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 5 The Glengarry Bhoys, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 5-11 *Borat* (2006, US) [R] Director: Larry Charles. *Borat* is a satirical Kazakh journalist caricature invented and portrayed by Sacha Baron Cohen. In *Borat* he zigzags across the U.S. meeting people in real situations. With consequences that are hysterical his backwards behavior exposes a multitude of prejudices and hypocrisies in American culture. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 6 The Ruthless Geezers, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 6 Stephen Petronio Dance Company, New music, visual art and fashion collide, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 11 Cheryl Wheeler, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 12 Session Americana with Bow Thayer and Jabe Bever, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 12 Emerson String Quartet, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 12 Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia presents Mermaid Theater and Swimmy, Frederick and Inch by Inch, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 12-18 *The Queen* (2006, US) [PG-13] Director: Stephen

- Fears. A deeply affecting, dramatic glimpse into what happens in the corridors of power when tragedy strikes. Setting for this fictional account of events is the private chambers of the Royal Family and the British government in the wake of the sudden death of Princess Diana in 1997. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 12-13 Miguel Gutierrez & The Powerful People, Dancers move through this daring choreography which confronts the audience and tests performance limits, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 13 Nobby Reed, Middle Earth Music, Bradford
- 13 McCoy Tyner Trio, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 13 *Amitie* (2006, US) [NR] Directed by Ben Youngbaer. Local director Ben Youngbaer has gathered a talented group of performers for this story about three young people whose lives come together in unexpected ways. Characters and music performed by actors and musicians from Plainfield, Marshfield and Cabot. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 14 Northeast Kingdom Classical Series: Bernard Rose, pianist; St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8012.
- 18 The Anarchist Orchestra, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 18 Bang on a Can All-Stars with Iva Bittová, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
- 19 Tony Trischka Double Banjo

- Spectacular introducing The Toughcats, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 19-25 *Catch a Fire* (2006, UK) [PG-13] Director: Phillip Noyce. Before the real-life Patrick Chamusso became one of the African National Congress's most respected leaders, he was an easygoing foreman at a South African refinery, where he had to swallow apartheid's daily humiliations in order to provide for his family. All this changed when he was falsely accused of setting off a bomb at the refinery. Arrested and interrogated he becomes radicalized. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 23 The State Ballet Theatre of Russia presents Cinderella, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 25 Sweet Honey in the Rock, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 26 Louisiana Keyboard Commotion - Buckwheat Zydeco and Marcia Ball, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 26 - February 1 *Bobby* (2006, US) [R] Director: Emilio Estevez. Bobby revisits the night Robert Kennedy was gunned down at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, in 1968. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 26 Bow Thayer & The Perfect Train Wreck, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 27 Tanglefoot, Middle Earth Music, Bradford.
- 27 Plena Libre, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.

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- Mother Teresa from "My Life for the Poor"

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Come to the Table

Denise Brown



The passing of another year is not at heart a joyful event to a woman in her 40's. Trust me on this. Years can be savage things; they propagate like ivy snaking across the shingles on the far end of the house. They etch themselves unkindly on the face. On the whole, they don't do much good for the rest of the body either.

In short, years stink.

The contents of my bathroom cabinet attest to just how willing I am to devote time and money to halting the march of time. Occasionally I tell myself it's working. If the lighting and company are both forgiving, and I don't have to read a menu, I can pass for a little younger. Under the noonday sun, though, the results of all the night creams and day gels and tightenings and toners and purifiers are at best a mixed bag.

Which brings us to New Year's Eve, the celebration of another year gone by. Why do we do this? Why such a lather over Auld Lang Syne? It's a little like holding a party for a plague or applauding the brave but equally doomed orchestra as the Titanic goes under.

And yet, as holidays go, New Year's Eve is one of my favorites. There's no gift exchange, no obligatory decorating and no need to bemoan Aunt Elma's eczema while passing around the table the last of the broccoli casserole. After the onslaught of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, that's a blessing.

I don't go in for parties or for silly hats and shotguns blasting at midnight. I like a quiet evening with someone special. A good dinner out or a better dinner in. I look forward to New Year's Eve as much for what it ends as for what it portends. No matter how bright a year has been,

there's always something well worth bidding good-bye and good riddance.

And there's always the hope that the year to come will be better, and that we ourselves will be better still. With no reservoir of perky self-restraint to tap, I'm not a resolution sort of girl, as a rule. But this year, I'm adopting a few suggestions for improvement. In the interest of full disclosure, what follows is the printable list:

2007

Statements of Intent

This year, I will eat more chocolate. I will eat more ice cream. I will eat more fiber, too. Though not necessarily at the same time. I will not devise a recipe for Frozen Cocoa Crème de Flax Seed.

This year, I will plant a beautiful garden, even if it's inevitable that by the end of July the weeds will have completely done me in. And one lovely summer evening, I will open a bottle of Pinot Noir and serve my friends a fresh tomato and basil salad plucked from my own backyard as we celebrate something important, such as the purchase of a new pair of sunglasses or the fact that the word "ostrich" has an "r" in it.

This year, I will worry less about the lines under my eyes and those couple of extra pounds. And while I will do what I can to keep from gaining more of either, I will not become a walking episode of "Extreme Makeover." I will not permit some newly-degreed Dr. Kildare in surgical scrubs to stitch up my slackening face like a recycled quilt. I will not fly to an unregulated foreign clinic for a Brazilian Butt Lift.

This year, I will try to be con-

tent in my own skin.

Having said that, I will not surrender to gray hair. This year, however, I will avoid home dyeing kits designed chiefly to turn a woman's head a color not found in nature, thereby embarrassing my children. One ought never hear, "Mom, why is your hair neon tangerine?" except perhaps at the end of October.

This year, I will read more books and bake more bread and mull over in my mind just a little less the news on NPR.

And speaking of bread, this year, I will perfect the baking of ciabatta and always have on hand a very fine extra virgin olive oil in which to dip it.

This year, I will adopt a form of exercise other than pacing.

This year, I will buy flowers for no reason.

This year, I will buy myself a birthday present, and it won't be a sweater.

This year, I will say "No" when necessary and not feel guilty about it later. I'll say "Yes" when I want, and not feel guilty about that, either. Well, I'll try.

This year, I will be frivolous now and then. I will cultivate an air of joi de vivre. I will try not to insist that all spontaneity be scheduled well in advance and announced with a Post-It on the refrigerator.

This year, I will keep up the house, without keeping up with the Jones. Which means I will clean out a few closets and have a little work done on the decrepit upstairs bathroom before the floor rots and the toilet falls through to the kitchen.

This year, I might even dust.

And this year, I will be grateful for all that I have. I will love. I will hope. I will pray. I will try

to make my small corner of the world a more peaceful and beautiful place.

Happy New Year, everyone. Good health and happiness to you all.

Menu for the Morning After

As much as I enjoy New Year's Eve, the day that follows can feel a bit empty. The streets are deserted; the storefronts are dark. I'm a little jaded for parades with bloated balloon characters and Snow White waltzing down the avenue, and a televised football game is simply an opportunity to rearrange a sock drawer. As is often the case in life, salvation awaits in the kitchen.

Heart-friendly Crepes with Berries and Yogurt

- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup low fat milk
- ½ cup egg substitute
- 2 tablespoons sugar, plus ¼ cup for berries
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- 1 cup or more fresh berries of choice
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice, or 1 tablespoon orange liqueur
- 1 to 1½ cups low fat vanilla yogurt
- Confectioner's sugar for dusting

About one half hour before serving, wash, hull and halve if necessary the berries. A mixture is delicious, but fresh is essential. Sprinkle with lemon juice or

liqueur, and toss lightly with ¼ cup sugar. Cover and set aside to macerate at room temperature.

Why do we do this? Why such a lather over Auld Lang Syne?

To make the crepes, whisk the egg substitute, milk, salt and vanilla together. Slowly whisk in the flour and 2 tablespoons sugar. Mix just until smooth. Heat a crepe pan or heavy non-stick 8-inch frying pan over medium heat. Spray with non-stick cooking spray. Pour in about ¼ cup of the mixture and quickly turn the pan from side to side to cover the bottom evenly. Allow to cook until bottom of crepe is slightly brown and the top is dry. Remove from pan — a flexible spatula works well. Repeat with remaining batter, keeping cooked crepes warm in a low oven if desired, or cover with a clean tea towel. Crepes cook quite quickly.

To assemble, spread 2 to 3 tablespoons yogurt down the middle or just off center of each crepe. Top with berries and a little juice, and roll up or fold. Sprinkle with confectioners sugar.

Serve with coffee, fennel-rich turkey sausage perhaps, orange juice or mimosas, if there's champagne in the fridge. Enough for two. Makes a lovely dessert as well.

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North Star Celebrates 200 Years

Ebenezer Eaton - First Printer and Editor of the STAR

TERRY HOFFER

Isaiah Thomas was one of the great instigators responsible for rousing the people of Massachusetts to resist British rule and follow the light of independence.

The price of a weekly subscription was set at one dollar and fifty cents per year, but wheat, corn, butter, cheese, tallow, wool, flax, wood, even rags would be taken in consideration of partial payment.

In the broad sense, the American Revolution lasted for more than a century-and-a-half from the time that permanent settlers waded onto the shores of the New World as the Promised Land to the 1783 Treaty of Paris when the British formally recognized the United States. But tension between the British and

Americans passed the boiling point on March 5, 1770 when 10 British soldiers were attacked and provoked to fire into a crowd of townspeople. Eleven Americans were wounded or killed, and tempers were sizzling. Known as the Boston Massacre, the date was a patriotic holiday until 1776 when the more glorious Fourth of July took its place.

Isaiah Thomas was born into poverty in Boston in 1749. The family was in such dire straits that the Overseers of the Poor found work for 6-year-old Thomas as a printer's apprentice. Apparently he learned well, and by his teens he was managing the print shop and recognized as an outstanding printer. Like many, Thomas imagined wider horizons, and he dreamed of greater opportunities. He left the printing business and his mentor in Boston and struck out first for Nova Scotia and then for South Carolina. By 1770 he was back in Massachusetts.

At 21 Thomas established the *Massachusetts Spy*, the first newspaper written for middle class readers, and with it he rallied support for the cause of independence. He was allied with John Hancock, Paul Revere and other revolutionaries, and later he wrote of "the honor of being included with Hancock and Samuel Adams in a list of 12 who

were to be summarily executed when captured."

Although British soldiers paraded outside the Boston office of the *Spy* and threatened Thomas with tarring he was determined to continue the use of his press to undermine British authority. Just three days before the Battle of Lexington and Concord, on April 16, 1775, Thomas packed up his press, his type and his paper and fled to Worcester. There he continued printing and publishing eyewitness accounts of the war.

Through the War the *Spy* suffered financially as the number of subscribers dropped from 3,500 to 200, but Thomas recovered and prospered as an entrepreneur, printer and bookseller. He served as postmaster, built a paper mill and bindery and he assembled a publishing empire with 16 presses divided between Worcester and Boston. He owned bookstores in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Maryland.

It was into this distinctive and historical setting that a young man from Connecticut walked about 1797. He was Ebenezer Eaton.

Eaton was born on March 6, 1777 in Mansfield, CT the youngest of 11 children born to Nathaniel Eaton Jr. and Sara Johnson. He worked as an apprentice in Worcester with the distinguished patriot Isaiah Thomas and with his son Isaiah Thomas Jr., and then for a year or so Eaton worked as a printer in Boston.

Eaton married Dolly Alden of Greenwich, MA [a town now under the great Quabbin reservoir], and in January 1800 they had a son they named William. Like Isaiah Thomas before him, Eaton imagined better opportunities in other places, and he and his family moved to Geneva, NY where he started a newspaper supporting the cause of democracy. Acceptance of the paper fell short of his dreams, and Eaton aban-

doned the effort. The family moved again to Albany where Eaton worked for Solomon Southwick, a partner in, and later editor of, the *Albany Register* and a member of another family of activists in the Revolutionary War. In the fall of 1806 the Eatons set forth once more, this time for Danville in northern Vermont. *

There is no evidence as to exactly why or how the Eatons came to Danville, but Vermont was a young state of 15 years, and shipping by flatboat between Hartford, CT and Wells River was fueling a smoldering economy in northern New England. St. Johnsbury was growing around the confluence of the Passumpsic, the Moose and the Sleepers Rivers as was Lyndon to the north. But by virtue of its geographic position in the county, and surely political pressure from its swelling population, Danville was named the shire town of Caledonia County in 1796. [The 1800 census shows Danville with a population 1,514. There were 651 in St. Johnsbury at the time and 542 in Lyndon. The State of Vermont was home to 153,608.]

Eaton may have heard that there was room for a progressive newspaper in Caledonia County, and with that in mind he found his way to Danville. He quickly garnered support of the community and was encouraged by people with names like Badger, Brainerd, Currier, Dole, Hartshorn, Kittredge, Langmaid, Morrill, Morse, Palmer, Pope and Webster. The first issue (Vol. 1 No. 1) of the *North Star*, known affectionately as the *STAR*, appeared on January 8, 1807.

Ebenezer Eaton, the editor and printer, promised to "advocate the true principles of Republican Freedom - to support the constitution, union and laws of the country and, if possible, to instill into the bosom of disaffection itself a belief that America, under her present happy form of



Portrait Courtesy of Steve Burt of Poughkeepsie, NY and Utica Historical Society.

Copy of portrait found with material from Ebenezer Eaton's early career in New York and labeled clearly "Mr. Eaton." Portrait is presumed to be that of Ebenezer Eaton made, however, later in his life than during the time he was a printer in New York.

government, contrasted with other nations, in a moral, physical or political view, stands highly preeminent."

Because the *STAR* was printed one sheet at a time by Eaton's own hand a notice on the front page asked that requests for subscription be conveyed to the office or to the postmaster, William A. Griswold, such that the number of copies to be printed could be ascertained in advance. There were no introductory press runs to blanket the area with free samples - and no promises of coffee mugs or tote bags. There was one deal. The price of a weekly subscription was set at one dollar and fifty cents per year, however wheat, corn, butter, cheese, tallow, wool, flax, wood, even rags would be taken in partial consideration of payment.

At the time, Thomas Jefferson was president of the United States, and the country had agreed to the Louisiana Purchase. That one great stroke of foreign diplo-

(Please turn to Page 17)

In 1812, Isaiah Thomas used his considerable wealth to establish a society dedicated to preserving the "literature of liberty" - the newspapers, broadsides, books, pamphlets and letters that had shaped public opinion during the revolutionary period. Thomas donated his own private collection and library as well as a generous endowment. Then he personally visited newspaper offices and purchased as many back issues as he could. He believed that newspapers were the single best records of the thoughts and actions of the common people - the people who made the revolution a success.

Located in Worcester, MA Isaiah Thomas' American Antiquarian Society is considered the most complete private collection of American printed works through 1876 and a lasting tribute to one man's passion and his faith in the power of the printed word.

From its files we have reprinted the January 8, 1807 *North Star*, courtesy of the American Antiquarian Society.



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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.

NORTH STAR.

DANVILLE, (VERMONT) THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1807.

[No. 1.]

Vol. I.]

TO THE PUBLIC.

IN compliance with former engagements, the Editor and Printer now offers to the perusal of his respected patrons, the first number of the *NORTH STAR*.

To amuse and instruct, to disseminate useful intelligence, which according to an appropriate axiom is the "life of liberty," and to enlarge the circle of human felicity, is the professed object of this kind.—To comment long upon the utility of an undertaking, designed to inculcate morality, to enlighten community in the best interests of our own state and country, and thereby perpetuate the blessings of liberty and independence, we deem useless and nugatory. In an age like the present, and in a country like ours, a printer (not like the hireling of a monarch) can with conscious rectitude heartily support and advocate the principles of a government and its administration, founded and cherished by the wisdom of a free people and with a rational confidence look for their support.

To view a nation like ours, within so short a period rising from a state of colonial dependence, to the distinguished rank she now holds among the nations of the earth; progressing in all the arts of civilized life; under the kind auspices of peace and plenty, must be a theme of joy, as well as wonder, to every patriot and friend of his country.

The uniform object of the Editor in the management of the *Star*, will be to advocate the true principles of *Republican Freedom*—to support the constitution, union and laws of our country, and if possible, to instill into the bosom of disaffection itself a belief that America, under her present happy form of government, contrasted with other nations, in a moral, physical or political view, stands highly pre-eminent—to exemplify which, a recurrence need only be had to the *PRESIDENT'S* last Message, from which we learn the prosperous state of our finances, the conciliatory aspect of most of the foreign powers towards us, and the rising wealth and greatness of the United States.

The Press has been justly styled the "paladin of civil liberty," and when conducted with a strict regard to candor and truth, serves as a powerful corrector of the vices and corruptions of the people; but when its columns are devoted to low scurrility, public or private slander, it always will and ought to carry with it its own antidote—namely, the conductor will experience the execration of every honest man, and the total discountenance and discredit of his patrons.

With an unequivocal declaration, that unjust personalities will in all instances be avoided, and strict impartiality observed, the Editor assures the public, that the most careful attention will be given to the selection of foreign and domestic occurrences, which at the present alarming crisis of affairs in Europe and important incidents at home, will prove highly interesting. Congressional proceedings, moral, scientific, agricultural and commercial topics, will find a ready admission into the columns of the *Star*.

Literary communications of a moral or political nature, whether original or selected, whose composition merits attention, will be thankfully accepted, and receive an early insertion.

The Editor and Printer hopes he shall enjoy, and earnestly solicits the patronage of an enlightened community; and being conscious that his printing apparatus is excelled by none in this state—every application in the line of printing, will be performed with fidelity, neatness and dispatch, and gratefully acknowledged.

By the public's humble servant,
EBENEZER EATON.

