



THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

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AUGUST 2008
Volume 21, Number 4

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Fair into the future**

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**Cabot zoners tackle
cell tower debate**



An act of faith

BY NATHANIEL TRIPP

A colony of cliff swallows has chosen our farmhouse as a nesting site, and mid-summer is the time of fledging, an act of faith for both me and the birds. I first noticed the cliff swallows here on a sunny day in May more than twenty years ago. They were easy to distinguish from the long time resident barn and tree swallows; definitely newcomers, and they were attempting to build nests on the wall of the barn. They would pick up a beak full of mud at the adjacent stream and plaster it on to the rough weathered boards just beneath the barn eaves, but the mud wasn't really sticking. After a few tries it would all fall off. The swallows were getting agitated, and before long I was, too. I wanted to help out, provide a better surface, but didn't even

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From bright lights to West Barnet...and back again

Taylor Coppenrath adjusts to life as a professional athlete in another country

JUSTIN LAVELY

Just like the adjustments made by players and coaches during a game, West Barnet's Taylor Coppenrath has to adjust to different continents and language barriers.

After an exceptional college basketball career at the University of Vermont, and a few tryouts for the National Basketball Association here in the United States, the 26-year-old just finished his third season playing professionally, in front of thousands of rowdy fans in Europe.

During the offseason, Taylor enjoys the relative obscurity of his West Barnet home, where he grew up close to friends in a tight knit community. On his trips home, he also runs youth basketball camps and makes an effort to catch up with old friends. More often than not, he makes the short trip to nearby Harvey's Lake for tranquility.

It doesn't seem that long ago when Taylor's face was all over ESPN, while he and his teammates defeated basketball powerhouse Syracuse in the first round of the NCAA tournament. There was plenty of hype about Taylor (6' 9" and 250 pounds) being drafted. He attended a pre-draft camp in Chicago, but was not selected. Later, he played in a summer league with the Boston Celtics, who passed on him. Eventually, he made the decision to play overseas in Greece.

He returned after his first season in 2005 and joined a summer league



Photo by: The North Star Monthly

Taylor Coppenrath stands under a basketball hoop in the backyard of his West Barnet home. Basketball has given Taylor the opportunity to play professionally in Europe, but he still makes time to travel home and work with young kids learning the game.

with the Indiana Pacers, but still remained off America's radar. He returned to Europe, except this time he signed with Pallacanestro Biella in Italy. In Biella, he averaged 7.6 points and 4.8 rebounds per game. He said the European competition is definitely a step up from his time in college.

After his second season, he again returned home, but this time, he decided to work out in Vermont, where he could see friends, old teammates and run his camp. His next season in Europe was with the Alicante Costa Blanca in Italy. This fall, he plans on returning to the same team.

Adjusting to a foreign country and frequent setbacks to a dream of playing professionally in the U.S. could frustrate any young athlete. And it has. Many American players have taken Taylor's road while trying to break into the National Basketball Association (NBA), and many, including fellow St. Johnsbury Academy graduate Tony Orciari, didn't play long in Europe.

Taylor may have a degree of mental toughness others don't. After all, his road to Vermont basketball legend was as bumpy as Harvey Mountain Road in the spring.

As much attention as Taylor has attracted lately, his beginnings were not marked with much fanfare. While other players before and after Taylor have played at his own high school with more hype and publici-

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Farmers' Markets

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THE North Star MONTHLY

P.O. Box 319 • Danville, VT 05828-0319

Well worth it

Whew!

Bringing you this edition of The North Star Monthly has been a challenging task ...but also a rewarding one.

Former owners Terry Hoffer and Tim Tanner wrote about change last month and their words rang true once I sat in the office on July 1 and realized how circular our lives can be. After all, Terry and Tim along with their wives Kathy and Suzanne were in the exact same situation 10 years earlier.

Like them, I relied on the paper's foundation: local contributors. Fortunately for me, most of the writers chose to continue on. Their efforts, along with great community support, are what make this newspaper successful.

From Lyn Bonfield's "Letters from the Past," to Lorna Quimby's "Up on the Farm Early" and the contributions of John and Virginia Downs, Isobel P. Swartz, Nat Tripp, Van Parker, Bets Parker Albright and Rachel Siegel, it's great to see local writers writing local news. And better yet, it's great to see experienced members of the community sharing their memories and relating the lessons they have learned. Simply, there are too few community papers like this left.

This community paper has a dedicated group of contributors and there are surely more waiting in the wings. I look forward to meeting them as they come forward with their ideas. In just one short month, many of them have approached us and asked about making contributions.

In addition, the help and support of the Hoffers and Tanners during this transition process has been indispensable. Especially Terry, who, surprisingly, would act disappointed when we didn't have any questions for him and genuinely excited when we did. For ten years, Terry dealt with the constant deadlines and pressure of putting out a newspaper and he didn't bat an eye about staying an additional few weeks to help with our baptism by fire.

Terry has said he's not sure what his next career will hold and he's quite content to decide *after* a much-deserved long-term vacation. We've asked him to remain involved with the *North Star*, even if his role is only advisory. His responses have escalated from "no," to "maybe" to "probably at some point." This is good news for us and anyone who has enjoyed the North Star over the past ten years.

Other new additions to the Editorial Advisory Board include locals John Hall, Jane Brown, Alan Boye, Sue Coppenrath and Lyn Bixby. I'm sure they will all do their part in making sure the publication adheres to the high standards set forth by the Hoffers and Tanners.

To build upon the contributions of so many, the North Star would welcome others from our readership with an interest in being a member of the advisory board or a contributing writer.

We also welcome feedback from our readership, through email, phone calls or letters. Let us know what you think and what you'd like to see in your paper.

After all, that's the beauty of a community paper, we can build it together one month at a time.

Justin & Ginni Lavelly

THE North Star MONTHLY

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Contributors to this issue include: Betty Hatch, Lorna Quimby, Rachel Siegel, Bets Parker Albright, Van Parker, Nathaniel Tripp, Alice Kitchel, Isobel Swartz, John Downs, Marvin Minkler, Jim Ashley, Lyn Bonfield, Gerd Hirshmann, Burton Zahler, Vanna Guldenschuh

Letters to the Editor:

Doctor Holmes

The Doctor Holmes to whom David Merrill refers in his 1868 letter, published in the July column "Letters from the Past," was likely the famous American humorist and poet Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894).

Holmes was professor and dean at the Harvard Medical School from 1847 to 1882.

Karen R. Lewis
Peacham

Kitty Beattie

I've known Kitty Beattie since she was twelve and have always

found her to be very cordial. I became a part-time resident of Danville for twenty-five years while I taught in western Vermont and returned fulltime when I retired.

I got to know Kitty Beattie Toll while working for the Pope Library. She was on the Board of Trustees and was a positive and productive influence as Chair.

I've been impressed with Kitty's commitment to her community. She also has been Co-chair of the Danville Chamber of Commerce and of the Danville Democrats. As a member of the Chamber, Kitty has effectively

coordinated the Danville Fair for years.

I know that Kitty has been very successful fundraising for the hospital. I also appreciate that she has volunteered to help the West Danville Community Club (of which I am a member) with our fundraising.

I admire Kitty for her good work, energy, and incredible commitment to our area. I believe she would be an outstanding Representative in the Vermont House.

Rita Foley
West Danville

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to publication.

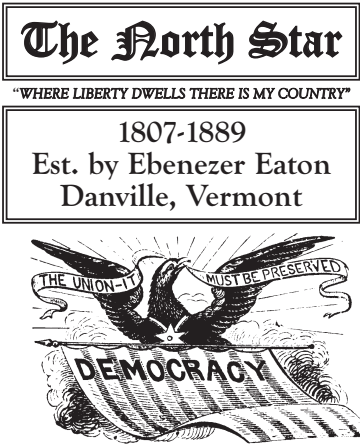
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First Danville man rides train from Burlington and Lamoille Valley Railroad in just over three hours



THE NORTH STAR

August 3, 1877

The Strikes and Riots - Since our last issue, the strikes and riots on the lines of the Western railroads have somewhat subsided, and the grand trunk lines have, in a measure, been reopened. The labor troubles are regarded as virtually at an end in the states of New York and New Jersey, and the Baltimore and Ohio roads have partially resumed business.

At some point, however, there has been more or less rioting and bloodshed. The most notable case is that of Chicago, where there was serious collision between the military and the mob last week. For a time the excitement was terrible, but the military fired two volleys into the mob, the police joining in with their clubs, which had the effect of dispersing the mob. Some fifteen persons were killed, and twice as many wounded. It was feared the riot would be resumed the next day, but no attempt was made. If there had

been, the city authorities were so well prepared for the mob, it would have soon been quelled.

The excitement broke out afresh at Washington city last week Thursday, in consequence of threats made by a mob, that they would prevent the departure of a train with troops for Philadelphia. For a time, a serious outbreak was anticipated, but the police soon cleared the track, and the train with two pieces of artillery and a company of soldiers left the city safely.

The managers of a Chicago and Alton road have suspended business for the present.

A mob in San Francisco attempted to burn a Chinese settlement, but they were pursued by the Vigilantes and broken up several times.

The Feeling in Vermont - The general feeling of discontent which has caused the present deplorable strikes among the railroad trainmen has permeated the Green Mountain state, and at Rutland a deep undercurrent of distrust was apparent. The officials and the train and shop men of the Central Vermont were hopeful that no disturbance would occur on their lines. Hon. B.B. Smalley, one of the directors of that company, informed an Argus representative that in his opinion their men would not strike, if uninfluenced by outside pressure. Most of their employees were real estate owners in the towns in which they live, and thus have a local interest in keeping the peace. Yet, most of them belonged

to the brotherhoods.

The chief danger, in his opinion, in Vermont lies in the hundreds of unemployed slate and marble men, a very turbulent body of men when excited to riot.

Gen. W.Y.W. Ripley, a prominent marble man, and banker of Rutland, who was a brave officer in the late war, says that he thinks the condition of the country more unsafe and alarming than 1860.

General Items - Roston Corbett, the man who shot J. Wilkes Booth, is sick and in destitute circumstances at his home in Camden, N.J.

American tourists have taken the snug little sum of forty-five millions of dollars out of the country this year.

On Tuesday of last week, a cow belonging to L.A. Bishop, of Williston, was killed by lightning while feeding near an ash tree. The body of the cow was found nearly four rods from the tree, and a path through the grass and weeds indicated the lightning forced the body that distance from it.

Hay Days - Last week three or four days of good hay weather, the farmers improving it by securing in excellent order, a large amount of hay. Since then we have had two or three days of rainy weather—just what we needed for the growing crops. Tuesday and Wednesday it was again clear and pleasant.

Joe's Pond Bass - We learn that four different parties have caught young bass in Joe's Pond this season, which shows that the

pond will eventually contain quantities of this desirable fish.

First Danville Man - Mr. Henry Gould was the first Danville man to come through from Burlington to this village on the Burlington and Lamoille Valley Railroad, last Monday. He started from Burlington about 8 o'clock, a.m., and arrived here about 11:30—something over three hours. Fare was \$3, which is quick and cheap traveling.

Bald Eagle Caught - Clark Northrop, of Peacham, during the present week caught a young bald eagle. Northrop was about a mile from home after berries, when he discovered the old eagle and two young ones. The young ones were not old enough to fly, so he gobbled one of the number and started for home. The old bird followed Northrop to his home and made several ineffectual attempts to rescue her young from his hands.

August 17, 1877

Sitting Bull and his Raid - A nice and possibly perplexing question is coming up in Washington in regard to our asserted sovereignty over the Indian territories. Inasmuch as the United States claims sovereign authority to the Pacific over all the country south of the recognized British frontier, however ridiculous that claim may be in the light of the Indian operations, the claim itself makes the government liable to its neighbors for hostile expeditions issuing from that territory. Consequently the Canadians who

are just not in a quandary about our troublesome denizen, Sitting Bull, are quite correct in going to Washington with their grievances, as they have just done. By the treaty of Washington and proceedings taken under it, this country is pledged to use due diligence to prevent the departure from its territory of any expedition against the peace of friendly nations, and it has accepted from England a very large indemnity on account of the failure of that power to act up to the presumed obligations of a similar pledge. England said that her municipal laws were so liberal that it was impossible for her to adequately guard her territory; and we replied that it was immaterial to us what the state of her municipal law was; but that she must stop hostile expeditions or pay the damages, and she paid. Now the tables are turned against us on our own arguments. From within our territorial limits armed men have appeared on British soil, have committed grave outrages and menace general massacre.

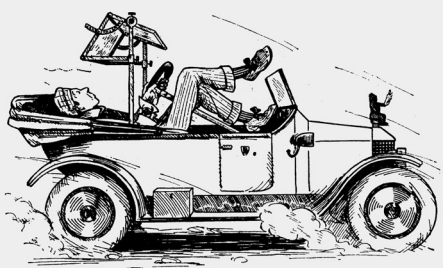
Our government may allege that it has not the power to prevent this. England will parody our own arguments in the allegation that it is not concerned with how much power we choose to employ in such a case, but that it holds us to our obligations and expects that we will protect it as we are pledged to, or pay the damages. Would it not be cheaper for us to put down this savage than to pay England for the damage he may do?