Gentlemen who hold subscriptions for this paper, are requested to forward them by the first conveyance to this Office, or to WILLIAM A. GRISWOLD, Esq. Post-Master, that the number of papers necessary to be printed may be ascertained.

CONDITIONS

OF THE

NORTH STAR.

PRICE to Subscribers, delivered at the Office, one dollar and fifty cents per annum—paid semi-annually.

Subscribers, who receive their papers at the office by companies, one dollar and twenty-five cents—paid weekly.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

TUESDAY, Dec. 2, 1806.

AT twelve o'clock this day, THE PRESIDENT was pleased to communicate the following

MESSAGE.

To the SENATE,
and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES, &c.

IT would have given me, Fellow-Citizens, great satisfaction to announce, in the moment of your meeting, that the difficulties in our foreign relations, existing at the time of your last separation, had been amicably and justly terminated. I lost no time in taking those measures which were most likely to bring them to such a termination, by special missions, charged with such powers and instructions as, in the event of failure, could leave no imputation on either our moderation or forbearance. The delays which have since taken place in our negotiations with the British Government, appear to have proceeded from causes which do not forbid the expectation, that during the course of the session, I may be enabled to lay before you their final issue. What will be that of the negotiations for settling our differences with Spain, nothing which had taken place, at the date of the last dispatches, enable us to pronounce. On the western side of the Mississippi she advanced in considerable force, and took post at the settlement of Bayou Pierre, on the Red river. This village was originally settled by France, was held by her as long as she held Louisiana, and was delivered to Spain only as a part of Louisiana. Being small, insulated, and distant, it was not observed at the moment of re-delivery to France and the United States, that she continued a guard of half a dozen men, which had been stationed there. A proposition, however, having been lately made by our commander in chief, to assume the Sabine river as a temporary line of separation between the troops of the two nations, until the issue of our negotiations shall be known; this has been referred by the Spanish commandant to his superior, and in the mean time he has withdrawn his force to the western side of the Sabine river.—The correspondence on this subject, now communicated, will exhibit more particularly the present state of things in that quarter.

The nature of that country requires indisputably that an unusual proportion of the force employed there should be cavalry. In order therefore that the commanding officer might be enabled to act with effect, I had authorized him to call on the Governors of Orleans and Mississippi, for a corps of five hundred volunteer cavalry or mounted infantry. The temporary arrangements he has proposed may perhaps render this unnecessary. But I inform you, with great pleasure, of the promptitude with which the inhabitants of those territories have tendered their services in the defence of their country. It has done honor to themselves, entitled them to the confidence of their fellow-citizens in every part of the Union, and must strengthen the general determination to protect them efficaciously under all circumstances which may occur.

Having received information, that in another part of the United States a great number of private individuals were combining together, arming and organizing themselves, contrary to law, to carry on a military expedition against the territories of Spain, I thought it necessary, by proclamation, as well as by special orders, to take measures for preventing and suppressing this enterprise, for seizing the vessels, arms, and other means provided for it, and for arresting and bringing to justice its authors and abettors. It was due to that good faith which ought ever to be the rule of action in public as well as in private transactions; it was due to good order and regular government, that, while the public force was acting strictly on the defensive, and merely to protect our citizens from aggression, the criminal attempts of private individuals, to decide for their country, the question of peace or war, by commencing active and unauthorised hostilities, should be promptly and efficaciously suppressed.

Whether it will be necessary to enlarge our regular force, will depend on the result of our negotiations with Spain. But as it is uncertain when that result will be known, the provisional measures requisite for that end, to meet any pressure intervening in that quarter, will be a subject for your early consideration.

The possession of both banks of the Mississippi reducing to a single point the defence of that river, its waters, and the country adjacent, it becomes highly necessary to provide for that point, a more adequate security. Some position above its mouth commanding the passage of the river, should be rendered sufficiently strong to cover the armed vessels, which may be stationed there for defence; and, in conjunction with them, to present an insuperable obstacle to any force attempting to pass.

The approaches to the city of New-Orleans, from the eastern quarter also, will require to be examined, and more effectually guarded. For the internal support of the country, the encouragement of a strong set-

tlement on the western side of the Mississippi, within the reach of New-Orleans, will be worthy the consideration of the legislature.

The Gun-Boats, authorised by an act of the last session, are so advanced, that they will be ready for service in the ensuing spring. Circumstances permitted us to allow the time necessary for their more solid construction. As a much larger number will still be wanting to place our sea-port towns and waters in that state of defence to which we are competent, and they entitled, a similar appropriation for a further provision of them is recommended for the ensuing year.

A further appropriation will also be necessary for repairing the fortifications already established, and the erection of such other works as may have real effect in obstructing the approach of an enemy to our sea-port towns, or their remaining before them.

In a country whose constitution is derived from the will of the people, directly expressed by their free suffrages, where the principal Executive Functionaries, and those of the Legislature, are renewed by them at short periods, where under the characters of jurors, they exercise in person the greatest portion of the Judiciary powers, where the laws are consequently so formed and administered as to bear with equal weight and favor on all, restraining no man in the pursuits of honest industry, and securing to every one the property which that acquires, it would not be supposed that any safeguards could be needed against insurrection, or enterprise, on the public peace or authority. The laws, however, aware that these should not be trusted to moral restraints only, have wisely provided punishment for these crimes when committed. But would it not be salutary to give also the means of preventing their commission.

Where an enterprise is meditated by private individuals, against a foreign nation, in amity with the United States, powers of prevention, to a certain extent, are given by the laws. Would they not be as reasonable, and useful, where the enterprise preparing is against the United States?—While advertent to this branch of law, it is proper to observe, that in enterprises meditated against foreign nations, the ordinary process of binding to the observance of the peace and good behavior, could be extended to acts to be done out of the jurisdiction of the United States, would be effectual in some cases, where the offender is able to keep out of sight every indication of his purpose which could draw on him the exercise of the powers now given by law.

The states on the coast of Barbary seem generally disposed at present to respect our peace and friendship. With Tunis alone, some uncertainty remains. Persuaded that it is our interest to maintain our peace with them on equal terms, or not at all, I propose to send in due time a reinforcement into the Mediterranean, unless previous information shall shew it to be unnecessary.

We continue to receive proofs of the growing attachment of our Indian neighbors, and of their disposition to place all their interests under the patronage of the U. States. These dispositions are inspired by their confidence in our justice, and in the sincere concern we feel for their welfare. And as long as we discharge these high and honorable functions with the integrity and good faith which alone can entitle us to their continuance, we may expect to reap the just reward in their peace and friendship.

The expedition of Messrs. Lewis and Clark, for the exploring the river Missouri, and the best communications from that to the Pacific Ocean, has had all the success which could have been expected. They have traced the Missouri nearly to its source, descended the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, ascertained with accuracy the geography of that interesting communication across our continent, learnt the character of the country, of its commerce and inhabitants; and it is but justice to say, that Messrs. Lewis and Clark, and their brave companions, have, by their arduous services, deserved well of their country.

The attempt to explore the Red River, under the direction of Mr. Freeman, though conducted with zeal and prudence meriting entire approbation, has not been equally successful. After proceeding up it about six hundred miles, nearly as far as the French settlements had extended, while the country was in their possession, our geographers were obliged to return without completing their work.

Very useful additions have also been made to our knowledge of the Mississippi, by Lieut. Pike, who has ascended it to its source, and whose journal and map, giving the details of his journey, will shortly be ready for communication to both Houses of Congress. Those of Messrs. Lewis, Clark and Freeman will require further time to be digested and prepared. These important surveys, in addition to those before possessed, furnish materials for commencing an accurate map of the Mississippi, and its western waters. Some principal rivers however remain still to be explored, towards which the authorization of Congress by moderate appropriations, will be requisite.

I congratulate you, fellow-citizens, on the approach of the period at which you may interpose your authority constitutionally to withdraw the citizens of the United States from all further participation in those violations of human rights, which have been so long continued on the unoffending inhabitants of Africa, and which the morality, the reputation, and the best interests of our country, have long been eager to proscribe. Although no law you may pass can take prohibitory effect until the first day of the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, yet the intervening period is not too long to prevent, by timely notice, expeditions which cannot be completed before that day.

The receipts at the Treasury, during the year ending on the 30th day of Sept. last, have amounted to near fifteen millions of dollars, which have enabled us, after meeting the current demands, to pay two millions seven hundred thousand dollars of the American claims, in part of the price of Louisiana; to pay, of the funded debt, upwards of three millions of principal, and nearly four of interest, and, in addition, to reimburse, in the course of the present month, near two millions of five and a half per cent stock. These payments and reimbursements of the funded debt, with those which have been made in the four years and a half preceding, will at the close of the present year, have extinguished upwards of twenty-three millions of principal.

The duties composing the *Mediterranean* fund will cease, by law, at the end of the present session. Considering, however, that they are levied chiefly on luxuries, and that we have an impost on salt, a necessary of life, the free use of which otherwise is so important, I recommend to your consideration the suppression of the duties on salt, and the continuation of the *Mediterranean* fund, instead thereof, for a short time, after which that also will become unnecessary for any purpose now within contemplation.

When both of these branches of revenue shall, in this way, be relinquished, there will still, ere long, be an accumulation of monies in the treasury, beyond the installments of public debt which we are permitted by contract to pay. They cannot, then, without a modification, assented to by the public creditors, be applied to the extinguishment of this debt, and the complete liberation of our revenues, the most desirable of all objects. Nor, if our peace continues, will they be wanting for any other existing purpose.—The question, therefore, now comes forward, to what other objects shall these surpluses be appropriated, and the whole surplus of impost, after the entire discharge of the public debt, and during those intervals when the purposes of war shall not call for them? Shall we suppress the impost, and give that advantage to foreign over domestic manufactures? On a few articles, of more general and necessary use, the suppression in due season, will doubtless be right; but the great mass of the articles on which impost is paid, are foreign luxuries, purchased by those only who are rich enough to afford themselves the use of them. Their patriotism would certainly prefer its continuance, and application to the great purposes of the public education, roads, rivers, canals, and such other objects of public improvement as it may be thought proper to add to the constitutional enumeration of federal powers. By these operations, new channels of communication will be opened between the States; the lines of separation will disappear, their interests will be identified, and their union cemented by new and indissoluble ties. Education is here placed among the articles of public care, not that it would be proposed to take its ordinary branches out of the hands of private enterprise, which manages so much better all the concerns to which it is equal; but a public institution can alone supply those sciences, which, though rarely called for, are yet necessary to complete the circle, all the parts of which contribute to the improvement of the country, and some of them to its preservation. The subject is now proposed for the consideration of Congress, because, if approved, by the time the State Legislature shall have deliberated on this extension of the federal trusts, and the laws shall be passed, and other arrangements made for their execution, the necessary funds will be on hand, and without employment. I suppose an amendment of the constitution, by consent of the states necessary, because the objects now recommended are not among those enumerated in the constitution, and to which it permits the public monies to be applied.

The present consideration of a national establishment for education particularly, is considered proper by this circumstance also, that, if Congress, approving the proposition, shall yet think it more eligible to found it on a donation of lands, they have it now in their power to endow it with those which will be among the earliest to produce the necessary income. This foundation would have the advantage of being independent on war, which may suspend other improvements, by requiring for its own purposes the resources destined for them.

This, fellow-citizens, is the state of the public interest, at the present moment, and according

to the information now possessed. But such is the situation of the nations of Europe, and such too the predicament in which we stand with some of them, that we cannot rely with certainty on the present aspect of our affairs, that may change from moment to moment during the course of your session, or after you shall have separated. Our duty therefore is to act upon things as they are, and to make a reasonable provision for whatever they may be.—Were armies to be raised whenever a speck of war is visible in our horizon, we never should have been without them. Our resources would have been exhausted on dangers which have never happened, instead of being reserved for what is really to take place. A steady, perhaps a quickened pace, in preparations for the defence of our sea-port towns and waters, an early settlement of the most exposed and vulnerable parts of our country, a militia so organized that its effective portions can be called to any point in the union, or volunteers instead of them, to serve a sufficient time, are means which may always be ready, yet never preying on our resources until actually called into use. They will maintain the public interests, while a more permanent force shall be in a course of preparation. But much will depend on the promptitude with which these means can be brought into activity. If war be forced upon us in spite of our long and vain appeals to the justice of nations, rapid and vigorous movements in its outset, will go far towards securing us in its course and issue, and towards throwing its burthens on those who render necessary the resort from reason to force.

The result of our negotiations, or such incidents in their course as may enable us to infer their probable issue; such further movements also, on our western frontier as may shew whether war is to be pressed there, while negotiation is protracted elsewhere, shall be communicated to you from time to time, as they become known to me; with whatever other information I possess or may receive, which may aid your deliberations on the great national interests committed to your charge.

TH: JEFFERSON.
December 2, 1806.

FOR THE NORTH STAR. POLITICAL ECONOMY.

LABOR is the price of all the necessaries, conveniences and luxuries of life, or the active principle that produces them. How to render labor most productive, is the best study of the human mind. Labor is more productive when divided into separate branches of work. In the first place, because the laborer employed in single operation requires more exertion and ability. In the second place, he is more skilful, or produces work of a better quality. In the third place, he is more constantly employed, and thereby saves the time necessarily lost while going from one kind of work to another. In the fourth place, he is more likely to discover improvements and invent the labor-saving machines, which help to increase the quantity of finished work. The division of labor into various occupations is the foundation of society, or civilized life. There is no instance of a diversity of occupations in the history of savages or barbarians. In the progress of society three principal divisions of labor have obtained—agriculture, manufactures and commerce, in which there are a vast variety, or subdivisions of labor. The products of labor are in proportion to the number of its divisions and subdivisions. These depend on the policy of the society or nation. There are no instances of extraordinary national felicity, but their causes may easily be traced to a policy favorable to the division of labor productive of the comforts, conveniences and elegancies of life.

The Egyptians first entered the civilized state, and were the only people that wisely calculating the advantages of the divisions of labor, made those divisions a part of their political institutions. All occupations were hereditary. The son was confined to the trade or profession of his father. Egypt was the birth place of the arts of life that have distinguished every nation that has since acquired them, from savages and barbarians.

The cities or communities of Tyre, Carthage, Jerusalem and Palmyra first learned the arts of life from the Egyptians, and improved them to a high degree of perfection. These cities carried on the manufactures and commerce of nearly the whole world, and acquired the precious metals of the adjacent kingdoms in exchange for the products of their superior industry. The use of those metals as a help or medium of exchange more effectually promoted the divisions of labor into various occupations, than even the singular policy of Egypt, which had been adopted antecedent to the invention of money. Money is a facility or labor-saving machine. By facilitating the exchanges of commodities, it saves the labor of haster, whereby we realize a greater value for every thing we sell, and purchase all things at reduced prices. In as much as we save the value of our labor in both transactions in the way of haster. In republics, labor is by so much more productive, as none are exempt from its necessities, or invested with exclusive privileges. All are producers and none are idle about devourers. Those cities for their great wealth were at length sacked and destroyed by myriads of the surrounding barbarians.

The arts of civilized life then had to Greece, defended by an intervening ocean from the rapacity of those overruling barbarians. The Greeks, originally notorious pirates and robbers, had tasted the sweets of social life, and

been learning from Egypt from an early date, but not with such proficiency as those ancient cities. Greece was divided and subjected to a number of independent petty tyrants. On the destruction of the cities of Syria and Egypt, the Grecian States acquired from thence new accessions of artizans, and great increase of wealth and trade. As their importance magnified, they shook off the yoke of their tyrants, and became the asylum of liberty as well as the ingenious arts. The tide of wealth was too sudden, that for want of a system of laws adapted to their conditions, which is always the result of experience, they for some time vibrated between anarchy and tyranny. As they industriously imitated the arts, so they admired the free governments of those ancient cities, after which they new modeled their own. Thus were ingrafted on their ancient customs and habits new laws and new manners, the results of opposite principles. In the inevitable conflicts between ancient and new modes of acting and thinking, which often disturbed the public tranquility, the human mind commenced an enquiry after the most perfect form of society or civil government, a desideratum. Nothing could have happened more favorable to this enquiry and to the spreading of all kinds of knowledge, than the use of letters or art of writing, which at this period first became free. The invention of letters had been of some standing, but heretofore they had been in the keeping of priests and tyrants, who never suffered them to be used by their subjects. Their free use forthwith begat a new profession, the philosophers. These lovers of wisdom made the rights of man the ties of society, or its form of government their peculiar study, as on its policy depended the wealth, freedom and happiness of the human kind. Such were the effects of their researches into the nature of society or civil policy so influential on labor and industry, that the models or masterpieces in every ancient art are considered as having received their last or finishing touches from the hands of the Greeks.

The Romans, exclusively engaged in agriculture and the business of war, made no improvements in manufacture and commerce till their conquest of Egypt. Such a flood of treasures then poured into the empire, as altered every where the value of property. This acquisition joined to universal peace and general laws, ever most propitious to industry, carried arts and sciences, manufactures and commerce to the height of perfection. In no period of human existence have the comforts, conveniences and luxuries of life been more generally enjoyed than during the Augustan age. The Romans were subjected to military government, in which the producers bear in proportion to the numbers of mere consumers, and which by removing from the hands of labor, the means of ill qualified for any length of time, to promote the arts productive of the necessaries and conveniences of life. The finer arts served to enfeeble the minds of those military despots, till they became a prey to more vigorous masters.

The Goths and Vandals, the fierce invaders and conquerors of the Roman empire of the west, proud of a savage freedom, looked with contempt on the steps of luxury, and therefore destroyed every vestige of science and the finer arts, as sources of that weakness of soul which submitted to what they deemed an unnecessary and a most slavish subordination. As there were no divisions of labor, so there was no use for money among the barbarians. The precious metals soon left therefore the western for the eastern empire, and as yet held out against the invading hordes of savages. The greatest scarcity of those metals was thereby occasioned throughout the empire of the west, plunged in the depths of the greatest barbarism, indigence and misery.