THE North Star MONTHLY

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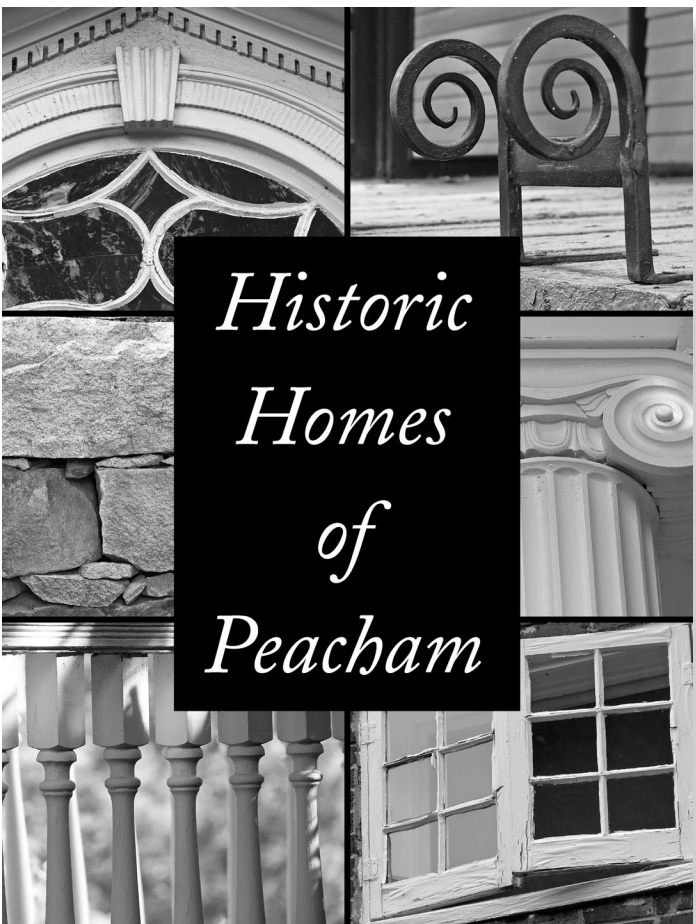
Herding Sanderlings

Through the dunes and down to the beach
 As the morning sun shines green through the breaking waves,
 I come to the spilled foam where little birds
 Pursue the ebb and flow of ocean water on the sand.

On the beach,
 The workday thoughts give way to lighter musings
 And I consider the possibility that on the Fifth Day,
 Around three o'clock in the afternoon,
 God said to his angels
 "I'm tired of working on this 'Man' thing.
 Trying to make him in our image seems perilous.
 To infuse a creature with freewill like ours
 May lead to purposes that are not in our intention.
 Let's give it a rest and start again tomorrow."

Not content to rest,
 The angels brought forth a design for a silly little bird
 That runs on swift black legs,
 Bobbing
 And poking the shallow water with its long beak.
 God laughed and said, "Let it be so".

And there they are, in two's and three's
 All up and down the strand.
 But as I walk along,
 Barefoot in the shallow water,
 The two's and three's become four's and sixes
 And without so much as a "whoopee-ty-iyo"
 I become herdsman to two dozen sandpipers,
 Pushing on ahead, with none behind me.
 The density of this grazing herd increases until,
 All together,
 They assert their will
 And take to the sky in a gray flutter
 And wheel in the air to show white underbellies
 Like a cluster of blown papers,
 Scattering to land up the beach behind me.



Just in time for the holidays...

Historic Homes of Peacham published by the Peacham Historical Association details over 100 homes in Peacham built before 1900. The three year project combines over 200 historic and recent photos, architectural details and tales of the historic lineage for houses ranging from the classic New England Farm House to the grand style of the Greek Revival period. **\$30 for soft cover and \$40 hard cover** (shipping is extra).

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A visit to fantasy land

Most evenings, weather permitting, Virginia and I will sit in front of our small pool filled with water lilies, large green leaves on which a frog may perch, and eight small gold fish swirling around. Motion of the water from three small fountains puts them in a dancing mood. On rocks overlooking the pool are a sardonic, grinning plastic green frog and a large, frowning gray crocodile with eyes that light up in the night.

The sight captivates my mind and imagination until I look up to see Laocoon standing on guard on a nearby flat stone. And thereby is a tale that is very much worth telling.

When we were living in Burlington 25 years ago, above a sandy beach on Lake Champlain, we woke one morning to see soon-to-be-named Laocoon lying on our beach. From whence he came, and what was his original home was left to conjecture. Suffice to say he was a difficult and different wooden character who immediately captured our imagination, and, eventually, our abiding love.

One evening we invited friends to come over and meet Laocoon, and proposed that we have a contest to see who could come up with the most appropriate name for him. Laocoon was identified by one friend as a man and son in Greek mythology entwined in a fight with two serpents that killed them. That name was the winner, and he has been satisfied with it for these many years.

When we moved to our hill in Lyndon 24 years ago, Laocoon came along. We have sensed that he has been very pleased with his new home and its magnificent view of Burke Mountain and the distant White Mountains of New Hampshire.

Depending on one's fantasies about Laocoon, he reminds people of many mythical and historical characters. I have always associated him with Don Quixote, for his sharp-pointed face appears to be casting about somewhat aimlessly, while leaning forward, with hand over his eyes, to see where he would like to go.

My second enduring fantasy about Laocoon imagines that his thick midsection lends itself to being cut in two so that Laocoon would then become a twin, with his new brother standing beside him. But my wife will have no part of such an operation, for she knows that Laocoon would not approve. So we will continue to pay occasionally as much as \$200 for orthopedic surgery to maintain his balance and ability to stand erect.

So far I have neglected to describe another part of my view that also contributes so much to my pleasure while in fantasyland – the blue sky with white and gray lacy clouds swarming about. I have seen images of an alligator with gaping jaws, a swordfish ready to skewer its dinner. The often-present soft white clouds continually invite me to bounce around on them.

I have neglected to describe my wife's multi-colored gardens at which she toils daily to make unusually beautiful. They do not belong in fantasy land, except to wish that the blossoms would last forever.

And so you have it – my treasured evening visits to fantasyland. In this time of domestic and foreign conflicts and problems, they are a welcome diversion and relief, and help to make for a good night's sleep!

John Downs

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The Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium invites you to celebrate stars with friends and family!

Sunday, August 10 (cloud date August 11), from 9 to 11 p.m. Come to Burke Mountain and join Mark Breen for a guided tour of the cosmos with special guests: the Perseid Meteor Shower! Or, take a journey through the constellations from your own backyard by tuning in to VPR for the live broadcast of this event.

Thursday, August 14, 7 to 8:30 p.m. International singer/songwriter Alicia Bay Laurel brings her star-power to the Kingdom. Her music is acclaimed around the world, and we invite you to be inspired by her message and melody.

Fridays at Fairbanks opens new worlds of discovery for young naturalists. Be a part of this engaging event every Friday through August 15 from 10 a.m. to Noon.



This community information is brought to you by the team at the UNION BANK with offices located in St. Johnsbury, Lyndonville, Littleton and Hardwick

Let it Heal

As a child, mother and grandmother I have often heard or used the phrase, "Leave it alone. Don't pick at the scab! It will get infected and then you'll get sick!" There's much truth in this statement and it also applies to politics.

The issues of race and gender in the media are the scabs on America that we cannot leave alone. After Barack Obama had become the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, a lead article in Sunday, June 8, 2008 New York Times, Week in Review, was entitled, "Where Whites Draw the Line." Why is it that we cannot see that what matters is not the color of someone's skin, or their ethnic background, or their gender. What matters is how smart they are, how capable and confident in their ability to perform the task at hand, and how aware they are of the global changes that are taking place.

My blood begins to boil when I hear comments, such as those of Chris Matthews on MSNBC (Hardball with Chris Matthews), that Hillary Clinton's rise as a contender for presidential nominee was based on the public's sympathetic response to her husband's philandering. What about her own educational and professional achievements? Don't they count for something? The remarks were distasteful to enough viewers to earn several reprimands. He later gave some kind of apology for his statement but it was inadequate compensation for his remarks. Many folks who heard his first statement may not have heard his apology, and so a gender-stereotyping myth was perpetuated.

When I read deprecating articles about Barack Obama's elitism I wonder, who needs enemies? The rest of the world looks on with amazement as we once more shoot ourselves in the foot, pandering to the lowest intellectual common denominator. Just because a person has a good education does not mean they do not understand the way the world works. They may know more than the average person on the street, depending on their life experience. Don't we deserve an intelligent, educated person as our next president? The rest of the world surely hopes so!

All this nonsense is like picking at scabs. Soon, if not already, we shall have a raging infection. Why can't we embrace diversity? This country's gene pool is as diverse as that of any nation on earth, but we just can't seem to acknowledge this, although it is one of our greatest assets. Why can't we also embrace the fact that women have just as much to offer in the decision making process as men? After all they make up 50 percent of the population, a great percentage of them are college graduates and many are the single supporters of families. They suffer from the same government actions and inaction as much, if not more than men do.

As if all this isn't enough, we are now bringing the issue of age discrimination into the political battle. At least this is an equal opportunity problem because we are all headed in the direction of old age no matter our gender or race. I firmly believe that, physical health aside, age is a state of mind. I have known forty year-olds so narrow in their thinking that they cannot deal with new ideas or new ways of doing things. I know people in their eighties who are as mentally acute, well-informed and as creative as many younger folks.

We have to stop using superficial value judgments as excuses for not supporting political candidates. We are not electing a president who will march into battle wielding musket and standard like a modern day George Washington. We are electing a person who can think clearly, creatively and with compassion; who can express thoughts and ideas coherently to audiences here and abroad; and who can recruit the services of honorable, well-qualified public servants to help in governing our country. That job description is equally suited for males and females and for any ethnic background and any age, our country needs the best person for the job, it's that simple. It's time to let old wounds heal. ★

Isobel P. Swartz

Global Warming?

I don't like beans so I think you'll see
In the 21k' Century you can't blame me
For the general warming of the sea.

Vegetarians should be aware
They've possibly more than their share
Of the blame for the rising air.

Now isn't it an awful shame
To think that people are partly to blame?

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That are warming the gentle breeze.
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Then there's lentils and soldiers, too,
Adding some more to the airy brew.
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They help to raise the increasing tide.

Now scientists study and peer at their screens when the whole problem is nothing but beans.

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11:00 Grand Street Parade
12:00 Maple Leaf 7
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The line between protection and dependency

Continued from Page 1

have a ladder that would reach the full thirty feet to their chosen spot. I decided to nail a horizontal strip of wood under the eaves of the house instead, and within an hour a gourd-like mud nest was steadily growing in this new location. They have been here ever since.

These are the same species as the famous swallows of Capistrano, and a similar story is told to the tourists who show up there on March 19th every year, the same day, more or less, as the swallows. It is said that long ago a padre at the old Spanish mission noticed a shopkeeper in town batting down the nests which the swallows were attempting to build on the shop's rough adobe walls and chasing the birds away. The padre was sympathetic with the frustration of the birds and invited them to nest at the nearby mission, where there was "room for all." The rest, as they say, is history.

The religious import is clear. The church had provided sanctuary, and in return the swallows have blessed the church and shown their own faith by returning year after year. There may have been a divine hand at work, too, guiding both the swallows and the padre, bridging the communications gap between species, both at San Juan de Capistrano and here on my farm, otherwise how would the swallows have known to follow us to their new home? But I don't think I deserve to be so anointed myself. I do know, however, that birds are keen observers, that they watch

I get out my pellet gun and start shooting English sparrows. I don't think this is the sort of thing St. Francis would have approved of...

us even more intently than we watch them. In no time at all they can recognize us as individuals and learn our daily routines. And many otherwise wild birds, such as robins, bluebirds and phoebes, along with swallows, like to nest near people anyway, people without cats that is, because by being close to us they are safer from wild predators. The cliff swallows saw me fetch the ladder and go up under the eaves. When I was gone, they took a look at what I had done and liked it.

Still, I felt anointed. I had been living here alone back then, but was alone no more. I could hear the cheerful bubbling and clicking conversations of the "cliffies" even when I was indoors, especially after their eggs had hatched. My own sense of renewal grew with the nestlings, and it was not much longer before I, too, had a family starting anew under those embracing eaves. Over the years that followed, the cliff swallows have continued to return here in spring just as faithfully as they did to Capistrano, although it

takes them six weeks longer to make the trip all the way from Argentina. The colony grew from one nest to seven. Often all seven bedrooms inside our own house were full as well.

The colony became popular with local ornithologists. Cliff swallows are a lot more unusual here in northern Vermont than they are in California, and a college class would visit each spring to observe them. Curious little heads with a white "visor" over the eyes would peer out of the round nest entrances to observe the students. In the evening, when insects were swarming, the swallows would put on acrobatic displays which we never tired of watching, pin wheeling in the sky and darting back to their nests every few minutes to feed their young. I suppose that their migratory behavior evolved in response to insects, which can fill warm summer skies just as plankton fills the ocean. The swallows do a good job, too; there are no flies or mosquitos near the house when they are about. But still, seven thousand miles is a long way to go for bugs. It's a distance unmatched by the other insectivores, and faith seems to offer an easier explanation for their amazing journey than science.

My own faith was soon to be tested, however, for while cliff swallows prefer our houses over natural cliffs for their dwelling because they feel safer, we humans also tend to bring along a retinue of less desirable birds, too, such as pigeons, starlings and English sparrows. As I was to find out, English sparrows in particular are the bane of cliff swallows. I have seen them aggressively invade the cliff swallow nests, throw out eggs or young, and take the nest for their own. If there are English sparrows about when the

first scouting swallows arrive in the spring, they will not nest here at all until I get rid of them. So as the nesting season approaches, I get out my pellet gun and start shooting English sparrows. I don't think this is the sort of thing St. Francis would have approved of, and the plot thickens still more.

Although our yellow Lab loves this exercise, waits all year for it, and proudly parades about the farm with dead sparrows in her mouth, I feel considerable inner turmoil. The sparrows, too, are here because of me. I have a big barn with livestock and chickens, and just as the swallows evolved over thousands of years to follow the great blooms of bugs, the English sparrow evolved to pick through the droppings of livestock as well as the other detritus of mankind, living under the loose boards of our houses and barns, breeding almost constantly and migrating nowhere. If I really wanted to be close to nature, I should first of all rid myself of my "unnatural" possessions. No more chickens and horses and sheep, no more bird feeder, too, and soon there would be no more English sparrows.