The descendants of the barbarians imitated some of the customs and manners of the people vanquished by their fathers. This opened the way for the return of social order. In several natural situations for commerce, at France, Genoa and in the Netherlands, some ingenious manufactures began to flourish at an early date. There is a great advantage of manufactures over agriculture; for as the labor of the farmer is more difficult to learn and perform and more susceptible of division, so it is of more value when improved. Thus a laborer in the more curious manufactures produces work in a given time that will purchase the products of many laborers in agriculture in the same time. The day wages of a mechanic of a trade the most easily learned, are always higher than the wages of common laborers. It is therefore that a manufacturing nation or even town increases in riches incomparably faster, than a nation or town of mere agriculturalists. Agriculture therefore is the least profitable employment, and manufactures, that which soonest enriches a town, state or nation, promotes them. The flourishing of manufactures created a demand for the precious metals as a medium between the manufacturers and their customers or consumers. As money came into use, gold and silver again sought their ancient home. A moderate increase of money by increasing the divisions of labor, and thereby promoting manufactures and consequently bringing them in greater quantities to market, diminishes the demand for them, and so lowers their prices. Manufactures and the increase of money each necessarily enhanced the wages of labor and consequently the prices of the rude products of labor, or raw materials. The prices of the eleventh century of what were two pence one farthing per bushel; and labor one penny a day. A series of events, pregnant with the happiest discoveries, has since helped to spread every where the arts and sciences, manufactures and commerce. The great scarcity of gold and silver, or the injustice towards the

Jews and Lombards, who were frequently robbed of their treasures, led to a discovery of a substitute of money, the invention of bills of exchange. The use of bills of exchange, like the discovery of vast treasures, or opening rich mines, rapidly promoted commerce and manufactures, and thereby lowered the prices of manufactures or finished work, and at the same time enhanced the wages of labor and the prices of raw materials. Wheat stood the middle of the fourteenth century at twenty pence, and day labor at three pence.

The Turks, a century afterwards, overran the eastern empire. The finer arts took refuge from the destroyers in the cities of Italy. This accession of the arts and sciences, and the volumes of ancient literature, from the east is noted as the revival of letters in Europe. The invention of printing and of paper, embracing the new accession, diffused far and wide the light of reason and truth, which threatened an end to the gloomy night of tyranny and superstition. The mind when first suffered to expatiate free, mounts on Eagles' wings. The first love of liberty is the spring time of all that is noble in use or bold in design. A new theory of the globe, and a new use of the magnetic needle, led to the discovery of the East and West-Indies and America, a new Havilah, and thereby opened new scenes and new markets for the enterprise and industry of merchants and manufacturers, furnished new articles of necessity, convenience and luxury, and brought them a threefold price for their labor. At the close of the sixteenth century, wheat was at five shillings and labor at eight pence. Commerce and manufactures have since arrived to the greatest perfection, and the price of wheat rose to ten shillings and labor to two shillings, sterling, London prices.

In the progress of these discoveries, speculative minds seeing the important consequences of an increase of money to the success of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, and the distresses and checks to industry occasioned by sudden deficiencies of circulation, began to enquire into the nature and uses of the substitutes of money or bills of exchange. The result of these enquiries was the invention of Banks and Funds. A Bank is an expedient for circulating on the credit of a deposit in gold and silver, a sum in notes or bills far exceeding the amount of the deposit. The excess or sum in bills or substitutes, over and above the sum in gold and silver, and the expense of management, is a net gain cleared by the operations of the Bank. When a deposit of one million in coins, circulates three millions in substitutes or facilities, the State is thereby enriched two millions, deducting the expenses of the establishment. Thus the banks of Venice, Genoa, Amsterdam, Hamburg and England, have given to those countries an equal advantage in commerce and manufactures to what they would have acquired, had each discovered a mine as productive in gold and silver as its Bank has been in facilities or paper currency. The paper is as useful as the solid coins. The only proper use of either, is to save the labor of haster, or facilitate the exchanges between producers and consumers, for which the paper answers every whit as well as the hard money.

The most efficient substitute of money is that of funded paper, or stocks, which is always productive to the possessor, whether in use or in his desk, by drawing him a certain interest accruing from a fund. This paper is consequence of this accruing interest, often bears a premium or greater value in exchange, than the principal sum placed by the original holder in the fund. Funded paper is therefore preferable to bank paper, as it answers the same or better for circulation, and while on hand produces a certain profit. Certificates of stock in the funds for which the public faith is pledged, are the best part of the efficient circulating medium, as these funds are created without shifting any capital from one employment to serve in another. Those who advance the sums constituting the fund, receive at the same time therefor certificates, that are more than equivalents for the sums advanced. Private capitals are therefore not diminished by these advances, but on the contrary are augmented by the rise of their stocks that usually sell above par. The funds are therefore a real augmentation or effectual creation of capital in the State. Paper promises to supplant the metallic medium, and to become the principal denomination or common measure of value. As it takes from the metals this principal use, we shall find we regard not the intrinsic value of the silver, but the quantity of labor or produce represented by it. Dollars are mere waste.

Banking or funding, in their nature or necessary effects, are highly favorable to industry. Money and stocks or facilities never increase but with the increase of agriculture, manufactures and commerce. The increase of capital or stock, lowers the rate of profit of stock. The rate of interest of money has been falling, as the precious metals and their efficient substitutes or facilities have increased from cent per cent in the dark ages, to five per cent at the close of the fourteenth century; to ten per cent after opening the mines of Mexico and Potosi, 1545; and on the immense increase of the British funds to five per cent. The funds were put at three per cent, 1749. In Holland, the government borrows at two, and private persons of credit at three per cent. Manufacturers in these countries, are carried on principally by loans or facilities drawn from the funds. He who can borrow at three per cent, will undersell those who are forced to give six or ten per cent on the capital they employ in manufactures. Thus the increase of stocks or facilities, by lowering the profit of stocks, encourages the establishing manufactures, and en-

hances the wages of industry. The rise of wages is often a sufficient excitement to raise the indolent to the rank of a laborer; while the usurer or speculator, who subsists by a high rate of interest or profits of stock, by lowering that rate & thereby drying up their resources, are forced into employment for a livelihood. Wealth begets wealth. The consumers turning producers, the necessaries and conveniences, tools and raw materials are thereby furnished in greater plenty, increase the demand for laborers, and enhance their wages, which necessarily diminish the profits of capital. Money and stocks, like land in a new country, for being in great plenty, command small rent, although extremely productive to the cultivators.

In their nature or necessary effects, banking and funding are most friendly to personal and political liberty. The rich man's wealth is his stock, whose rate of profit necessarily diminishes with the increase of stock. The poor man's capital is his stock of labor, whose wages are sure to be enhanced, as the capital of his employer is augmented. By lowering the profits of stock and interest of money, and by enhancing the wages of labor, the poor escape oppression by the rich. In vain did the Greeks and Romans affect liberty, while the usury of creditors gave them the power of life and death over their debtors. The very rich are sure to place their wealth, as they have opportunity in the funds, whereby they realize a greater profit of their overgrown capital than they can do by employing it themselves. Lands although rented for more than the interest of their value in the funds, through expense of repairs, and frauds of tenants, their nett rent is less than the profits of stocks. Capitalists will therefore prefer an estate in the funds to one of lands. The slavish dependence of tenants in landlords is thereby taken away, and the lands get out of the hands of overgrown rich, and more into those of cultivators. They are in consequence better cultivated and the country thereby enriched. The independent land owners feel a deeper interest or attachment to the soil than mere tenants, and on all occasions act with more patriotism and sincerer love to the constitution of their country.

The Hollanders, 1609, the first year of their acknowledged independence, established the Bank of Amsterdam. By this expedient multiplying their facilities and thereby lowering the interest of money and profits of stocks, and also the duties on imports, by diminishing the necessity for that species of revenue, the Dutch could afford to purchase the raw materials dearer, and sell their manufactures cheaper than any other nation on earth. Hence during the next half century, they engrossed the commerce of the world. At the revolution, William III. brought over from Holland the secret of banking, and established the Banks of England and Scotland. These have supported the credit of the British funds that have been so easily levied on vain and ambitious projects, and yet, by their necessary effects on the national industry, have carried agriculture, manufactures and commerce to unrivalled perfection. When banking and funding shall have for their immediate objects what are always their necessary effects, the encouragement of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, we may look for unprecedented exertions and improvements in all the divisions of useful labor.

Banks and Funds, are two most powerful engines for promoting industry. A State Bank is not an untried theory or new invention; of this kind are the banks of Venice, Genoa, Florence, Amsterdam and Hamburg. Weaving then the arguments of reason and illustrations of history in the light of experience, we behold from their effects in those free and opulent cities, the highest degree of state prosperity. A State Bank will be in greater credit than that of an individual or corporation. Its capital may be increased to a far superior size. It will be capable of affording better terms to borrowers, or loan for less interest and longer time. It will thereby lower the interest of money and profits of stock, and thereby

enhance the wages of labor, and thereby promote industry and economy, that is, increase the divisions of labor and number of laborers, and thereby

encourage agriculture, manufactures and commerce, that are ever mutual helpers, and thereby

increase the necessaries, conveniences and surplus produce, and thereby

increase the importation of gold and silver, as purchase money for the additional surplus produce, and for the surplus usually retained for fancy goods, superfluous under greater economy, and for the surplus usually remitted for other manufactures, supplanted by our own manufactures, and thereby

enrich the vaults of the Bank and coffers of the State, and thereby

diminish the necessity for, or supersede taxation, and thereby

take off a burden from labor, and render it still more productive, and also simplify the business of the Legislature, and thereby create capital, encourage industry and increase the stock of labor, and thereby

help to provide for the common defence, and promote the general welfare.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, Dec. 17.

BRITIA, FLORIDA BELLA!

War between France and Prussia commenced on the 10th October, with great fury and bloodshed. The previous negotiation culd

on the 10th Oct. when both parties published Manifestos of the causes which impelled to the arbitration of the bayonet. Immediately after these appeals to the World, hostile movements commenced;—the details of which we have endeavored to collate and arrange, under our foreign head to which we refer.

The whole Prussian line in Saxony advanced towards the French, in Franconia; and some affairs of outposts took place. It appears, that the first object of Bonaparte was to turn on out-flank the Prussian left wing, where prince Ferdinand of Prussia had the care of defending (but with too weak a force) the passages of the Saal at Saalfeld. To affect this object the right wing of the French, commanded by Bernadotte, (mentioned in the French bulletins, as the prince of Ponte Corvo) was strongly reinforced from the centre; and the emperor removed his head quarters, in the night of the 9th from Bamberg, to Craunach. Though prince Ferdinand defended the Saal with great obstinacy; he was overpowered by numbers, his troops routed, and himself killed.—The left wing was then forced to retire to Jena; where Hohenlohe was the 10th, and the Prussian flank was so completely turned; that a party of the French cavalry penetrated to Liepzig, a distance of sixty or seventy miles behind Saalfeld; and cut off the Prussian communication on the road to Berlin.—The French line thus became an L, the elbow of which was at Saalfeld.—This success of the French made a change in the whole Prussian position indispensible.—The King had to fall back on the centre, and the whole to take new positions, which it did between Arnstadt and Cappelladorff. This change occupied the time until the evening of the 13th during which there was some hard fighting. In the same time the French operations were active; Bonaparte removed his Headquarters to Craunach; and advanced himself to Jena to reconnoitre. Davoust and Lannes were at Jena, and Bernadotte and Smitt between Jena and Naumburg, on the 15th. Augereau kept the French left, and Murat (duke of Berg) the left of the centre. In the morning of the 18th the great battle commenced. The Prussians advanced to the onset.—And a bloody contest continued from eight in the morning until four P. M. when the Prussians were defeated with great loss—and the French reached Weimar. The commanding-in-chief officers of the Prussians being either killed or wounded, a consequent confusion ensued; and while a part of the retreating army fled towards Magdeburg; another body, under marshal Miltendorf, and the prince of Orange, being cut off by Murat's cavalry, threw themselves into Erfurt.—These last are said, under the date of Jena, Oct. 18th to have surrendered that day.—But later accounts make no mention of the surrender.

Supreme Judicial Court.

Dec. 29.—The trial of Thomas O'Brien, Esq. on an indictment of Manslaughter, which commenced before the Supreme Court sitting in this town, on Tuesday last, continued until Friday noon; when after this long and interesting hearing, Judge Parker summed up the evidence, and gave the cause to the Jury, with his accustomed perspicuity and impartiality. The Court adjourned from 2 o'clock, to 4, when the Jury came in with a verdict of Not Guilty. We understand, that the Jury were but 15 minutes in agreeing on their verdict. It was composed of gentlemen of each political party; and the only person challenged, was a federalist, and a personal friend of the defendant.

This important trial is now in the Press, and will be published in the course of 10 or 12 days; it will comprise all the Testimony and Pleadings, taken down in short hand by eminent Stenographers employed expressly for the purpose.

COL. BURR.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the United States' army, to his friend in this vicinity, dated Pittsburgh, (Penn.) Nov. 29, 1806.

Colonel Burr is in this country fitting out an expedition for some purpose or other; nobody knows what; but it is the general opinion he is going against the Spaniards; probably the city of Santafee is his first object. He has a great number of boats building on the Ohio calculated to ascend rivers in shall water. Large quantities of provisions, powder, &c. are collecting on the river at different places; and I have the strongest reason to believe there is a large number of respectable citizens in this country engaged in the expedition; but all is in the dark at present. Our detachment is ordered to make a halt at Cincinnati, and there remain till further orders. Each man is to be furnished with 30 cartridges; what this is for I cannot say; perhaps it is to stop Col. Burr and party. The orders come from the Secretary of war since we have been here. It is expected the Colonel will commence his movements down the river by the 10th of Dec. I will write you again before I leave Cincinnati, and give you all the information in my power on this subject; by that time the whole secret will be out.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

On the morning of the 24th Dec. a fire broke out in Portsmouth, N. H. which did vast damage. It began about the dawn of day, and had got so far advanced before it was discovered, that it could not be suppressed until 11 o'clock A. M. It burst from a large Building in which there were several stores, having a great quantity of rum, brandy, gin, and combustible articles. The fire communicated with great rapidity to the adjoining stores. Among the buildings destroyed, was St. John's

Church, and the elegant three-story parsonage house, entirely new and nearly finished.

To prevent further ravages, four dwelling-houses were pulled down. By which means, it was subdued.

The principal sufferers are N. A. and J. Haven, Abel and Robert Jarvis, Eben. Thompson, Edward and George Curtis, Nathaniel Adams and son, James Day, Stephen Linn, Benjamin Hill, and Washington Pierce. Some of the above gentlemen lost their books and papers.—Many others suffered greatly.

The damage has been estimated at near 150,000 dollars.

In 1808, there was a destructive fire in that town. It is said this fire commenced in the spot where that ended.

NEW-YORK. ALBANY, Dec. 23.

Sunday morning, between the hours of three and four o'clock, a person lately from the province of Upper Canada, who calls himself Robert Johnson, entered, through a window, into the dwelling-house of John Pye, about four miles above this city, armed with two or three loaded pistols, and after lighting a lantern, went to the bed-side of Mr. Pye, and demanded his money, threatening instantly to take his life if he made any resistance. Pye arose from his bed, and went with the robber to the bar-room, in order to get his money out of the bar; but when he came to the bar, discovered that Mrs. Pye, had the keys. Mrs. Pye, in the mean time, alarmed two strangers, who slept in another part of the house and got a loaded gun. Pye went back from the bar, followed by the robber; to obtain the keys from his wife, and coming near the door where the strangers slept, the robber perceiving they were alarmed, threatened to shoot them in case they should come out of the room. During this time Pye went up to his wife for the keys of the bar, when she presented him the gun, which the robber perceiving, fired and shot Pye through the body. Pye instantly returned the fire, and wounded the robber in the head. The robber fell, but soon recovered, and the lights being extinguished, got out of the house to a hay-stack, where he had left his horse, and made off towards this city. His wounds healed so profusely that he was constrained to stop by the way, a little off the road, where he was passed by one of Pye's people, who came for Dr. Willard. A number of persons soon pursued, and he was overtaken a short distance from the river, by Mr. Winsor, who kept him engaged until people came to his assistance and secured the robber. His pistols were rifle barrels and of the largest size. He had a small steel saw and other implements for breaking houses. We are happy to learn that Mr. Pye, though severely wounded, is out of danger.

DANVILLE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8.

The Directors of the VERMONT STATE BANK convened at Middlebury on the 29th ult. and the day following elected

TITUS HUTCHINSON, Esq. President;

Wm. G. HOOKER, Cashier of the Branch at Middlebury, and

JOB LYMAN Cashier of the Branch at Woodstock.

The Branches are expected to do business in about one month.

The COUNCIL on CENSORS convened at Windsor on the 15th ult. and adjourned without day.

AT this advanced period of Congressional proceedings, we insert the *Parliamentary Messages*, and feel ourselves highly gratified that the first volumes of the Series are furnished with matter so interesting to community. It touches on every point that immediately concerns us as a nation, and will not only be perused with attention by those who feel an interest in the administration of our government, but will be preserved as a splendid additional proof of the wisdom, integrity, and philanthropy of its author. Public documents are always worth preserving: Let it be remembered then, that a newspaper is the circulating medium through which they are conveyed to the people.

CONGRESS.

We shall commence a Congressional diary in our next. Very few subjects have yet been discussed. Those under consideration are; a Bill respecting the prohibition of slaves; a Resolution on Spanish aggressions; a Resolution on altering the laws for the sale of public lands, and a Bill reported to the United States' Senate from the committee on Fortifications, to make appropriations for fortifying the ports and harbors, and for building gun-boats. From the spirit in which the business has been taken up; it is expected a liberal appropriation will be made.

The Senate of the United States have unanimously concurred in the appointment of His Hon. Brockholst Livingston, Esq. as one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On Monday, Dec. 15th. Mr. Eild, of this State, after making a preliminary speech of considerable length, on the subject of *Annual Defence*, in which he expressed himself with much zeal and brilliancy of language; gave notice, that on Tuesday next, the 23d of Dec. he should offer to the House a series of resolutions relative to the navy establishment, for a new and more efficient system, for prepar-

ing and organizing other defensive measures, relative to our commerce, seamen, harbors, coasts, frontiers, &c.

Counterfeiters Detected.

About the 20th ultimo, Francis McCollister and Luther Calendar Parker, were surprised in their beds at Weathersfield, in this State, and a number of counterfeit plates found on them of the Troy, Cheshire and Pennsylvania Banks, not quite finished; a quantity of others partly done, and a large supply of paper. A fellow by the name of Wiswall, has also been taken, who had in his possession 250 counterfeit 5 dollar bills on Smithfield Bank.

Thomas H. Judge, alias Jordan, alias Howe, for whose detection the Baltimore Bank offered a reward of 1,500 dollars, was apprehended in Baltimore, on the 1st December. A plate for counterfeiting notes of that Bank, of the denomination of 100 dollars was found with him.

The havoc made by Bonaparte in Europe is a striking instance of awful and extensive stratagem.

The coalition formed against France, soon after her revolution, for the avowed and unjust purpose of compelling her to restore the old monarchy, excited in that nation the military spirit, but for which Bonaparte might have been in comparative obscurity! Their unrighteous war against France made her a military nation, and this military nation produced a hero, and made him an emperor.

By one of those reactions which mark the hand of Providence, this offspring of their iniquity has become the instrument of their punishment; a scourge to those who forced him into power.

If the monarchs of Europe will consider Bonaparte as a devil incarnate; let them consider also, that by their own wicked incantations he was raised, and that it is not wonderful if they are at last given over to be tormented by him! [1813.]

With the last accounts from Washington we received the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury. By the President's Message, we were informed that the receipts of the last year amounted to nearly sixteen millions of dollars, from which great payments had been made towards the purchase of Louisiana &c. the interest and principal of the funded debt, so that at the close of the present year, will have been extinguished in the four years and an half preceding, upwards of twenty three millions of principal.—From the report of the Treasury, we have all the documents respecting the revenue &c. its receipts. From these it appears, that the revenue furnished in 1807, \$12,678,458 and wish similar statements, in 1808, \$13, 083,823. The manner in which that revenue was collected, is exhibited in a separate table. Of public lands, in the year ending Sept. last, 47,000 acres were sold, for which actual payments amounted to \$350,000 of which near \$700,000 was paid in specie, & the residue in stock of the public debt. Making in the whole revenue an aggregate of 16 millions and five hundred thousand dollars. It is found that the resources of the ensuing year will be sufficient to meet the current demands, and to discharge, without the authorized loan, the two millions appropriated for foreign interest. The balance in the Treasury on the 30th Sept. 1808, was \$4,358,894, and on the 30th Sept. 1806, was \$5,496,969. The total of the principal of the public debt that will be paid on the 1st Jan. 1807, will exceed 24 millions of dollars. The statements on this subject are ample, and are accompanied with a letter on the subject of hastening the reduction of the debt. [N. York Register.]

SUMMARY.—FOREIGN.

In this day's summary we shall notice the most material events that have come to our knowledge for some weeks past.

The battle of Jena has decided the fate of Prussia, if not of England and Russia. The French are at Berlin, the capital of Prussia.—There are just published a short proclamation to the Saxons by Bonaparte, a declaration by George III. and a manifesto by Frederic William. The two last are elaborate, pathetic, lengthy productions; but he that holds the longest sword cares little about hearing the last word.—The English papers state, that the French have been completely driven out of Calabria; Gen. Jordan killed and Massena dangerously wounded; this wants confirmation.—It is reported, that the Spaniards have risen upon the English at Buenos Ayres, and taken the city.—Louvain, the British Plenipotentiary, has left Paris and returned to London; the negotiation has wholly failed.—Capt. Whitby, of the Leander, who murdered our late fellow citizen, Pierre, at New-York, has been arrested, and is about to take his trial.—John F. Palm, bookseller of Nuremberg (Germany) was lately shot by order of a Court Martial at Brannau, for libelling the French Emperor. Palm has left a wife and three small children; 200 pounds have been raised in England for their support.—On the 2d Sept. last, the Knippels Rock, forming the summit of mount Rosahery, in Switzerland, gave way and fell, overwhelming a number of villages and destroying upwards of 1000 inhabitants.—Accounts from Gibraltar state, that the Portuguese have captured five sail of Barbary cruizers, one Algerine (the schooner presented to the Dey by the United States) on board of which were forty of their own people.—A revolution has taken place in Hayti, the result of which was the assassination of Dessalines and the advancement of Christophe to the chief command;

it is said they contemplate establishing a representative government; a phenomenon this of *seu. huc.*—Sixty thousand Russians have entered the Prussian dominions to retard the progress of the French.

DOMESTIC.

The militia of the city of New-Orleans have unanimously volunteered their services to defend the territory and particularly that city. When Gov. Claiborne accepted the tender of their services, he acknowledged a sense of their patriotism by addressing the officers, &c. as follows:—"You have anticipated my wishes and fulfilled my expectations. I have to announce my acceptance of the tender of your military services, and to add, that your patriotic services will be justly appreciated by your country."—It is stated, that Gen. Miranda has abandoned his expedition for the present.—An unhappy affair took place at Taunton, (Mass.) in Nov. last. A dispute had long existed between Benjamin Snell and Michael Tompkins: Snell at length told Tompkins, that he would put an end to his existence, if he did not desist from doing that which he (Snell) had forbidden him to do. Tompkins perceived, and Snell found him at an unguarded moment and shot him dead on the spot. Snell was immediately apprehended.—The noted Stephen Burroughs, who so liberally added to the paper currency of the States, has been committed to jail. His wife is said to have made the following pithy observation on his escape: "That Mr. Burroughs found it so expensive boarding in the city, he was dissatisfied by the principles of economy to take quarters in the country during the winter season."—By advices from New-Orleans, it appears that Gov. Claiborne has marched his troops from Natchitoches to establish a fort on the banks of the Sabine river, and that the Spanish commander has declared his determination to oppose and prevent the establishment.—The Greeks have suspended the operation of the new impactation act, and are taking measures to repel the invasion of Louisiana. The Spaniards have recessed the Sabine, and Gen. Wilkinson has taken post on the ground abandoned by the enemy.—Col. *W. H. H.* the quidish emperor, is said to be on his march down the Ohio with 1000 quids.—Michigan Bank, lately established at Detroit, has circulated its bills in this quarter; several of the banks in Massachusetts have refused to receive them, and recommended a similar line of conduct to be observed by others.—McKean, Governor of Pennsylvania, after speaking emphatically of the unprecedented state of public and private prosperity, urged the passing laws to restrain the freedom of the press.—Fifteen Spaniards and about fifty mules, some loaded with silver, have been intercepted on their route from Natchitoches to Baton Rouge, and carried into the American camp.—In the 12th ult. *W. H. H.* and her brother were attempting to cross Connecticut river near West Springfield, in a cutter, when the ice gave way, and the horse, sleigh and the young woman went down together. Mr. H. happily escaped, they were found next morning.—Thirty-five indictments have been brought against one Van Hagen, at Baltimore, for forgery, in the amount of 40,000 dollars.—Care was for a bill to abolish Negro slavery, in Maryland, has been denied by that Legislature, 30 to 25.—By advice from Lexington of Nov. 27, we learn that the United States District Attorney at Frankfurt, moved the Federal Court for another Grand Jury, which was summoned, for the purpose of making further enquiry into the charges of Col. Burr. Mr. Davis at that time contended he had it in his power to substantiate his former charges against Burr.—The Legislature of Maryland have appointed a committee to consider the expediency of a tax on Bachelors and Brides, to support poor children.—It appears by the Southern papers, that our Ministers at the British Court have satisfactorily adjusted all the points of difference and complaint between the United States and G. Britain, excepting the imprisonment of American seamen, which was expected to be immediately settled.

DIED.—In Boston, William H. Sullivan, Esq. 3d son of the Hon. J. Sullivan, aged 55. In Westmoreland, N. H. Mrs. Lydia How, aged 91. She accompanied the four first families who began a settlement in that town, then exposed to the depredation of the natives, and was the mother of the first white child born within the limits of the town, about the year 1741.—In Madeira, (an Island on the coast of Africa) Mr. Laman, U. S. Consul. He fell from a bridge, and broke his neck.—In Serry, N. H. on the 11th ult. Mr. Elijah Street, aged 61, son of the Rev. Zebulon Street.—In Sharon, Con. the Rev. Cotton Mather Smith, pastor of the church and congregation in that place, in the 76th year of his age, and 52d of his ministry.—In Putney, Miss Sally Bigelow, formerly of Worcester, Mass.—In Clinton, (Up. Can.) Rev. Samuel Covel, of Cheshire, Mass. while on a Missionary tour among the Indians.

WHEEL-WRIGHT.

The Subscriber respectfully

informs the Public, that he has commenced the WHEEL-WRIGHT BUSINESS in Danville, about twenty rods North of the Green House; where he will keep for sale a constant supply of the best kind of Lines and Wooden Wheels, Clock Works and Quill Wheels.

All Orders in the line of his business will be daily attended to, and all favors gratefully acknowledged, by
BENJAMIN LOVWELL.
Danville, Jan. 6, 1807.

(Continued from Page 16)

macy totaled 828,000 square miles and \$15 million - less than three cents an acre, one of the most significant land deals in history. Lewis and Clark had just returned from their expedition to explore it, and the spirit of nationalism was surging.

[Students of American political history will remember that in the 1796 election for president after George Washington's two terms, John Adams, a Federalist, narrowly defeated Thomas Jefferson, running as a Democratic-Republican. In 1800 Jefferson upset the incumbent Adams, and in 1804 Jefferson defeated Charles Pickney. Pickney ran for the office as a Federalist. The Federalist Party expired as a national organization in about 1816, but its heirs, with their conservative colors, emerged as Abraham Lincoln's Republican Party at the time of the Civil War. The Democratic Party of much later years traces its descent from the Democratic-Republican Party of Thomas Jefferson.]

The STAR grew and prospered under the guidance of Ebenezer Eaton and his attachment to the principals of Jeffersonian democracy. The paper was a weekly and Eaton printed books, at least some for ministers in the area, between issues. Nathaniel Harvey Eaton, Ebenezer's son and heir to the STAR, wrote in his father's 1859 obituary that Ebenezer passed through many "warm political contests" especially during the War of 1812 and the presidency of James Madison and through the period from 1827 to 1834 as a leader in the Antimasonic movement in Vermont and beyond. Eaton's former employer, Solomon Southwick in Albany, was similarly a leader of the Antimasonic movement, in New

York, and it is tempting to conclude that the old friends from the Albany Register stayed in contact.

Eaton was the printer of the STAR for more than 50 years and served as its editor until the day of Thanksgiving in 1858.

"To the last," wrote Nathaniel, "[Ebenezer] voted with the democratic party; and however much, in the height of party excitement, he may have apparently wrote with severity it was in no unkind or ungenerous spirit of personal animosity, but from an ardent zeal in behalf of the cause he espoused."

Dolly Alden Eaton predeceased her husband on February 28, 1827 leaving him with three sons and a daughter, William (born in 1800), Ebenezer Alden Eaton (1808), Florella Eaton (1810) and Nathaniel Harvey Eaton (1815).

Ebenezer Eaton, the widower, married Susannah Smith the same year, but after his death on January 31, 1859 he was buried in the Danville Green Cemetery next to the mother of his children.

Nathaniel H. Eaton carried on as editor of the *North Star* until 1880. Under N. H. Eaton the STAR had a reputation for "fairness and courtesy and for having the best selections of miscellaneous reading material" - a point of considerable import for a rural population with limited access to books and no hint of television, radio or the Internet.

In May 1880 N. H. Eaton's son, George Ebenezer Eaton, became editor, but in the following January he sold his interest to Anson B. Hoyt and W.O. Caswell. Shortly thereafter, George Eaton left Danville to be co-editor of the *Troy Daily* and *Weekly Press* in Troy, NY, only eight miles from Albany.

On May 9, 1889 the Village of Danville was devastated by an afternoon fire. In little over an

hour fire driven by wind from the west destroyed the town hall, 13 stores, 12 dwellings and 11 barns. Twenty-three families were homeless. Much of the area along the St. Johnsbury Road (US 2) and north on Main Street (now Hill Street) was burned to the ground including the Eagle Hotel on one corner and the Dole & Currier store on the other.

Except for a book of accounts, the equipment and records of the *North Star* in the office over Dole & Currier were gone. Anson Hoyt counted damages totaling more than \$1,500. He had no insurance.

The issue of the *North Star* being printed at the time of the fire was finally produced on the press of the *St. Johnsbury Republican*, and for five months weekly printing continued for Hoyt at the New York Newspaper Union in New York. The STAR had little local news, and its advertising was severely diminished.

Reconstruction of the village began quickly with an outpouring of civic pride and financial investment, and by October 3, Hoyt had a new press in a basement office. With enthusiasm he reintroduced the *North Star* printed again in Danville, but he never recovered from the faded number of subscribers or lost revenues from advertising, and we find no copies of the paper dated after December 26, 1889. The old *North Star* was gone.

One hundred years later, in May 1989, the name of the *North Star* was resurrected by Sharon Lakey of Danville, and the paper was reestablished as a monthly community newspaper.

In June 1998 the Hoffers and Tanners acquired *The North Star Monthly* and expanded its coverage with human interest and feature articles and a distribution that reaches beyond the Northeast Kingdom to all 50 states.

What you hold in your hands is the bicentennial issue - a celebration and a salute to the *North Star* first printed by Ebenezer Eaton on January 8, 1807.

* The 1887 *Caledonia County Gazetteer* by Hamilton Child credits J.T. Durant M.D. as writing that Ebenezer Eaton came to Danville from Connecticut. (In the same volume James S. Durant is named as a Danville physician, surgeon and farmer. James S. Durant appears in the Danville vital records, whereas J.T. does not) "The printing press, type, etc. were purchased in Connecticut, and together with his family and effects were placed on an ox-sled and conveyed to Danville, passing through Ryegate and Peacham on the route." This story has been often repeated and gained credibility over time, and although possible it seems inconsistent with Eaton's 1859 obituary, written and published by his son. The obituary is fairly clear that Eaton and his family arrived with a press and tools of the trade from Albany. The route from Albany to Danville may have passed through Connecticut and, if so, quite likely included passage on a flatboat on the Connecticut River as far as Wells River - and then perhaps through Ryegate and Peacham. ★



Polaris Revisited

Sometimes like last week when clouds blocked her out unremittingly for three days in a row I wondered if she would still be there when the sky cleared,

But last night the wind shifted and the clouds opened and there she is, the North Star, and it's a comfort.

It's a comfort to know she's still with us, though shifted a little like the dipper who pours her shifts imperceptibly each night.

It's a comfort to know that just downstreet from the velvet Green, around the corner from the Store where bright-eyed girls remember your name when you go in to buy the daily *Record* with pictures of lost dogs and kittens,

To know that between the Open Door where you go to buy red shirts and blue jeans and the brave golden banners of Hill Street Unlimited, pretty clothes for pretty ladies, umbrellas for old men and little girls, ...

It's a comfort to know that *The North Star* is still with us, up there, not any longer at the top of the hill in a Brown Barn,

But shifted, imperceptibly as constellations shift to the top of the green stairs behind the Blue Door.

It's a comfort.

Don Tescher

In June, 1998 Danville poet Don Tescher wrote "Polaris Revisited" for us as the new owners of *The North Star Monthly*. The poem is full of references to familiar landmarks in the neighborhood where the offices of *The North Star* are still, within sight of the Danville Green.

"Polaris Revisited" was later published as one of the best loved poems in Tescher's book, *Without Further Ado*. We still enjoy reading it.



Photo By: North Star Monthly

In 1859 Ebenezer Eaton was buried beside his first wife, Dolly Alden Eaton, in the Danville Green Cemetery.

The Worst Weather in the World

ANDREW RIELY

STOP. The area ahead has the worst weather in America. Many have died there from the exposure — even in the summer. Turn back now if the weather is bad.

So read the signs on the edge of the alpine zone in New Hampshire's White Mountains. Posted by the US Forest Service, the warning seems exaggerated on a warm summer day. But Mount Washington's fame as host of "the worst weather in the world" is warranted. The record of fatalities on its flanks is grim. There have been 135 since 1894, and of those, 59 (nearly half) expired during the summer months from June to September. What makes Mount Washington's weather so deadly?

Since 1932, the Mount Washington Observatory has explored this question by monitoring the weather and conducting research at its lonely perch at 6,288 feet above sea level. In the words of Scott Henley, executive director of the Observatory, the place attracts "a certain kind of person ... avid outdoorsmen and women. It's a grueling job because you're marooned up there." The Observatory staff includes day- and night-observers who switch off on 12-hour shifts, an intern and the occasional visiting scientist.

I talked to Jon Cotton, the night observer, late one night after he had finished one of his hourly forays to check instruments. Most of the measurements must be taken manually because weather

tends to disrupt electronics.

Cotton, 26, has been working at the Observatory since 2003. A native of New Hampshire, he worked seven seasons as a hutman for the Appalachian Mountain Club and found that the Observatory, as well as allowing him to pursue his twin passions for computer science and the outdoors, filled out his seasonal schedule.

Cotton identifies three main hazards that Observers look out for when stepping outside to monitor their instruments. Lightning, extreme wind and severe whiteout conditions are all excellent reasons for staying indoors. "You get used to what you can take," he says, and adds that as the staff knows exactly where to find their instruments and they do not have to walk far, getting lost in a whiteout is usually not a problem.