Already I'm getting deeper into a quagmire of ethics, and we have yet to mention the yellow Lab, who is unable to distinguish between a sparrow I've shot, which excites her tremendously, and a young cliff swallow which has fallen from the nest. This too is my fault, not hers; one can hardly expect the dog to carry a field guide in her mind, and consult it before acting. She's just as hard wired by evolution as the swallows and sparrows, and endures my anger with hurt and confusion. I'm sending mixed messages. Where is my faith now?

It gets worse.

As the colony under the eaves succeeded and grew, several nesting pairs decided to move in under the front porch roof. They chose the two front corners, and built nests atop a little piece of trim molding. We would share the porch with them on summer evenings until the eggs hatched; from then on the parents were less tolerant of our presence. We willingly withdrew, being parents ourselves, but then horrible things began to happen. It turned out that from an engineering point of view the porch had been a bad choice. The nests were not wedged under eaves, and as the nestlings grew bigger and more rambunctious, they tended to break through the nest walls and into the jaws of the ever-present Lab.

Worse yet, on two occasions the whole nest fell apart and came down with a thump. Each time, I came to the rescue with an artificial nest made of a fine woven basket, which I nailed up. I saved three nestlings this way and other years have found me on the step ladder tacking little braces under the nests during the construction phase, but where is the faith? In fact, rather than allowing the natural processes by which this species had evolved so far to prevail, I was creating an even greater dependency. My swallows were on the way towards becoming like chickens. Is that what the padres wanted of their flock?

I was crossing the line between offering sanctuary and fostering dependency, and was reminded of it again when our own children began to fledge. Don't forget your cell phone. Do you have enough money? How much caring is too much? When does an act of love become a need to control? It is such a difficult

Continued on Page 20

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County Fair: preserving a rural heritage

BY VIRGINIA DOWNS

Although Caledonia County has lost many of its farms in the past generation, there is one institution that carries on this region's agricultural history.

"We can talk a lot about the spectacular events of the Caledonia County Fair, but we are primarily agriculturally-based," says Dick Lawrence, president of the Caledonia County Fair Association. "No question about it - agriculture will always be the backbone of the fair."

Interviewed at Agway Lyndonville, which he and his wife Nancy have owned since March of 1991, he spoke of the hard work in putting together the fair, the oldest traditional event linking efforts of people in the county. This year the Caledonia County Fair will be 162 years old.

"It's a year-round job," Lawrence explained. A month after this year's August 20-24 event, the first meeting will take place, leading up to plans for the 2009 fair.

"I love doing it," he said. "We have 36 directors, but the meetings are open to anyone who wants to join us. There are about 150 people working behind the scenes on the fair. You have nine months of planning for four days of entertainment."

Half the concessionaires are area people representing such groups as churches, grange, and the American Legion. The rest are out-of-town midway people, who often engage the same space for the next year at the end of the fair.

Lawrence's enthusiasm for the annual affair is obvious.

"It's like a vacation for me. We have something new every year."

This year the new events will be dog shows with mixed breeds going around obstacles, through tunnels and over jumps. The fair will also feature a Redneck Competition, Burke Bandis, Ways of the Woods Display, and Cast of Beatlemania - a male quartet providing musical accompaniment to a video of America in the 1960s and 70s.

"Let's face it, we are known as redneck country," Lawrence reminds me. "There will be wood piling, bale throwing, tire changing, bottle stacking and outhouse building." The woods display is open to anybody who works with wood such as making furniture and turning bowls. He also expects fire-

wood displays in keeping with the importance of saving energy today.

The Lyndon native knows firsthand the importance of the county fair to farm youth. Like area youngsters in 4-H clubs today, Lawrence spent months with his group learning about dairy farming and working the land. His father, the late Harry Lawrence, was dairy leader of his son's 4-H club, as well as an active fair director.

Lawrence remembers the first time he showed a calf at the fair. A new 4-H club member at age 8, he proudly marched a Jersey calf named Brownie in the cavalcade. In later years, he was part of a "Calf Ring" program in which a calf was raised and bred. The first female calf in the program was turned over to another 4-H'er to bring up.

He laughs heartily as he recalls the experience.

"The Rotary Club bought a calf from Nelson Pendleton at Lochlyndon Farms and turned it over to me. Every time I met Raymond Russell on the street he'd ask me how I was coming and I'd have to tell him, 'No females yet.' Well, it turned out to be bull after bull and not one female."

He spoke of the contrast today, now that farms are few. When he was a youngster, there were 40 farms in the town of Lyndon alone. Today there are 20 farms in the whole county and only five he could think of in Lyndon.

"A lot of kids who are 4-H members lease a calf from the owner and when it matures and calves, it goes back into the farm's milking herd."

His 4-H and fair activities were a big influence in Lawrence's life. In his high school years, he was selected for his dedicated work in dairying to go to the Eastern States Exposition. There were also trips to Chicago and Washington. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a major in animal science. He was well on his way to a career in farming, which he pursued for 26 years.

"I've always loved animals and the outdoors," he said.

He also is an extrovert by nature and finds his new life in the business community rewarding for that reason.

"I like meeting people," he smiled, nodding at the buzzing traffic in his showroom, where people were chatting and buying home and garden supplies.

Lawrence was elected presi-



Photo By: North Star Monthly
Caledonia County Fair Association President Dick Lawrence cares deeply about the fair and its future. He and many other volunteers contribute countless hours year-round for the four-day event.

dent of Caledonia County Fair in 1986 after several years as a director. He had made a commitment to turn the fair into a full four-day event with an opportunity to strengthen its financial base.

He had already had a taste of the hard work behind the scenes. For eight years, he ran the cattle department, succeeding Leonard Goss when he retired as superinten-

dent. "You have six breeds of dairy cattle with 27 classes in each breed. The work is extensive.

For instance, you have to find adequate stall space, check papers for all the animals, and line them up for the parade."

Looking to the future, Lawrence believes new ideas are important it may be time to pass the

torch. However, he doesn't plan on stepping too far back.

"It really is time for someone else to take over. When that happens, I hope I could always be associated with the fair and perhaps be in charge of one event. It is a great experience to see it develop and means so much to people in our county."

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Have you noticed that, when you have some of life's experiences, you find a lot of people have had it, too, and they let you know? Since I've had my hip re-replaced, I've heard from others who've had either a hip or knee replaced. Some are much younger than I. I don't know whether that's any consolation or not.

"Who'd you have for a surgeon?" they ask and, according to my reply, they say "Me, too" or, complacently, "Oh, I had so-and-so." The inference is that their surgeon is superior to the one I had. They usually add, "I didn't have a bit of trouble." The underlying message is "too bad you weren't lucky enough (or smart enough) to make my choice." They also ask, "Where did you have it done?" and, of course, they went to Hanover or Boston or some

place that was much better.

I find it amusing that people make a competition of a surgical procedure. What a relief to have achieved an age where I don't have to compete anymore!

One of the advantages of my move to the South Peacham school long ago, according to the superintendent, was that, with more schoolmates, I would learn to compete. Until Patty was born, I was the youngest, and the last thing Maw wanted was competition. She was too old to put up with the bickering that ensued. I have never been comfortable when dealing with rivalry and negative comparisons.

I never realized how many artificial implants there are in this small area until after I'd written about my own. These prostheses are one of the medical field's great advances. As a historian, I work with obituaries from the early twentieth

century. A recurring theme is "death from complications following a broken hip." That item is from the Caledonian's obituary for Arabella Hidden, who died in 1941. A broken hip was a death sentence. You broke a hip. You got pneumonia because you couldn't get on your feet.

Even when surgery was available, infection was a hazard. Antibiotics solved many problems, but they have created others. I should say we have created others. Indiscriminate use has brought us resistant strains of bacteria. Staph infections are possible after surgery. I know by the tales of people who had an operation similar to mine and were in the hospital for weeks, suffering greatly from the resulting infection. I speak of hospitals in general, for none are exempt.

As I was thinking about these operations and the reaction of those who had undergone them, I was reminded of my experiences when we had our two girls. Back then, my ob-gyn didn't believe in natural childbirth, so I was well under anesthesia during each birth. He also made sure by an incision or two that he didn't have

to stitch up tears.

There were then two hospitals in St. Johnsbury: Brightlook, where I went to have my babies, and the St. Johnsbury Hospital, run by nuns and where the other ob-gyn made his deliveries. It was not possible to have a baby at home. Only in a dire emergency did you go as far away as Dartmouth.

When I became a mother, I was older than most women who just had their first. Others my age had children starting school, if not older. Everyone gave me good advice—good,

that is, for the giver.

I became familiar with their good intentions during my pregnancies. I won't go into harrowing details, but, far from being the blooming, glowing, fulfilled woman of fiction, I was sicker than the proverbial dog during most of the nine months, bigger than a beached whale during the last two. Maternity clothes looked as if Omar the Tent Maker had designed them. I could not have born the pressure of the little spandex outfits of today. If it were not that we both want-

Continued on Page 14

War and Weeding

VAN PARKER

We'd been gone for five days and when I got back I discovered that the vegetable garden needed weeding—badly. So I spent a good three hours the next day trying to rectify the situation. That meant hoeing plus pulling out weeds one at a time.

It soon made me aware of the pluses and minuses of this year's vegetable garden. The beets were an embarrassment. They look pretty peeked. The carrots seemed more hopeful. Two of the squash hills appeared to be on life support but the cucumber plants were doing well. We had enough broccolis for supper that night.

Still, it was satisfying to pull up those weeds. Weeding puts you quite literally close to the earth. My wife, who tends the flowers, has expressed a similar kind of satisfaction; dirt gets on your hands, under your fingernails and on your clothes. You feel connected. "The good earth" isn't some abstract term anymore. Besides that, weeding can actually give you the sense that you are liberating the things you planted so they can go ahead and mature in their own way.

It looks as though (as of July 12) our raspberries won't do as well as they did last year. The nature of our patch and this year's weather may have something to do with that. I'll take most of the responsibility. An old raspberry grower told me once raspberries don't like to be crowded. They need space. Our raspberries got too crowded with various wildflowers and some stubborn weeds filling in the chinks.

Reading the news, watching TV and just observing, it's amazing to what an extent words derived from war have taken over our vocabulary. Politics is one example. Different campaigns have "war rooms." States where the election is supposed to be close are considered "battleground states." A recent ex-governor of New York came into office claiming he would demolish the opposition. The goal in most sports is to be number one. If someone is the winner, then someone else obviously has to be the loser.

What would it be like if, instead of using battle words so much, we used agricultural words, down to earth words? Here are a few that come to mind: planting seeds, tilling the soil, watering, fertilizing, nurturing and, yes, waiting. Would that help us to look at everything a little differently?

One of my favorite people is a Kentucky farmer, novelist, poet and essayist named Wendell Berry. Berry has compiled several essays into a book called "A Continuous Harmony." He believes that what matters is taking care of the earth we've been given, being connected to your family and community, finding your place in a kind of continuous harmony. Somehow, sitting on the ground and pulling up some weeds I got an inkling of what Wendell Berry meant. ★

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Photo By: North Star Monthly

Many hay buyers are waiting for the cost of this year's crop, including larger round bails like the one above. Bruce Brink, of Greenbank Hollow Farm, left, sits on a tractor near his home. Brink, and other hay harvesters, have been hit hard by sharp increases to fuel and fertilizer. The price per bale could easily double this season.

Hay prices worry buyers, sellers

fertilizer, twine and equipment have all risen steeply.

"It's just going around and around as to what the price is going to settle at," he said.

In addition to that, Brink said horse sales on his farm are down significantly from last year, leaving him with almost 30 to care for. As a result, he's not sure how much of his hay he will need and how much he will be able to sell.

"I certainly don't want to have to buy hay for myself," he said. "Last year was a really good year. This year has petered right out."

A prime example, according to Brink, is the silage market in Ohio, a state he would frequently visit to purchase horses and hay.

"Out there, the price went from \$80/ton to \$300/ton in a year."

Supply in Ohio also decreased because many of the farmers

began using their fields to grow corn for ethanol.

"It's not a local problem. It's all over."

Just a glance at local agriculture classifieds, according to Brink, shows more and more horses are being put up for sale. "For a lot of people, owning a horse is a luxury, so when things get tight, they have to cut back," he said.

Brink is one of many dealers who are changing their approach to compensate for the surge in costs. His farm is moving away from horse sales and concentrating on horse training, he said, in addition to cutting back on hay production.

In an article for an agriculture publication, Kauppila wrote, "Although we always think about what the competition is charging for hay, the market price may or

may not cover your costs, or return a profit."

Kauppila, as a reference point, uses the 2007-2008 Penn State Agronomy Guide to establish a conceptual hay production budget that compares last year to this year. The first column was directly from the Agronomy Guide, with last year's fertilizer costs, diesel fuel at \$2.25/gallon and normal rates for labor. The original budget showed hay selling at \$120/ton (\$2.40/bale), giving a profit of \$124/acre and a profit of \$41/ton (\$0.83/bale).

The second column looked at 'what would happen if' the cost of both fuel and fertilizer double in cost, which many farmers have either seen or are expecting. Total costs per acre go up from \$236 to \$374. This comes in at \$125/ton,

Continued on Page 10

JUSTIN LAVELY

Everywhere you turn, hay sellers and buyers are uneasy about prices and the cost of feeding their animals. Jumps in fuel, fertilizer and supplies are driving prices upward but no one, yet, knows how far.

Dennis Kauppila, regional specialist for the Farm Business Management department of the University of Vermont Extension, believes buyers should expect a substantial increase. If the cost of fuel and supplies has doubled, said Kauppila, it's reasonable to expect prices to jump from \$2 to \$3/bale last year to around \$5/bale this

year.

After the first cut, sellers are waiting around for the market to unfold. Farmers aim for 2 to 3 cuts a season and the wet start to this summer has put many harvesters behind.