Visitors to Mount Washington have not all been so astute. In October, 1855, only a month after Lizzie Bourne famously expired a stone's throw from the Tip-Top House, a summit hotel, Dr. Benjamin Ball, nearly shared the same fate.

Despite encountering bad weather and warnings at the Camp House, a way station along the Carriage Road, Ball recklessly coveted the summit. He had neither a guidebook nor experience hiking in the White Mountains, but he did have a conspicuous umbrella.

Though he reached the crag that now bears his name, a half-mile from the summit, Ball was repulsed by furious weather and retreated below tree line to spend a first night. He was no luckier in the morning. He was caught in unrelenting snow and clouds, and he wandered all day across the alpine tundra until nightfall, when he again took refuge under his umbrella. Only on the third day did Ball meet a search party, which probably prevented his death from hypothermia.

The elements are not responsible for all the deaths on



The cloud that is bumping into the west side of the Presidential Ridge will be forced to rise up and over the ridge and accelerate as it continues its progress.

Lightning, extreme wind and severe whiteout conditions are all excellent reasons for staying indoors.

Washington. Accessible by car and train, 25 people have died in vehicular accidents. Those causes have ranged from an out-of-control railcar to plane crashes and drunk driving (of the 1880 variety) involving a horse and carriage. Indeed, when the mountain's cog railway was first built, its workers used to descend into the valley at fabulous speeds on slideboards. Only after four men died from sailing off into rocks was the exhilarating practice officially banned.

Nineteen people have died on Washington from natural causes. The hordes of visitors to the summit make it inevitable that some deaths occur from bad timing and simply - their own natural causes.

Hypothermia, falling ice, avalanches, falls and drowning have killed the rest. The climate of the Presidential Range, of which Mount Washington is the most prominent summit, is uniquely harsh. Treeline, the point at which trees are replaced by grass and shrubs, is at the lowest elevation in the world for its latitude. The ground record for wind speed, 231 mph, occurred on top of Washington in April, 1934.

Mountains change weather in three ways. They increase wind and precipitation and they decrease temperature.

The prevailing wind around Washington is from the west. When wind hits the Presidential ridge, the mountains force the wind to rise. Since gravity tugs on air molecules blown by the wind, they stay as close to the ground as possible as they pass over the top of the ridge. This creates a funneling effect: with so much air passing through a small space, the wind picks up speed to create space for new arrivals.

Night Observer Cotton compares the phenomenon to putting your thumb over a garden hose. As you constrict the flow of water, its speed increases through the narrow opening where it can still exit the hose.

At the Observatory, the average wind speed is 35-mph, and during the winter, on average, the wind blows above 75-mph every other day. In contrast, at Pinkham Notch, about 4000 feet below at the eastern base of the mountain, the average wind speed is 4 mph.

Pinkham Notch tends to be considerably warmer than the Observatory, too. In the atmosphere, as elevation increases, air pressure eases because there are fewer air molecules pressing down on those below. Molecules therefore expand and cool, which is why temperature usually decreases

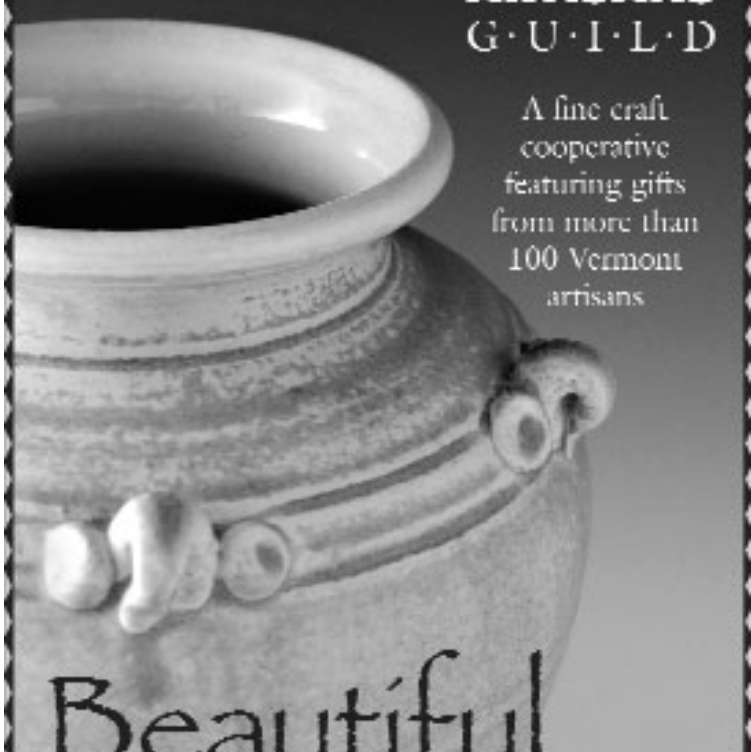


Photos By: Andrew Riely

Sometimes it is so cold that fog freezes directly onto buildings, plants and cairns creating rime ice. While rime has a delicate feathery appearance, it damages trees in the alpine zone by freezing onto windward branches, thus allowing wind to rip them from the trunk. The trees, if they survive, end up looking like flags or broomsticks, which is how botanists refer to them.

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In much of New Hampshire's North Country it's still late summer, but on Mt. Pierce the realities of winter weather conditions, both beautiful and harsh, come early. This photo was taken in October.

3-5 degrees for every 1,000 feet of elevation gained. In winter, the jet stream moves south, bringing a blast of arctic air down with it. The average temperature at the Observatory is 26° - meaning that for most of the year at the summit, precipitation forms as snow rather than rain.

On average, the mountain gets about 21-feet of snow per year. The strong west wind blows most of it off the high ridges and into the ravines on the east side of the mountain, thus making Tuckerman Ravine the premiere location for backcountry skiing in the north-east.

The Observatory staff works two week rotations, with eight days on and six off. An outdoorsy group, they are often out and about on the mountainside. Neil Lareau, a day Observer, was spotted carving telemark turns down the auto road after the first snowfall in October.

In all, Washington gets a yearly average of 86 inches of "liquid equivalent" - that is, rain and snow after it has been melted. Coastal New England, in contrast, only receives about 40 inches per year.

This regional variation happens because air cools as it passes up and over the high ridges and thereby loses its ability to retain moisture. Water vapor visibly condenses and accretes into clouds - it

is no coincidence that mountains tend to be wreathed in mist. Mount Washington, for instance, is in the clouds 60 percent of the time. Eventually, if the temperature cools to the dew point, water vapor condenses into rain - or, if the dew point is below 32°, snow.

Sometimes it is so cold that fog freezes directly onto buildings and plants, creating rime ice. While it has a delicate feathery appearance, rime ice damages trees in the alpine zone by freezing onto windward branches, thus allowing the wind to tear the branches off the trunk. Trees, if they survive, end up looking like flags or broomsticks, which is how botanists refer to them.

You can usually tell how high snow cover is above treeline by observing how tall plants grow. Anything that sticks out above the snow will succumb to rime ice and wind, so plants adapt by growing out instead of up.

All of these phenomena influence mountains across the globe, but the weather in the Presidentials is particularly potent due to its geography.

Anyone who has spent much time living in northern New England will notice that spells of good and bad weather tend to be brief - usually only a couple of days. This is because the prevailing west winds send alternating

high and low pressure systems through the region.

High pressure systems are broad domes of air that may stretch over several states. They generally bring clear skies and cold temperatures. There is more air in the middle, and because air is always trying to equalize pressure, winds blow out from the center and spin clockwise around it.

Low pressure systems, on the other hand, are elongated and form between high pressure systems. They circulate in a counterclockwise direction, and as air blows into the center from high pressure systems, it eventually rises up to make space for molecules behind it. As water vapor gains altitude and cools, it condenses into rain, so low pressure systems tend to be wet.

In New England, low pressure systems bring in cold northern air due to their counterclockwise movement. Following on their tail, high pressure systems, rotating clockwise, reinforce the northern chill. The ensuing blast of arctic air into New England is sometimes called the "Polar Express" and explains why the region is so cool.

Indeed, the northeast is a magnet for low pressure systems. Of the 12 major storm tracks crossing the country, nine of them exit via New England, and three converge above the Presidentials, which form a massive barrier to their progress.

"We're the tailpipe of the United States," says Cotton. He uses the nautical concept of fetch - the length of an area generating wind - to explain the violent gales on Mount Washington. In a sailboat close to land, trees block the wind, making fetch negligible and sailing dull. If you move the sailboat out to the middle of the ocean,

however, fetch will be much higher, sending the sailboat along much faster.

West of Washington, the next big impediment to wind is the Rocky Mountains. Gales have the entire distance across the Plains and the Midwest to intensify before bursting over the Presidential ridge and continuing east.

Thus the area receives a furious infusion of strong winds, cold air and moisture, making hurricane-force winds possible at any time of year and giving the area a precipitation profile to rival that of the Olympic Peninsula - except that Mount Washington gets much more snow.

It is not surprising that some American alpinists prepare for the

Himalayas by climbing in the Presidentials, or that several former staff members at the Observatory have gone on to work at research stations at the South Pole. The severity of the storms and the quickness with which they spring up make it essential for any visitor, whether prepared for a blizzard or simply a summer jaunt to Lakes of the Clouds Hut, to be fully aware of the potential for danger on the mountain and have an escape plan in case dirty weather should roll in.

Andrew Riely is a former Appalachian Mountain Club hutman who has learned through his own experience of the extreme weather conditions on and around Mount Washington. ★



"Undercast," author Riely writes, "is a beautiful event, which is the opposite of overcast." Undercast occurs when the area below the high peaks is covered with clouds, making the ground in the surrounding areas below invisible.



First published in 1908, this map shows the confluence of weather patterns over northern New England as well as any modern representation. The map represents data, which was gathered between 1896 and 1905, from 1,160 weather reporting stations.

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What's Happening at the Town Hall?

Barnet

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

November 27, 2006

Water Testing at Harvey's Lake – David Roos of VT Department of Health met with Board seeking financial assistance from town for weekly testing of water at public beach at Harvey's Lake next summer. State has not provided funds for testing and Roos is hopeful of having several towns pay for service. Weekly tests would be for e-coli. Test kits cost about \$210. After discussion Board agreed town will provide manpower for testing, but the funds for kits will need to come from the State.

County Budget – Assistant Judge Kennedy and Sheriff Bergeron met with Board to present proposed County budget. Overall spending will increase from \$363,035 to \$379,962. Kennedy discussed concern over increase in rent charged by State for facilities used by Sheriff's Department.

New Pickup Truck – Road Foreman Maurice Gingue presented information on new pickup. Current vehicle has about 160,000 miles and needs major work. Board wants to review all proposals before making any decision.

Waste Management District – Board reviewed letter outlining waste management district's proposed budget for 2007. Total budget is \$559,845, an increase of 10.7% over 2006 caused by addition of four towns to district. Proposed surcharge for 2007 will drop from 19.50/ton to 19.25-the 7th consecutive decrease in the rate that raises funds for the district. District is reducing rate charged to haul recyclables from transfer station to \$15/hour.

Landfill – Board reviewed "No Exposure Certification" form provided by waste management district regarding stormwater permitting requirements at town's closed landfill.

Town meeting Appropriations – Board reviewed requests for appropriations including American Red Cross: (\$250, same as last year); Rural Community Transportation: (\$1,100, up from \$600 last year); Barnet Historical Society: \$500, a new request). Board agreed to include request from Historical Society without a petition. Board approved Pleasantview Cemetery Association's request to increase annual appropriation from \$2,000 to \$3,000 to pay for damages from last summer's storm.

Access Permit – Board approved highway access permit request for J. Robert Audette on Old Silo Road.

Town Equipment – Approved request from Road Foreman Maurice Gingue to buy floor jack for garage at estimated cost of \$600.

December 11, 2006

Barnet Village Store Water Runoff – Board met with Deborah King, owner of Barnet Village Store, and discussed problem of water that runs off Church Street and Anderson Street and over retaining wall endangering store. Board discussed a catch basin and will confer with state highway officials for potential solutions and costs. King is willing to pay part of cost.

Snowmobiles on Town Highway – On request of Ross Page, Board authorized use of a section of Laird Road as a connection to snowmobile trail system in that area. The section runs .25 mile from Keenan Road to Bony Woods Road. Snowmobile Club will install signs.

Tax Collector – Tax Collector Donald Nelson met with Board to discuss tax payers with unpaid taxes going as far back as 2001. Board approved having Nelson give written notice of 30 days to those who are delinquent and then have town attorney start proceedings leading to tax sale.

Employee Health Insurance – Board discussed options available for employee health insurance with coverage by CIGNA or Blue Cross Blue Shield. After comparison of rates and coverage Board voted to change to Blue Cross-Blue Shield program effective January 1, 2007.

Town Vehicle – Board noted new vehicle, a 2007 GMC Sierra pickup truck, was purchased from St. J. Auto. Price, after trading in 1999 Ford pickup, was \$26,500 including Fisher plow.

Vault – Board discussed removing door of old vault. Door was cut open recently to gain access. Old vault has nothing of great value and door is not needed. Board will discuss this further.

Cabot

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

December 6, 2006

UDAG Plan – Board met with Andy Leinoff, UDAG chair, who presented plan and procedures for UDAG committee. No action taken.

Employee Health Insurance – Board discussed change proposed by Vermont League of Cities and Towns as to its health care provider switching from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont to CIGNA. Town clerk reported that town could remain with Blue Cross/Blue Shield but neither carrier will guarantee rate increase ceiling. After discussion

Board voted to place its town employees health insurance coverage with VLCT, thereby switching to CIGNA.

Wastewater Treatment – Town clerk reviewed letter from EARTH TECH, operator of town's wastewater plant and pump stations, requesting a 3% cost of inflation increase in annual fee from \$36,985.16 to \$38,094.71. Board approved the request.

Property Insurance – Christopher Kaldor noted increase in replacement values for town buildings insured with VLCT following VLCT audit.

Danville

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

December 7, 2006

Dog Issue – Kirsten Barany met with Board seeking help with a loose dog. Board will contact animal control officer.

Road Report – Road foreman described current road work and preliminary work on 2007 budget.

Employee Health Insurance – Following recommendation of Merton Leonard and considerable discussion, Board voted to remain with health plan offered through VT League of Cities and Towns and accept its recommendation to transfer employee health insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield to CIGNA.

Wastewater Connection – Board approved request from Susan and Philip Tallman for connection to town sewer at their proposed house on Cedar Lane.

Utility Easements – Board approved installation of a pole and power and communication lines underground for a short distance in Peacham Road right of way for connection to new houses at James Berry and John Thade lots.

Fire Department – Board reviewed orders and voted to transfer a previous charge to fire department for a furnace cleaning to town building maintenance fund.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss personnel wages Board took no action.

December 14, 2006

Personnel – Following executive session to discuss wages and insurance, no decision was made.

Highway Budget – Board reviewed preliminary highway budget and discussed class 3 summer road work, work on Brainerd Street, bridge in Harvey's Hollow and other paving.

General Fund Budget – Board discussed general fund figures including proposed North Danville School roof

replacement, proposed antique roads project and audit.

Lyndon

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

November 27, 2006

Highway Report – At 88% through year entire highway budget is 71% expended. Board discussed US 5 project.

Budget Review – Board met with Nathan Borland who reviewed Lyndon Rescue proposed budget. Money required from towns continues to decrease, as organization's revenues continue to increase. Lyndon Rescue is seeking \$76,004 from town in 2007. Board met with representatives of Cobleigh Library and reviewed proposed Library budget for 2007 including salary increases of 3.5% and a town appropriation of \$173,769.

Access Permits – Board approved three access permits for Caledonia County Fair Association onto Lily Pond Road, pending project approval by development review board.

Growth Study Committee – Board appointed Justin Smith as delegate to Northeastern VT Development Association's growth study committee.

Grand List – On request of listers Board voted to approve two amendments to decrease grand list by \$33,400 and by \$17,935.

December 11, 2006

Wastewater Treatment Fees – After presentation by Scott Townsend Board discussed proposed fees for wastewater hookups. Townsend will add subcategories to fee proposal.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit – Board voted to authorize Bruce James to sign discharge permit for wastewater treatment plant and submit application.

Wastewater Permits – Board approved wastewater permits for Robert Starr for a manufacturing building with output of 300 gallons per day, fee set at \$1,800 and Fred's Plumbing & Heating for an equipment wash facility at Industrial Park with output of 1,140 gallons per day, fee set at \$4,000. Permit application for day care facility at the Industrial Park was tabled until daily usage information is available.

Abenaki Loop – Board voted to accept .29-mile length of Abenaki Loop as a Class 3 town highway.

Town Village Merger – Board discussed petition asking for a revote of the merger plan filed on December 4. There are at least 157 names of registered voters on the petitions, but due to forged signatures, it is unknown whether they are actually signatures of registered voters. Board discussed potential for reduced participation at a revote whereas on November 7 there were 1,905 ballots cast. After discussion Board voted to accept the petition for reconsideration despite forgeries and cost of revote. Vote will be on January 16, 2007 with informational meetings on January 10 and January 15.

Budget Review – Arthur Sanborn and

Lisa Barrett presented proposed 2007 budgets.

Pedometer Challenge – Laurie Willey reported town received \$7,380 for participation in VT League of Cities and Towns Leader Program and an award for "most improved" in Pedometer Challenge. Funds will be split among participating employees. Town's share will be used to purchase first aid kits for municipal vehicles and buildings and an automated external defibrillator machine.

Peacham

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

November 15, 2006

Transfer Station – Board discussed progress of compactor roof with Dick Blair and communications from NKWMD representative, Paul Tomasi. Tomasi recommends postponing signing of Cassella Waste Management contract until all fees are clarified. Board agreed to discuss agreement with town attorney.