While livestock owners wait for the news, hay sellers are also feeling the pinch.

Bruce Brink has been harvesting and selling hay on his Greenbank Hollow Farm for almost 20 years and he said, this year, he decided to cut and sell less. He said in addition to the jump in diesel fuel, which has at least doubled over the last year, the cost of



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Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

"Let the Games Begin"

China's hosting of the Olympic Games gives it the chance to show off its social, intellectual, and technological development since the bleaker days of its more isolationist ideology, but China's development of a market-based capitalism from within the context of communism is doubtless its more profound emergence.

China has become our biggest competitor in manufacturing, with a cheap and endless labor force. It is our biggest competitor for commodities consumption – steel, oil, gas, coal, building materials – with its dominance in manufacturing and its need for everything infrastructure. It is our second biggest creditor (only the Japanese lend us more), and one of the biggest accomplices in our trade deficit. Very soon, if it isn't already, it will be our biggest competitor for consumer consumption: more and more Chinese are buying meats, buying cars, buying clothes, buying condominiums and filling them with furniture and appliances, and buying the electronics that make modern life so convenient and so cluttered.

China's economic competitiveness in the world economy – indeed, its very participation – is striking to those who remember a China so reluctant to be exposed to markets, and so removed from the global economy.

Thousands of years ago, before

we tamed the seas, we tamed beasts of burden, and we set out to trade with each other via overland routes. Horses, donkeys, and dromedaries laden with goods, especially luxuries such as silk, satin, diamonds, and pearls made their way from China to the Mediterranean – usually not in one long trip, but in stages, passing through many traders along the way. As the Olympic torch similarly made its way to and from China recently, part of its route was along the Silk Road, a reminder that our Western world – and culture – was once much more attached to trade with the Orient than we are, even now.

There were two main routes (to avoid the great deserts of central Asia). The northern route went through what is now Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to Samarkand, then to the Aral Sea and the Crimea, then across the Black Sea and the Balkans to Venice, or alternatively via the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus to Constantinople. The southern route went through India and Pakistan, through the Hindu Kush, then west through Iran to the Levant, or overland through Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Anatolia (Turkey) and then across the Mediterranean, or overland through Lebanon, Jordan (Petra) and Israel (Acre) to Egypt (Alexandria) and then to northern and western Africa, or to Italy and then to Europe, beyond.

It is believed that the Chinese were the first to venture forth and

establish trade with the West, but who knows? Chinese silk has been found in Egyptian mummies dating from ca. 1000 BC. Alexander the Great's conquests expanded the trade, as did the Greek, Roman, and Mongol empires.

We think of the tea, spices, and silks from the Orient, but gold from western Africa went the other way, and coffee from Arabia (what is now Yemen) went everywhere. Many other goods and commodities were traded, along with cultural, religious, and intellectual knowledge.

After all, the Chinese gave us the abacus and the Arabs gave us algebra, without which the Venetians could not have given us accounting, without which we could not trade.

In the first millennium of the modern age, the Silk Road was a more or less secure trade route,

depending on the politics of the empires or the nomadic tribes along its way. Marco Polo traveled the Silk Road and, through his widely read memoir, became credited with re-discovering the Chinese economy for Europeans – and introducing them to pasta and gunpowder.

As we learned more about sailing and navigation and developed longer sea routes in the later Middle Ages, and as nomadic cultures were replaced by more sedentary peoples with more settled, territorial aspirations, the overland Silk Road lost its imperial protections and its dominance in trade. By the Age of Discovery, new routes to the East were being pursued over the oceans, and then the Europeans stumbled over the Western Hemisphere, and the rest, of course, is history.

European colonialism found China, and its tea and opium. Then

Western trade with China came to a halt after the Communist Revolution in 1949, and for decades the country and its economy were in self-imposed exile. In the last thirty years, we have re-discovered China yet again. The Chinese have re-discovered markets, manufacturing, currencies, commodities, consumption, and capital, and perhaps, in their own way, capitalism. Let the real Games begin!



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. "Follow the Money" has been a regular feature in the Northstar since July 2001.



Photo by Liz Sargent

ON THE FENCE—You can tell it's a political year as all the turkeys are sitting on the fence.

Waiting on hay market

Continued from Page 9

or \$2.49/bale just to make the hay this year.

Fertilizer costs don't affect all farmers the same, as some choose to use on-site manure, which cuts cost.

"To make the same profit this year as was made last year one would need to charge nearly an additional \$1/bale to just to cover fuel and fertilizer costs," wrote Kauppila. "Remember this doesn't

include increases in repairs, supplies, or other variable costs. This year's hay price will depend on what the market will bear, what others are charging, and successful dickering between a willing buyer and willing seller."

Vermont Public Radio's Ross Sneyd recently reported that rising hay prices could drive up the cost of raising livestock.

"Profits can be elusive in farming, but small livestock farmers

have been able to rely on hay as an affordable livestock feed for the winter," he reported. "It's a lot cheaper than corn and other grain. Today, for example, the price of a bushel of corn is three times higher than it was just two years ago."

Sneyd said even a small farm can go through hundreds, often thousands, of those small square bales. Most farms now rely on big round bales that weigh 500 pounds or more.

Sneyd's report also predicted a future rise in meat prices in a trickle down effect.

The old adage is that oil effects everything and Brink certainly doesn't understate the seriousness of the problem.

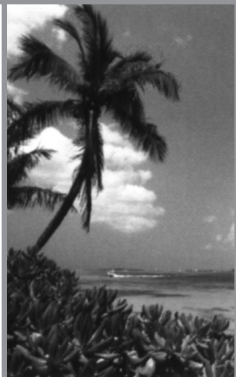
"We have to be going through the biggest change in people's lives during our time," he said. "Everyone has to be more careful with their money."



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Cabot approves second cell tower in a year

BY JUSTIN LAVELY

The town of Cabot, which has the strictest telecommunications regulations in the state, has approved its second cell tower in the past year. This one, should increase cell service in the towns of Cabot, Walden and West Danville.

This is likely good news from anyone with a cell phone in their hand, but bad for those who believe cell towers ruin the state's pristine landscape.

The plan was approved even though the project did not adhere to the town's regulations regarding cell towers, namely the requirement for a 1,500 foot setback.

Roy Folsom, chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, recently said the new Unicel tower will be attached to an existing silo on the uninhabited Sousa Farm, which used to be the 960-acre Bolton Farm. The farm, on Bolton Road, can be seen easily from many locations along Route 2 and Route 15.

Folsom, a local dairy farmer, has been on the Zoning Board for 15 years and he believes Cabot's telecommunications regulations are the strictest in the state. Ironically, the town has approved two such towers in the past year. In the latest decision, they decided to override their regulations in the process.

Why? Folsom said denying the application would have forced Unicel engineers to find another site in Cabot and build upwards of a 200-foot cell tower, which the board believed would have a more serious impact on property values and scenic views.