Road Report – Administrative Assistant Phil Jejer reported binder coat on village road construction is complete. Final coat will be applied next year. Traffic ordinance signs are being installed. Jejer is finalizing policy for town vehicles.

Cemetery Funds – Board discussed auditing of cemetery funds and reviewed Dave Jacobs' proposal for cemetery tree plan.

Budget Review – Town treasurer presented various reports of budget status, expenditures and revenues.

Snowmobile Policy – After discussion, Board voted to approve town snowmobile policy.

Town Path Committee – Board discussed town path committee.

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

Conservation Committee – Board noted Alexandra Evans has resigned from conservation commission and voted to appoint Neil Monteith to fill remainder of Evan's term.

Town Hall – Board discussed needs for additional office and meeting space in town hall.

December 6, 2006

Road Reclassification – After a site visit and public hearing, Board voted to reclassify Gracie Drive from class 3 to class 4.

Town Trees – Board noted local residents have made a generous donation of tress to town in honor of their son. Dick Browne reported funds are available for tree work in cemetery. Board directed David Jacobs to oversee work to be done with road crew assistance as time and weather allow.

Transfer Station – Board discussed trash removal contract with Cassella Waste Management and voted to proceed with engineering and construction of roof over trash compactor immediately.

Town Garage – Phil Jejer, reported that

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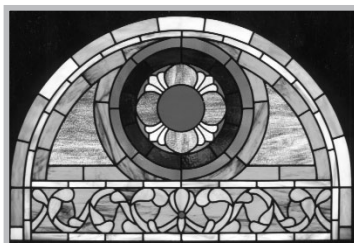
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Excerpts from Selectboard Minutes from Area Towns

See your Town Clerk for complete minutes of the meetings

consultant has provided report on conditions at town garage including attached sheds, building ventilation, bathroom and break room facilities and furnace condition. Board asked to meet with Jejer and consultant at garage site. Board instructed Jejer to keep snow removed from equipment shed roof this winter.

Peacham Pond – New contractor was hired to plow Peacham Pond area and do ditching and gravel work.

Village Intersection – Board voted to accept \$500 grant from Preservation Trust of Vermont to assist with engineering survey and design for village intersection.

Health Insurance – Board discussed health insurance options offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield and CIGNA.

Town Budget – Board reviewed draft 2007 budget.

December 16, 2006

Town Garage – Board met at town garage with Phil Jejer and Roger Barry, consultant and project manager specializing in State buildings, to inspect shed. Barry pointed out that shed attached to garage is in disrepair and putting undue stress on wall of garage. Barry believes shed should be removed before it causes permanent damage to garage. However shed may survive winter with careful roof shoveling. Board voted to hire Roger Barry to develop plans and estimates for replacing shed with a permanent structure.

St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch

Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier

Selectboard: Dale Urie, Bryon Quatrini, Dale Urie, Reg Wakeham, Gary Reis and Jerry Rowe.

November 27, 2006

Fraud Policy – Following presentation by Sandy Grenier Board approved fraud policy as presented.

Town Expenditures – Board reviewed expenditure warrants as presented.

Grand List – Board approved two amendments to grand list as presented by Sandy Grenier.

Kingdom Animal Shelter – Kevin Oddy, president of Kingdom Animal Shelter, met with Board to review status of Animal Shelter project. Oddy explained architectural work is complete and facility has been downsized to a cost of approximately \$650,000. Oddy noted that KAS is not close in terms of fundraising but has some leads. Town may be able to help in site work depending on construction schedule.

Arlington Development Stormwater – Jim Pease from VT Department of Environmental Conservation met with Board to explain Orphan Stormwater System. State has new regulations, and is providing grant money, to enable municipalities and homeowners associations to meet requirements to renew stormwater permits such as that which has expired in Arlington development. Under the applicable grant requirements, town must be a partner in the process. After consideration by Town Attorney Edward Zuccaro Board voted

to work with property owners to identify areas where private property easements may be required for drainage ways and work on preparing a grant application for renewal of stormwater permit.

Fire Prevention and Life Safety Code – Fire Chief Ruggles met with Board to discuss Fire Prevention and Life Safety Code. Board reviewed draft language about inspection of single family homes as part of a proactive program in community and discussed standard for notification of property owners relative to inspections. After discussion Ruggles agreed to review current ordinance and recommend changes. Board will review revised draft language.

Capital Improvement Plan – Town Manager reported planning commission had approved draft capital improvement plan. Board agreed to set a joint meeting with town finance committee to continue review plan.

Downtown Improvement District – Mike Welch advised Board that St. Johnsbury Works is leaving it up to Board to determine when charter question related to expansion of downtown improvement district should go before voters. Board voted to postpone action on any such amendment initiative for consideration by town meeting in 2007.

Speed Limits – Town Manager reported a long-standing request for adjustment in speed limit at Tilden Road. Sheriff deputies have run radar speed checks. Bryon Quatrini volunteered to inspect Tilden Road with Town Manager.

Engineering Contract Amendments – After discussion Board voted to authorize contract amendments with Earthtech for Cliff Street and Hastings Hill combined sewer overflow project and East St. Johnsbury septic systems as presented.

November 28, 2006

Blue Cross Blue Shield Employee Health Insurance – Board met with Sharon Boguzewski and Joanne Reynolds of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont to review proposal for town employee health insurance. Board discussed coverage, deductibles and the proposed cost. Boguzewski and Reynolds discussed town's claim history and town's assignment to a large member pool. Board discussed wellness programs and dental coverage. Town Manager indicated that town has just received proposal from CIGNA and Board has not yet seen them as part of the competitive process. Boguzewski offered to provide a list of differences between the coverage of Blue Cross Blue Shield and CIGNA.

CIGNA and VT League of Cities & Towns Trust – Mike Welch provided Board with copy of CIGNA rate quote and proposal. Welch quoted CIGNA representatives as saying their plan offerings will be "equal to or better" than current Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans. Board discussed customer satisfaction and possibility of reopening union contracts depending upon preference and decision of Board.

December 4, 2006

Capital Improvement Plan – Board met with finance committee to review capital improvement plan following approval of plan by planning commission. After considerable discussion Board directed town manager to revise plan to include more detailed information as to project descriptions, bond vote dates, design dates and funding assumptions. Board will then warn public hearing and consider adoption of the plan.

Employee Health Insurance – Board met with Steve Jeffrey, David Sichel and Tom Scull to discuss Vermont League of Cities and Towns proposal to move VLCT Health Trust insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont to CIGNA. Discussion included rate quote for St. Johnsbury, deductibles, CIGNA claim payment history and experience of St. Johnsbury within VLCT municipal insurance pool.

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

December 11, 2006

Meeting with School Board – Selectboard met with St. Johnsbury School Board and William Talbot from VT Department of Education who explained how education property tax payments are assessed, collected and distributed.

Employee Health Insurance – Town Manager reported union bargaining units and non union employees have expressed preference for continuing their health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield. After discussion of costs and coverage options Board voted to enter into agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield for employee health insurance and withdraw from VT League of Cities and Towns Health Trust. Board will review premium rates before end of 2007.

Parking Meters – Town Manager reported that parking meter technician reported that meters cannot be modified to the time limits approved by Board. Joel Schwartz suggested having meters in high traffic retail areas 5 cents for 12 minutes, 10 cents for 24 minutes and 25 cents for an hour, and where people park longer set meters for 25 cents per hour. After discussion Board voted to implement the suggestion as a test and seek out other vendors to be sure town is getting best system for the price on meter adjustments.

Murphy Parking Lot – Board discussed possibility of improvements to lot owned by Peter Murphy (formerly Grandpa's Cigar) and enhanced design linking town's parking lot on Pearl Street with Murphy lot.

Budget Review – Town manager reported first draft of municipal budget will be ready for finance committee by December 18 and for Board review in January.

Grand List – On recommendation of Sandy Grenier, Board approved grand list amendment #16 equal to \$37.62.

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Advisory Committee – Board discussed NVDA's request for Board representation on Lamoille Valley Recreational Trail Advisory Committee. Gary Reis volunteered to serve with Bryon Quatrini as alternate.

December 18, 2006

Grand List – Board voted to approve two adjustments to the grand list. Further, Board voted to appeal equalized valuation of Catamount Arts building (formerly Masonic temple) established by the State.

Water System Improvements – Red Dufresne of Dufresne & Associates met with Board to review water system improvement studies. Dufresne reviewed Overcliff tank(s) replacement and recommended two new tanks be installed. Total project estimated to cost \$2,555,000. Dufresne reviewed report on alum sludge handling at water treatment plant. Total estimate for replacement of Industrial Park Tank, two Overcliff Tanks and slip-lining for alum treatment would be approximately \$4,021,000. Dufresne recommends a schedule with final project design in 2007 and a bond vote in 2008 for construction beginning in 2008. Board voted to submit basis of design report on Overcliff tanks for state review and determine if State funding is available to pursue final design.

Town Meeting – Board discussed sequence of articles on town meeting warning, in order to best allow for public discussion and review of the articles.

Municipal Budget Review – Town manager provided draft of municipal expenditure budgets for general fund, highway fund and special services fund. Manager reported that department heads were advised to keep budgets at a minimum increase with a goal of an overall increase of not more than 4%.

Appointment – Following executive session to discuss a Board appointment no action was taken.

Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith

Selectboard: David Brown, Perley Greaves and Douglas Luther

November 28, 2006

Capital Expenditures – School board

member Bill Half asked for information on Board's plans for new vehicles. School is considering a new school bus and wants to coordinate purchase with town's future needs. Board noted its capital improvement plan had scheduled a replacement for the Ford F550, but Board decided to postpone that for at least another year. Perley Greaves asked about need for school to have a generator since it is designated as area shelter. Half agreed to discuss generator with school board and research funding.

Grand List – Board accepted list of error and omissions to grand list presented by listers.

All Terrain Vehicles – Board noted letter received from Robyn Cook-Hubner regarding ATV's. Letter will be added to informational file.

Town Employee Insurance – Board discussed employee insurance. Town clerk will attend informational meeting about changes in group insurance through Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns.

Town Clerk's Office – Perley Greaves reported a leak in closet in town clerk's office.

Fire Station – Greaves noted a transfer switch is needed in firehouse in order to use a generator if needed. Cost should be \$500-800. Board postponed discussion until Dave Brown is present.

Budget Review – Board discussed 2007 budget.

December 12, 2006

Town Clerk – On recommendation of Diane Cochran, Board agreed to consider an article on March town meeting warning changing term for town clerk and treasurer from one to three years.

Fire Department – Perley Greaves reported fire department will purchase transfer switch it requested on its own.

Employee Wages – Board voted that a 3.3% cost of living raise be granted to town employees, town clerk and assistant town clerk beginning January 1.

Employee Health Insurance – After discussion Board voted to stay with VT League of Cities and Towns and switch from Blue Cross Blue Shield to CIGNA for employee health insurance

Town Report – Board discussed town report and town meeting.

Town Clerk – On request of town clerk, Board authorized additional 4 hours per week if needed during busy times and she will adjust office hours to be open more hours per week with amount and times to be determined.

Budget – Board discussed 2007 budget.

Road Crew – On request of road foreman, Board approved four day work week beginning in January.

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No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

Soup is truly the greatest miracle of the kitchen. From modest ingredients the cook creates a dish with an aromatic combination of flavors that comfort the family, warm the body and soothe the soul. And, the possibilities are limitless – hearty, light, spicy, mild, creamy or brothy – soup can be made from almost anything. Once you learn the basics of making good soup it will become an intuitive enterprise to put a kettle on the stove and discover the miracle again and again.

There are a few rules to making good soup:

1. Plan your soup well. Don't just throw everything in the refrigerator into a pot and expect good results. The ingredients must compliment each other and meld together in the pot to create a tasty end product. So think it through.

2. Sauté the vegetables you will use (onions, carrots, celery and so forth) at the beginning of the process to soften and release their flavors. You can just throw them into the broth, but this ini-

tial step adds depth to the finished product.

3. Start with a decent broth. You can make your own or you can use the stock that comes in a box on the grocery shelf. Another product that can help you out is a bouillon paste. It is always a good idea to use these store-bought ingredients in conjunction with a broth made from scratch. In the end, use whatever makes you happy – after all that's what soup is all about.

4. I always use heavy cream to make creamy soups. You use much less of it than you would milk or half and half, and it never breaks down or curdles in the soup. It also adds a richness to the soup you cannot get with a different product.

5. If you are using meat – cook it in water or broth ahead of time and put the meat aside to put back in the soup when it is finished. Place the meat in a pot and cover with broth or water – throw in an onion, carrots, a few celery sticks and even herbs that match whatever soup you are making. No need to peel the vegetables, they are just for flavor.

Cook until the meat is done (not overcooked and dried out) and strain the broth into a bowl – set aside. Remove bones and excess fat from the meat and cut into pieces to be used in the soup and set aside – covered well to prevent it from drying out. You will use this broth when you make the soup and use the meat at the very end of the soup process.

6. Cook noodles or rice in water or broth ahead of time and set them aside to put in the soup at the time of service. This way they will not become soggy and overcooked. I put a little olive oil over noodles to keep them from sticking together until I'm ready for them.

7. Remember to have fun. You don't have to follow all the rules and regulations – just let the process flow and have a good time.

The following recipes will serve you well in your quest to stay warm in January

Beef Barley Soup with Mushrooms

This classic soup can be made with lamb, venison or other game you might have in your freezer. It is hearty and flavorful fare for a blustery winter day.

- ¼ cup olive oil
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2-3 lbs of beef (chuck, round, shin etc...)
- 8 cups beef broth or water
- 1 whole onion (not peeled), 1 whole carrot, 2 celery ribs
- 2 large onions – chopped
- 4 carrots – peeled and chopped
- 4 ribs celery – chopped fine
- 1 bunch scallions – chopped
- ¼ cup parsley – chopped
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried basil

- 2 cups sliced mushrooms
- ½ cup pearl barley
- Salt and pepper to taste

Put the meat in a pot and cover with water or broth. Put in one onion cut in half, one carrot and 2 celery ribs. Simmer for about an hour or until the meat is tender and ready to use in the soup. Strain the broth into a bowl and set aside. Prepare the meat for use in the soup (debone, defat and cut into pieces). Set aside - covered well to prevent drying.

Put the butter and olive oil into a soup pot, and when hot add the chopped onions, carrots, scallions and celery. Cook until very soft. Add the barley and cook with the vegetables for a few minutes. Add the strained stock. Add the parsley, thyme and basil. Cook until the barley starts to soften – about 30 minutes. In a saucepan sauté the mushrooms in butter to soften. Add to the soup mix and let simmer until the barley is cooked – about another ½ hour. You may need to add some more stock or water during the cooking process if the soup gets too thick. Season with salt and pepper to taste. If you want to lift the flavor of the soup at this point stir in a nut of butter.

Add the meat pieces to the soup and warm.

Serve with a light bread and perhaps a salad.

- 3 large onions – chopped
- ¼ cup sugar
- 3-4 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 can unsweetened coconut milk
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

Sauté the onions in butter until they are thoroughly cooked and very soft. Try not to color them too much – keep the heat on low. Add the beef stock. You can use the boxed or canned version or use a bouillon paste mixed with water. Add the sweet potatoes, sugar, coconut milk and curry powder. Cook on medium heat until the sweet potatoes are very soft – about 30 to 40 minutes. You will want to stir the soup often so that it does not stick. If the soup becomes too thick at any point, just add some water or broth. But, remember that this is by nature a fairly thick soup. Don't let this soup boil after the sweet potatoes are cooked. They get very hot and you run the risk of burning the soup and yourself.

I like to puree this soup with an immersion mixer. If you don't have one, a food processor or hand mixer will do. You can even mash it all together by hand – it will taste as good but will not have the smooth look of a well pureed soup.

After pureeing, adjust the texture of the soup with more water or broth if necessary. It should be fairly thick but pour easily. Season with salt and pepper. Add the heavy cream and heat for serving.

Sprinkle some chopped parsley or cilantro on top of the bowls of soup and serve with warm pita bread and salad.

(Please See Vanna on Next Page)

Curried Sweet Potato Soup

The flavors found in curry are custom made for the sweet potato. This easy soup will be one of your favorites. It freezes well - so make a big pot.

- 6 cups sweet potatoes – peeled and cubed
- 8 cups beef stock (canned or boxed)
- 4 tablespoons butter

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St. Johnsbury Academy

Winter 2007 Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball ~ Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game			
January			
4	Brattleboro	H	5-6:45
6	@ Rutland	A	1-2:30
9	CVU	H	5-6:30
12	Mt. Mansfield	H	5-6:30
16	@ North Country	A	5-6:30
19	@ So. Burlington	A	5-6:30
23	Hartford	H	5-6:30
26	@ Spaulding	A	5-6:30
30	@ Mt. Mansfield	A	5-6:30
February			
2	@ CVU	A	5-6:30
6	Colchester	H	5-6:30
9	Rice	H	5-6:30
12	Essex	H	5-6:30
16	So. Burlington	H	5-6:30
20	Burlington	H	5-6:30

Girls Basketball ~ Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game			
January			
3	Rice	H	5-6:45
5	@ North Country	A	5-6:45
8	Brattleboro	H	5-6:45
11	@ CVU	A	5-6:45
13	Rutland	H	1-2:45
19	@ Burlington	A	5-6:45
23	@ Spaulding	A	5-6:45
25	Essex	H	5-6:45
29	@ Rice	H	5-6:45
February			
1	North Country	H	5-6:45
5	Mt. Mansfield	H	5-6:45
8	CVU	H	5-6:45
10	@ Brattleboro	A	5-6:45
13	Burlington	H	5-6:45

Girls Basketball ~ Freshmen			
January			
6	North Country	H	5:00
11	@ Burlington	A	5:00
15	@ CVU	A	4:00
17	Hartford	H	5:00
18	Lyndon	H	5:00
20	Mt. Mansfield	H	12:00
23	@ North Country	A	5:00
25	MMU Tournament A		6:00
	SJA v BFA (St. Albans)		6:00
27	MMU Tournament Finals		6:00
29	Lyndon	H	5:00

Gymnastics			
January			
6	Randolph	H	3:00
10	@ Randolph	A	7:00
18	@ Essex	A	7:00
February			
3	South Burlington	H	6:00
9	@ Milton	A	7:00
17	State Championships at Essex	A	2:00

Nordic Skiing			
January			
4	Montpelier U-32 Relays @ Montpelier		3:30
6	CHS @ Trapps		10:30
11	Stowe @ Stowe		3:00
16	Middlebury @ Breadloaf		10:00
20	Lamolle @ LUHS		11:00
26	So. Burlington @ Sleepy Hollow		4:00
30	BFA @ Sleepy Hollow		4:00
February			
4	North Country @ Newport		10:00
10	Lyndon/St J @ Burke		10:00
13	North Country @ North Country		5:00
17	BHS @ Bolton Valley		10:00
22	BFA/BFAF @ Bolton State Championships		10:30
26	MAU @ North Country State Championships		10:30
Host is underlined			


Hockey			
January			
3	Stowe	H	6:00
6	@ Colchester	A	6:20
13	Burr & Burton	H	4:30
17	@ U-32	A	6:00
19 & 20	Woodstock Tourney	A	7:30
27	@ Brattleboro	A	4:45
31	Mt St. Josephs	H	6:00
February			
7	Middlebury	H	5:00
10	Harwood	H	7:00

Wrestling			
January			
4	Mt. Abe, Vergennes	A	6:30
6	Newfound	A	10:00
10	White Mt. & MMU	H	6:00
13	TBA		
19,20	Essex Classic Invitational	A3:30/10:30	
23	Randolph	A	7:00
27	Colchester Invitational	A	10:00
February			
3	Mt. Anthony Duals	A	10:00
6	Spaulding	A	6:30
10	NVAC Tournament @ Vergennes	A	10:00
18	JV States @ Spaulding	A	TBA
23,24	Varsity State Tournament @ St. Johnsbury	H	6/10:00

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String Worth Saving

Bill Christiansen

Here we are in the middle of winter. There was a time when the snow fell by mid November and was with us until at least mid April, but in the past few years, the most unpredictable part of this season has been snowfall. Snow may be unpredictable, but one thing we can still count on every winter is ice.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, 15 or 20 cars would be out on the ice, first getting up to speed and then slamming on the brakes. The cars would make "pinwheels" as they skidded to a stop.

Winter is characterized by long cold nights. We go to work in the dark and come home in the dark. With the sun low in the sky, there is a minimum of warming taking place during the short days. In January we are slowly recovering from the winter solstice when the night was almost 15 hours long. By the third week of January we have gained about 30 minutes of daylight. These long nights are the conditions that produce ice.

Small ponds and lakes begin

to freeze in late November. Ice begins to form in the still water in brooks and rivers, and ice continues to grow throughout the winter months. In some years, only the very largest lakes and fast rivers fail to freeze over. In recent years, Lake Champlain has failed to completely freeze over.

Ice is an interesting substance. Water molecules are classed as a dipole molecule. The two hydrogen atoms that bond to an oxygen atom do so toward one side of the oxygen. This means that the molecule has a slight positive charge on one side and a slight negative charge on the other. In the liquid state, this charge has little effect since the molecules are relatively far apart. Each molecule moves around in its own little space. As water cools, the molecules move around less and the space between molecules shrinks. When they get close enough together, the weak electrical charge begins to act and the molecules begin to line up, positive side to the negative side of the neighbor, and the lining up builds a lattice which we call a solid or a crystal.

At the surface of the water, the system runs out of molecules to line up and freeze. The ice surface is very smooth, but below the surface, the molecules lose their heat and build onto the ice mass. This thickening continues throughout the winter months, and the ice gets thicker and thicker. I remember as a kid we lived on a lake, and ice activities were a winter pastime. The growth of the ice mass continues well into spring. Even as the temperature grows warmer and the ice melts at the surface, water

is still freezing below the surface.

The space between water molecules is often filled with gas, usually air. When the molecules begin to cluster to form the lattice, most of the air is forced out of the spaces, but a small amount remains. This trapped air is the explanation for a "milky" appearance in the ice. If the ice forms slowly and the air bubbles have time to escape, the ice is very clear. Another condition that makes ice "milky" is to have a wet surface with a little snow on it as it freezes. "Milky" ice is much softer than clear ice.

Again, when I was young and we would skate on the lake, we always looked for what we referred to as "black ice." This is an old New England term for ice that forms under special conditions. The use of the term "black ice" for ice on the highway is relatively new. "Black ice" of old is ice that formed with very few if any air bubbles and the blackness came from the fact you were looking through clear ice into deep dark water. Warmer water from deep in the lake slowly wells up to the surface where it freezes. This water contains very little dissolved gas so it freezes very clear. If you observe the way a lake freezes, you can predict where the black ice will form. In the early stages of freezing, round patches of open water will be the last to freeze. These round patches of open water are the up-welling. The ice formed at these places was always the smoothest and hardest ice, and ultimately best for skating. As I remember skating on the lake, we never had to shovel a place to skate. As soon as there was a snowfall, a stiff North wind would blow the lake clean. Things have changed because every time I go by the lake now, it is covered with snow and it has to be plowed in for skating.

Even in the winter, these

patches of clear ice allow enough light to penetrate the water so plants can carry on the process of photosynthesis. This puts much needed oxygen into the water, enough to help keep the fish and other organisms alive. Snow cover on the ice reduces the transparency and reduces this life giving process.

For anyone who has spent time on a lake or pond, the "booming" sound the ice make can be disconcerting. The old timers referred to this sound as "the lake making ice." It reminds you of thunder in the summer, a sharp boom close by and then the sound travels away over the lake. As the ice forms, air bubbles, snow crystals and other "impurities" create stresses in the lattice. When the stress reaches a critical level, the energy is released with a "boom." The release of stress in one place creates new and higher stress levels in another, and they too are released and the sound rumbles around until the system reaches equilibrium. Sometimes the release of stress leaves a crack in the ice that extends all

the way through the ice sheet. A bit of water will well up through the crack and re-freeze at the surface as a little ridge. There use to be much debate as to whether the sound was louder and more frequent in cold weather than warm.

When I was growing up, ice fishing was not a big sport. I don't remember ever seeing anyone fishing on the ice. Today on that same lake, there are little clusters of fishing houses. One sport that I do remember watching was seeing those who drove the family car out onto the ice and slid around. On a sunny Sunday afternoon, 15 or 20 cars would be out on the ice, first getting up to speed and then slamming on the brakes. The cars would make "pinwheels" as they skidded to a stop. This could only be done on a lake without snow cover. As I remember it these were adults, as teenagers did not have cars of their own.

I think we (and our vehicles) may be better off with the more sedate winter pastime of ice fishing. ★



Photo By: Matt Clancy

Danville High School students (L-R) Hannah Lazerick (alto sax), Morgan Gray (flute) and Adrian Duckett (trumpet) auditioned for and were accepted to participate in the Northeast District High School Jazz Festival at North Country Union High School on February 9, 2007. This newly-created festival will feature select high school jazz musicians from throughout the Northeast Kingdom performing in a jazz band, jazz combo and jazz chorus. For further information on this event contact Matt Clancy at (802) 684-3651.

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Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

January 2, 2006 - We're fortunate to have snow on the ground to offset this otherwise drab and dreary start to 2006. A little sunshine would go a long way to add a bit of cheer. First Night celebration in St. J was just the ticket to bid farewell to the old year and ring in the new. The temperature hovered in the teens which was just right to keep the cheerful crowds moving along Main Street, enjoying good food and fun-filled entertainment.

January 4, 2006 - A bit of sunshine, milder temperatures and the lack of wind have made for good snowshoeing. The snow is hard packed and easily negotiated. I've laid out several loops in the woods, which interconnect for an aerobic 45 minute snowshoe right out our back door. The snow is patterned with all sorts of tracks, the most interesting being definitely feline. They seem too large for a house cat and might just be bobcat trails. Whichever they are, they are extensive. On both sides of Walden Hill Road, snowshoe hare tracks abound along with the usual three-prong grouse pattern

and mice trails, complete with their delicate thin tail line. There's still a good deal of open and flowing water in the marshy areas.

January 6, 2006 - The deciduous trees have sprouted delicate frosty leaves that stand out feathery white against a steel gray sky. Snow is gently falling, adding to the four inches or so that accumulated yesterday. Fortunately temperatures are staying in the high 20's, taking the usual bite out of January.

January 7, 2006 - 4° above and bright sunshine greet the day. The sky is that intense, true blue that only clear cold days of winter can produce. Flocks of red polls swoop and dive en masse from tree to tree, to feeder, to tree and then disappear only to just as suddenly return. A hairy woodpecker clings to the suet cage while the air around him swarms with a red-poll ballet. He is outnumbered but holds his ground, unperturbed by the frantic, swirling masses. Frost remains on the trees and glistens in the sun. This magnificent winter day is ending with a rosy-glow sunset, the White Mountains retreating back into soft blue shadows. A waxing half moon hangs



Photo By: Jeff Gold

4° and bright sunshine greet the day. The sky is that intense, true blue that only the clear cold days of winter can produce.

high in the sky.

January 12, 2006 - Went to sleep last night to the sound of rain and awoke to a 40° morning. It looks like we're in the midst of a January thaw. Some snow remains but a few spots of bare ground show through. The driveway is washed down to its original layer of ice, which will hopefully melt away before temperatures drop. We're in a brief winter lull, a time for mother nature to shake off her winter coat and run around in her shirt sleeves for a while before bundling up again. We took a drive to Montpelier and to Waitsfield. The Mad River was flowing quite full and swiftly except for a more narrow, windy section which was dammed with ice flows. Very rough, jagged clumps of ice had collided and were churned up into a bumpy composite mass that covered the rapidly flowing water underneath. It was quite a sight, reminding us of the extreme power of nature.

January 15, 2006 - Our three-day January thaw moved on to make way for winter's return. 12° on the thermometer after mid-40's yesterday, with a howling wind that's redistributing the few inches of new snow and baring the underlying ice which formed first as the

temperature dropped. It's a dreary day. Hopefully we'll see more snow to set a firm footing over the ice. The sun made a brief afternoon attempt to shine through but clouds prevail. It's -2° with a nasty wind-chill factor.

January 16, 2006 - It's wonderful to see the full sun on this subzero morning. Colorful "ice-bows" shoot up on both sides of the rising sun, bending and arcing to the curvature of the earth. Wind sweeps and swirls across the frozen ground, creating sand patterns in the snow. Snow dust sparkles in the light of the sun. Drove into town this evening to visit friends and were treated to a large, orange moon rising through a thin wisp of clouds as we headed down Walden Hill. Another frigid night brought out the stars, "shivering" and shimmering in the crystal clear sky

January 18, 2006 - Steady, heavy rain and 40° temperatures turned the icy morning winter advisory into a flood watch. More snow is promised, but for now it's a watery mess.

January 25, 2006 - It's been a week of more rain and thaw with lots of open ground, good news for the deer and moose. We finally began seeing some drop in tem-

perature and more snow two days ago. Slowly but surely our snow base is rebuilding. The change in temperature combined with all this moisture has stirred up some fog, which clings as ice on the trees and is especially elegant on the slender, long delicate needles of the white pines. We drove west on RT 2 yesterday. The Winooski River is running high and furious. Joe's Pond is still open in deeper areas. We have an apple tree full of evening grosbeaks with one bluejay to offset that yellow. A gently falling snow provides the perfect backdrop.

January 31, 2006 - The sun is finally breaking through the cloud layers. Trees thickly coated with a fresh layer of wet, gloppy snow, sparkle against a darkened sky. Eaves drip as the temperature rises into the mid 30's. January has been warmer than usual with a constant flux between snow and thaw. We're measuring accumulated snow in inches rather than feet and still seeing lots of open, wet areas in the field and woods. Even saw a skunk out foraging last night. Those little stinkers are usually denned up tight at this time of year. There have been very few single digit or subzero days so far in 2006, but I'm sure that will change before winter gives way to spring.

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VPR Program Schedule

MONDAY - FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 A.M. BBC World Update (5 to 6 a.m.)	6 A.M. Classical Music	6 A.M. Only a Game
7 A.M. Morning Edition with Mitch Wertlieb	7 A.M. Only a Game	7 A.M. Sunday Bach
8 A.M. Classical Music with Walter Parker	8 A.M. Weekend Fill-in	8 A.M. Weekend Fill-in
9 A.M. Military Report with Steve Delaney at noon	9 A.M. Car Talk	9 A.M. On the Media
10 A.M. (Wednesday) Weekend Edition	10 A.M. Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!	10 A.M. Studio 360
11 A.M. Performance Today with Fred Child	11 A.M. Interlude	11 A.M. A Prairie Home Companion
12 P.M. Fresh Air with Terry Gross	12 P.M. Saturday Afternoon at the Opera with Peter Fox Smith	12 P.M. All The Traditions with Robert Hesnik
1 P.M. All Things Considered with Neal Chamoff	1 P.M. All Things Considered	1 P.M. All Things Considered
2 P.M. (Monday) Music/Spoken Word	2 P.M. A Prairie Home Companion	2 P.M. From the Top
3 P.M. (Tuesday) Music/Spoken Word	3 P.M. Companion	3 P.M. Grandpa's Place
4 P.M. (Wednesday) Music/Spoken Word	4 P.M. This & That	4 P.M. Say Yes
5 P.M. (Thursday) Music/Spoken Word	5 P.M. This & That	5 P.M. This American Life
6 P.M. Living on Earth	6 P.M. My Place	6 P.M. Sound and Spirit
7 P.M. Specials with George Thomas	7 P.M. Hearts of Space	7 P.M. Classical Music
8 P.M. Classical Music	8 P.M. Hearts of Space	8 P.M. Classical Music
9 P.M. Classical music overnight	9 P.M. Hearts of Space	9 P.M. Classical Music
10 P.M. Classical music overnight	10 P.M. Hearts of Space	10 P.M. Classical Music
11 P.M. Classical music overnight	11 P.M. Hearts of Space	11 P.M. Classical Music
Midnight	Midnight	Midnight

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Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

I hope you don't find this problem too trivial. My 16-year old daughter, Lara, wants to be an actress and an artist, and shows great promise in both areas. She and I are locked in a typical power struggle about the messiness of her room.

Last night during our argument Lara said she had read an article which claimed that true creativity flowed from chaos, and tidiness was the death of talent. I made her straighten out her room, of course (?). Now I'm a little worried, could I be hurting her future?

Concerned Neatnik

Dear Concerned,

It seems to us that Lara's argument shows remarkable creativity. It follows that up to this point you haven't stunted her

potential for creativity. We say you can let go of your concern about hurting her future.

Her position has merit, though. Chaos is one stage in the creative process. However, she neglected to point out that chaos is just one of several necessary steps or stages in that process. Without the additional steps, some of which demand discipline, no art or creative endeavor is worthwhile.

There are five formal stages in the creative process: 1. formulating a problem (this requires being curious); 2. gathering ideas and information from a variety of sources, or researching; 3. mulling everything over and letting go of preconceptions (this is the chaos stage); 4. allowing some ideas to surface, or pruning; and 5. testing ideas to see if they work (this requires disci-

pline, revising and editing).

An example of an artist who also employed discipline is Picasso; before becoming famous as an artist, he trained himself to become one of the finest draftsmen in all of Europe.

As you can see, the creative process demands various strengths and skills. One has to know when to be open and to suspend preconceptions, when to use critical thinking, when to hold on to convictions and when to throw out ideas and to change. Your daughter will need to cultivate all these skills to use her creative potential well. Tidying her room can actually help her to learn discipline and critical thinking.

By the way, no one needs to worry about a problem being too small. We believe that any inquiry that can add to an understanding of the world and each other is worthwhile.

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

Indoor Winter Gardening - Is it too late?

LEONARD PERRY

How to treat unplanted spring-flowering bulbs, an amaryllis when through flowering and what's with houseplants dropping their leaves, are common indoor gardening questions this time of year.

If you got spring-flowering bulbs this fall but didn't get them all planted, what should you do with them? These bulbs can't really be held over until spring, or for another year, so go on and plant them in pots. If you wait until spring to plant them outside, or in pots, they will start growing with no roots, and they won't be successful. Planting them now allows roots to form before they grow tops.

To grow roots, and receive the cold they need to flower, potted bulbs should be in a cool (40 degrees F or less) but non-freezing location. This could be an unheated garage or basement. You could place them outside in a protected area, covered with plenty of bark mulch, straw or soil. Then remove the mulch when growth starts in spring.

If you got an amaryllis for the holidays, how should you treat it once it has finished blooming? Once the flower stalk is finished, leaves will emerge. Keep the bulb watered and fertilized lightly through the winter. This helps it build up reserves for next year's bloom. Then place the potted bulb outdoors for the summer, keeping it watered as necessary. In early fall bring it indoors, decrease watering greatly until almost none, remove the leaves as they die back, and let the bulb "rest" for about eight weeks. Then resume watering, and growth should resume.

If you had an amaryllis, and followed this process but no bloom appeared this year, your plant may not have built up enough food reserves during the year. If you just got leaves, keep the bulb watered and fertilized, and hopefully this coming year it will bloom once again. Sometimes after being "forced" plants like these require a couple of years before reblooming.

If you have a houseplant, such as a jade plant, and the leaves are turning yellow and dropping off, what can you do? With a jade plant, leaves dropping is likely a sign that the soil is too wet. As with most houseplants, too little water is better than too much. If in doubt, don't water, especially with "succulents," such as the jade. Make sure the plant is in a pot with drainage, and not sitting in a saucer of water. Clay pots, which dry out faster than plastic, are good for plants that don't need much water.

Make sure with houseplants that there is not a layer of gravel or small pebbles in the bottom of the pot. Some recommend this for drainage, but in reality the pebbles only create an area where water gathers and roots rot, or they decrease the amount of soil in the pot. You are better off without them.

Leonard Perry Ph.D. is extension professor at UVM.



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Auld Lang Syne, My Dear

How well I remember those times when I wandered on the Danville Green at the Fair with the children's parade, Saturday yard sales, Sunday night concerts with little kids dancing and between the Dowsers and the Peepers just sitting on the grass and watching the world go by; but best of all was a night like this with the sleighride, the carol sing and hot chocolate at the Inn. And another ...

The wreath hangs huge on the Town Hall door,
The Green is wrapped in white.
Carolers gather through the dusk
To sing the holy night

A small boy shags a vagrant snowball,
Calls across the Green to me,
"Hey, you wanna make a snowman?
Wait a minute, Papa T."

So we trudge a while together,
Watching windows wink to light
Then he hollers, "Merry Christmas!"
As he gallops out of sight.

Happy New Year to All

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Click & Clack Talk Cars

What is Bio Fuel?

Dear Tom and Ray:

I heard a radio interview recently with Willie Nelson, who was talking about how his wife bought a diesel car a few years back and started using biofuel (recycled grease and oil, reconstituted into vegetable oil - that's biofuel?). Then he said he bought a Mercedes diesel and started using it in that car. Is biofuel usable in all diesel engines? - Paul

TOM: One type of biofuel is, Paul. It's called bio-diesel. And Willie Nelson not only uses it, he sells the stuff.

RAY: There are two basic types of plant-oil fuels, Paul. The first type is biodiesel, which can be used in almost any diesel-powered car. That's usually soybean or rapeseed oil that's chemically altered to remove the glycerine and then mixed with traditional diesel fuel.

TOM: The regular diesel fuel is in there to make the mixture easier to start and to keep it from getting gloppy at lower temperatures.

RAY: You'll see it listed for sale as B5, B20 or B100 bio-diesel. B5, for instance, means it's 5 percent bio-diesel and 95 percent diesel fuel. B5 is universally considered safe for all diesel engines. Lots of people say B20 is fine, too.

TOM: The jury is still out on higher concentrations. There's some concern that in older engines, like from the early 1990s, before synthetic fuel lines were widely used, bio-diesel might break down rubber components in the fuel system, so it's worth having rubber components inspected after six months of use. But there are a lot of people who say they use

B20 in the winter and B100 in the summer with no problem at all.

RAY: So that's bio-diesel. Then there's plain old vegetable oil without diesel fuel mixed in. That can either be manufactured directly from plants or collected as waste oil from the fryolator at your local Burger Queen.

TOM: But that's not something you can use in just any car. It congeals too easily. Cars have to be modified significantly to run on straight vegetable oil (also called SVO).

RAY: You need a separate tank for regular diesel fuel. You use the diesel to start your engine and warm it up. The engine's coolant would then warm up the SVO. Once it's warm, you can switch to the SVO as fuel. But then you have to switch back to regular diesel fuel before you shut it off, to make sure there's no SVO left in the fuel lines when you shut it down. Otherwise, the lines will clog up like arteries right before the heart attack.

TOM: So SVO is still for people on the fringe, and not the average guy who wants to do a little something easy to improve the environment.

RAY: Bio-diesel will help a little to improve things. It burns cleaner than standard diesel fuel. And assuming the "bio" part is grown in the United States, it helps promote energy independence.

TOM: Plus, your tailpipe exhaust will smell vaguely like french fries. Which is why gangs of hungry teenagers will follow you around all the time.

High Speeds Are Possible But Don't Do It

Dear Tom and Ray:
My friend claims that her

dad's Infiniti (I think that's the car) was going 140 mph for a minute or so on I-80. For some reason, I don't believe her. I also don't believe my friends when they say they drive that fast on the highways. My question: Can a car like an Infiniti - or any car, for that matter - really go that fast? I would imagine the car losing control, overheating or the engine just giving up. I'm skeptical when people say they go even 120 mph on a highway. Am I underestimating cars, or am I right to say, "You're full of it"? Thanks! - Mary

TOM: Well, some cars CAN go that fast, Mary. An Infiniti with a V-8 engine is one of them. In fact, there are a bunch of high-powered (usually expensive) cars that are capable of going well over 100 mph. They are limited only by an electronic speed governor set by the manufacturer.

RAY: But it sounds like your friends need a goverNESS - to ride with them and smack them in the back of the head once in a while. Even if a car is mechanically capable of going that fast, that doesn't mean it's safe to do so.

TOM: No. When you're going 30 miles an hour and someone unexpectedly drifts into your lane, you swerve or hit the brakes and, if you're lucky, you end up with nothing more than an elevated heart rate.

RAY: At 140 mph, you'll be charred in a ball of flames before you know what hit you. And before you say, "No one else was on the road when I drove that fast," you'd be in just as much trouble if one of your tires blew out, if there was unexpected debris in the road, if you hit an oil patch, if you dropped a wheel off onto the shoulder or if some animal crossed the highway in front of you.

TOM: At that kind of speed, where everything has to go perfectly, it's easy to lose control of a car. The slightest overcorrection of the steering wheel is enough to roll the car over, and at that speed, no airbag's going to save you.

RAY: So it's a terrible idea to drive that fast on any public road. Ever.

TOM: Yeah. That's why they

have racetracks - closed courses, where they make sure no animals or cars cross the road when you're going 140 mph. And they make you sign a liability waiver so they have no responsibility to your heirs should you screw up.

RAY: So tell your friend: "Yes, I believe you now. And now I also believe you are nuts, so I'm not riding with you anymore."

Should I Grab the \$300?

Dear Tom and Ray:

My 1963 Dodge Dart four-door sedan was an old-lady car when I bought it in 1963. Now I am an old lady and I changed to another, newer old-lady car, a 2001 Buick Century. My Dart and I drove from one end of this country to the other several times - west to east and north to south. My maintenance bills were for oil, gas, lubes and an occasional part. I love that car, and it looks basically like it did when purchased. The original upholstery was changed twice due to dog wear. It had two new paint jobs to match the original, and the engine was rebuilt after it reached 40,000 miles. Now I must part with it, and I can't seem to find a value. The Blue Book apparently doesn't go back that far. Can you tell me how to find a fair market price? I have someone interested, but he says the value is about \$300. I see others priced over \$2,000, which is about what I paid for it.. Your help would be most appreciated. - Joy

TOM: Well, I, too, owned a 1963 Dart at one time, Joy. It was the apple of my eye.

RAY: Yeah, an apple with more worms in it than an acre of Iowa farmland.

TOM: Anyway, I paid \$2,200 for it about 10 years ago. But it was a convertible, Joy. Yours is a sedan.

RAY: It also had a body like my brother's: severely weathered. So that's not a good comparison.

TOM: It's impossible to judge a car's value without seeing it. For instance, it might run fine, but it might be getting ready for another engine rebuild.

RAY: But if you want a general estimate, a pristine version

of your car might be worth about \$4,500.

TOM: But you need to subtract \$1,000 because the paint job is not the original one. Subtract another \$500 if the upholstery is torn. And take off another \$500 if it has more than 100,000 miles on it now.

RAY: And take off another \$2,200 because my brother has publicly praised these cars. That vicerates their value. So grab the \$300 offer, Joy!

TOM: No! Don't listen to him. My guess is that you're looking at a value somewhere in the \$2,000-\$2,500 range. And rather than sell it cheap to a guy up the street, your best bet is to check out *Hemmings Motor News*. That's where people who love old cars buy and sell stuff. You can place an ad there, and you might get lucky and find someone who knows this car well, and will give you what it's really worth.

RAY: Or you might get really lucky and find someone who doesn't know this car well, and will give you more than it's worth. Good luck, Joy.

Danville Senior Meal Site

January Meal Schedule

- January 2** - Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Homemade Rolls, Apple Crisp, Orange Juice.
- January 4** - Shepherd's Pie with Mixed Vegetables, Cabbage - Carrot - Pineapple Slaw, Blueberry Muffins, Oatmeal Cookies, Tomato Juice.
- January 9** - Cheeseburgers on a Bun with Lettuce and Tomato, Pasta Salad with Broccoli and Red Peppers, Cantaloupe.
- January 11** - Sloppy Joe's on Whole Wheat Rolls, Brown Rice, Sautéed California Vegetables, Applesauce, Tomato Juice. Library Day.
- January 16** - Chef Salad with Ham and Cheese and Homemade Croutons, Whole Wheat Rolls, Cantaloupe.
- January 18** - Pepperoni and Vegetable Pizza, Spaghetti Salad with Tomatoes and Peppers, Spinach Salad with Mandarin Oranges.
- January 23** - Pot Roast with Potatoes and Carrots, Whole Wheat Rolls, Tomato Juice, Fruit Cobbler.
- January 25** - Chicken with Broccoli and Ziti, Peas and Carrots, Orange Juice. Library Day.
- January 30** - Hot Dogs on Buns, Baked Beans, Pasta Salad, Fruit Bars, Tomato Juice.

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.

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Fairbanks Museum Conserves Helmut Siber Artwork

In January 2005 the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium received a preservation assistance grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support an assessment and preservation plan for a collection of works on paper by the artist Helmut Siber. The project is complete, and the results show that most of the collection is in good condition though some works are in need of preservation.

Siber was an internationally known 20th century German painter who lived and worked in northern New England during the 1960's and early 1970's. He produced a large body of materials interpreting the region's dramatic weather. Many remember this man, and many local institutions and individuals are proud owners of his work.

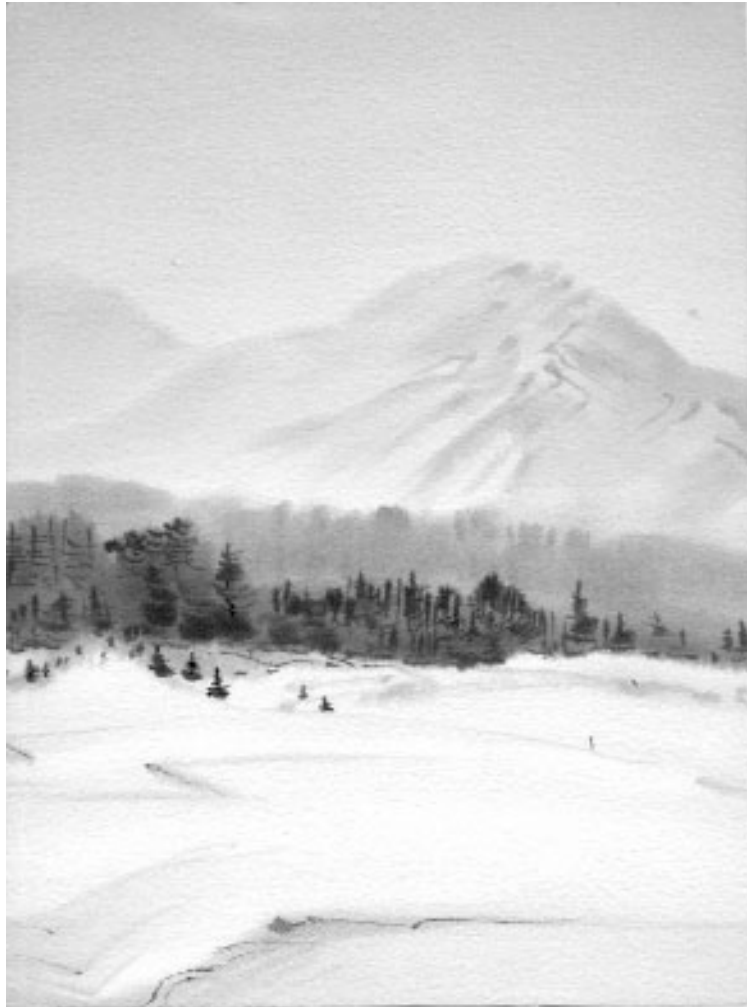
The Museum's collection includes 140 watercolors, mostly of cloud formations and weather conditions. There are 96 charcoal and pencil drawings of weather phenomena, as well as animal and bird studies. Three field notebooks and other writings document his painting techniques and the exact conditions, time of day and year at which the paintings were made. The collection includes articles written by the artist or about his work. Although not included in this

current project the collection includes 330 of Siber's photographic prints and negatives.

The Museum engaged paper conservator Mary Jo Davis, to

examine the artwork and documents. Her task was to inspect the work for signs of deterioration and assess their needs for conservation.

Several of the paintings had



Reproduction of Helmut Siber painting courtesy of Fairbanks Museum. Siber was an internationally known 20th century German painter who lived and worked in northern New England during the 1960's and early 1970's and produced a large number of materials interpreting the region's dramatic weather.

been on display for many years. They now are having a rest, as watercolor is a fragile medium easily affected by light. The collection has been re-housed in archival materials according to best practices.

Although the paintings are not currently on display, this rich and varied collection is more accessible for study and research by local artists, students, art teachers and the interested public. Appointments can be made by contacting Patricia Swartz at the

Museum, (802) 748-2372, or by email pswartz@fairbanksmuseum.org

Swartz is also compiling a database of the information on this collection and would be interested in including reference to other of Siber's works in the community. This would be a great aid for researchers if the works were to be available for public viewing. Please contact Patricia Swartz by phone or e-mail if you are interested in making such information available.

Skiing at Full Moon

The moon is bright and full;
Snow glitters and sparkles in its light;
Shadows are dark and mysterious,
Where I glide among the trees.

Open meadows are as bright as day,
But in a strange and colorless form,
Like being in a trance or dream,
Real, but not reality.

In the frigid air
Breath comes in smoke-like puffs,
Ice crystals prickle in my nose,
Frost forms on woolen hat and scarf.

In the glades amid the pines
Whose branches bend with frozen snow,
Moonlight creates a sense of awe,
A magical otherworldliness.

Skiing on a night like this,
I am transported to another plane
Where time stands still
In silence and ethereal beauty.

But as in dreams, the spell is broken.
Snow falls from bowing branch;
Toes and fingers start to chill;
Warm bed and fire seem suddenly appealing.

Isobel P. Swartz

West Barnet Senior Action Center

January 2007

January 3 - Buffet.

January 5 - Macaroni & Cheese, Sausage, Stewed Tomatoes, Green Beans, Muffins, Jell-O.

January 10 - Liver-Onions-Bacon, Mashed Potatoes, Spinach, Assorted Breads, Pears.

January 12 - Ham and Broccoli Quiche, Tossed Salad, Carrot and Raisin Salad, Homemade Bread, Cake with Frosting.

January 17 - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Carrots, Assorted Breads, Tropical Fruit Cup.

January 19 - Chicken with Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Cranberry Jelly, Grapenut Pudding.

January 24 - Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Banana Split Pudding.

January 26 - Corn Chowder, Tuna or Egg Salad Sandwiches, Cottage Cheese with Fruit, Orange Pineapple Jell-O.

January 31 - Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Brussels Sprouts, Muffins, Ice Cream.

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

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AROUND THE TOWNS



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Daily - The Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery in St. Johnsbury.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Fridays - Read and Weed Book Club, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Saturday & Sunday - Planetarium Show 1:30 p.m. Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-2372.

Saturdays - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 1 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

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

January

1 Barnet Annual Christmas Bird Count, (802) 626-8265.

3 First Wednesday Lecture Series with Dartmouth Professor Barbara Will and "27 Rue de Fleuris," a discussion of Gertrude Stein's literary legacy in Paris. 7 p.m. Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier. (802) 223-3338.

3 Witnesses at the Gate, Marjorie Ryerson presents stories from her book, *Companions for the Passage - Stories of the Intimate Privilege of Accompanying the Dying*, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

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

5 Contradance, Danville town hall with Union Suit Hull's Victory String Band, 8 p.m. (802) 563-3225.



Photo Courtesy of John Burt

In September John and Phyllis Burt spent part of their honeymoon in Skagway, AK. While John read about Vermont in The North Star, Phyllis grabbed a copy of The Skagway News. We enjoyed a chance to read Phyllis' paper after they returned to Vermont, and we quickly put Skagway on our own list of places to travel. It's about halfway between Juneau, AK and Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon. It's at the same latitude as a point right in the middle of Huson's Bay. The Skagway News was "christened in 1897, buried alive in 1904, resurrected in 1978 and currently celebrating more than 25 years of reporting on Skagway."

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

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

8 Northeast Kingdom Audubon, Information and Planning Meeting, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, 4:30 p.m. (802) 626-8265,

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

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

13 Nearly Full Moon Snowshoe, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 7 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

14 Yiddish Stories from Peretz, Sholom Aleichem, and the Baal Shem Tov, with story-

teller Beth Kanell. Beth El Synagogue, St. Johnsbury, 3 p.m. (802) 748-5683.

17 Vermont Council on the Arts Planning Forum hosted by Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury, 4-6 p.m. (802) 828-3293.

21 Plum Island National Refuge with Northeast Kingdom Audubon, Meet at I-93 Exit 44 Welcome Center at 6 a.m. (802) 626-9071.

23 Kitchen Tunks and Parlor Songs with Mark Greenberg, Oral histories and music revival, Memorial Building, Hardwick, 7 p.m. (802) 472-5948.

25 Global Warming: In the Hea(r)t of Winter with Fritz Gerhardt, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston, 7 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

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

27 Holland Pond Snowshoe with Ross Stevens, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston, 9 a.m. (802) 723-6551.

27 Craftsbury Ski Marathon, Point-to-point 25 and 50 kilometer cross-country ski race and tour, Craftsbury Outdoor Center, Craftsbury. (802) 586-7767

27 Second Annual Snowflake Dance and Silent Auction, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston, 7 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

See also the Arts Around the Towns Calendar Page 14.

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