"For the area this is located in, doing it this way is going to be better," he said. A silo installation is barely noticeable, whereas a 200-foot tower would certainly stick out on the horizon.

A silo installation consists of an antennae mounted to and painted the same color as an existing silo.

Unicel has received their Act 250 permit and are ready to begin the installation, but Folsom said they have to wait a month in case there is an appeal in the state's environmental

court.

There was significant opposition to the project, said Folsom, from abutters Andy Leinoff and his wife, Wendy Jones.

Other residents also spoke against the project, he said, but on July 2, the board used recently-passed Act 79, which allows zoning boards to approve telecommunication permits that don't adhere to town regulations. The law is an effort to bring cell service to parts of the state where it is unavailable.

Detractors presented the board with examples from elsewhere in the state where cell towers lowered property values and they also alluded to possible health risks, but Folsom said a federal law prohibits municipalities from declining cell tower permits based on perceived health risks.

The Sousa family hasn't lived at the farm for several years and before leaving, the stock had been sold due to Joe Sousa's poor health. He died about a year ago and Folsom said

the barn and fields are rented and the Sousa family makes occasional trips to the property.

Jane Brown, a secretary for the Joe's Pond Association, grew up on what was the Bolton farm.

From a consumer perspective, she said the people living, working and traveling in her area are thrilled with the prospect of cell coverage. Cell users in Brown's area missed out when the last cell tower was built in Cabot on the 400-acre Bothfield farm last year. Though it was a silo installation, its signal did not reach the area.

Like the newest tower, local planners mentioned the new telecommunications law, which makes it easier to site cell technology on existing structures, like barn silos.

Cabot had tried to put a cell tower in a few years ago, according to a WCAX report, but some residents did not like the look of it. The same report said, at that time, 30 percent of the state was still without service.



Photo By: North Star Monthly
One of these silos on the Sousa Farm in Cabot will be the site of a new cell antenna from Unicel. The new coverage should benefit the towns of Cabot, West Danville and Walden.

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Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

My boyfriend (I'll call him Al) recently got himself off a serious cocaine habit. He did it by himself and "cold turkey." He says he will never use coke again, and I believe him. So what's the problem? Now he is using a lot of marijuana. He says pot is not addictive, it calms his nerves, it doesn't hurt him and it is almost legal. I feel almost as bad as I did when he was sniffing coke. Please help me.

Who needs this?

Dear Who needs this,

You don't make it clear whether you want help with your feelings or with managing Al's behavior. We will speak to both.

Al's response to your objections about his use of pot reminds us of J. K. Galbraith's quotation, "Faced with the choice between changing one's mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everyone gets busy on the proof." Briefly, pot lowers I.Q., lowers drive or ambition, and presents a risk of cancer. Whether pot is addictive

is an area of dispute among experts.

Whether Al is addicted to pot or not, his behavior is probably addictive. Once one has been addicted to anything, one is sensitized to other addictions.

These can be either substance or behavioral addictions such as gambling or sexual addictions. From your description, Al has shifted from his addiction to cocaine to addictive behavior with pot. It also seems that he needs to self medicate, or calm his nerves. Although it is admirable that Al is no longer using cocaine, he has yet to confront his addictive propensities. As for help with your feelings, we suggest a group such as Al Anon, where the participants discuss managing life (and feelings) when living with an addict.

We can understand why you feel almost as bad now. Al is still using a substance, and this practice comes between him and any other relationship that he has.

We know of no way that you can change Al's behavior. Only Al can do that.

Fall Foliage Festival Schedule

BETTY HATCH

The Northeast Kingdom Fall Foliage Festival Committee met at the Walden Church dining room Wednesday morning, July 9. The festival will be held this year from Sept. 29 through Oct. 5, with activities in a different town each day of the week.

Walden

Walden invites visitors to come to a "Day in the Country," starting at the Walden United Methodist Church on Monday, Sept. 29. There will be craft demonstrations and articles for sale. Lunch will be served at noon before an afternoon tour of businesses in town and returning to the church for country music and a hymn sing before a ham supper served in the dining room at 5 and 6 p.m. Contact Jane Muraro (Iron Horse Morgan Farm at 533-9802 for information.

Cabot

Cabot welcomes visitors on Tuesday with coffee at the Cabot School Gym at 8:45 a.m. Tours, crafts exhibits will take place throughout the day. A beef stew luncheon will be served at the church starting at 11:30 a.m. and a turkey dinner is scheduled for the school gym at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Program are available with listings of other activities. Any questions should be directed to Blanche Lamore at 563-2457.

Plainfield

Plainfield's day on Wednesday begins with a coffee hour at 9 a.m. and registration at Grace United Methodist Church. Foliage tours include a visit to Rock of Ages Granite Quarry and a hike to Owl's Head. Afternoon tours will include local businesses and scenic spots. Lunch will be served at noon and a barbecue chicken, mostaccioli and baked bean supper will be served at 5 and 6 p.m. Joyce Fowler at 454-8306 can answer questions.

Peacham

On Thursday, Oct. 2, Peacham will have an arts and crafts sale at Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Other activities include a ghost walk at 2 p.m. and music in the church sanctuary from 4 to 6 p.m. Look for other exhibits in town, lunch at the school from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a spaghetti supper at the church at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Noreen Crane will answer questions at 592-3558.

Barnet

Plan to come to the Barnet Center vestry for breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday. Pancakes with maple syrup, and sausage will be served. Pick up a program for the day's activities. A bus tour will leave at 10 a.m. to visit interesting places in town and travel the scenic back roads. A ham dinner will be served at the vestry starting at 4 p.m. Pauline Urie, 748-8246, can answer questions.

Groton

Saturday, Oct. 4, is a big day in Groton, starting with a lumberjack breakfast at the Methodist Church from 7 to 10 a.m. A band concert in the bandstand at 11 a.m. and lunch served by Boy Scout Troop #702 at noon. The annual parade starts at 1:30 p.m. on the main street. Get reservations soon for their famous chicken pie supper, with servings at 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Call Diane Kreis at 584-4748 for supper reservations and other information about the day's activities.

St. Johnsbury

St. Johnsbury closes the week on Sunday, Oct. 5. Pick up a schedule at the Information Booth on Main Street. On tap is an arts and crafts fair, cookie walk and farmers' market. Patrons can visit the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium and the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and Gallery. A pancake and mam brunch will be served at the St. Johnsbury House from 8 a.m. to noon. Call the Northeast Chamber of Commerce at 748-3678 with questions.

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Danville graduate offers unique help for in-bound students

JUSTIN LAVELY

Wouldn't it be nice to have some help with "the most important decision of your life?"

For many high school juniors and seniors, according to Danville resident Thomas Ashley, that decision is whether or not to go to college and where. Ashley's new business venture, Ascendant Vermont, offers consulting services for a broad range of situations, but this fall he plans to focus on overwhelmed students and their parents.

Ashley's help comes in the form of searching for the right school on behalf of the student and then helping the in-bound coed manage application deadlines. Also, Ashley offers assistance to students who need help preparing for the application process with essay proofreading and interview coaching.

"In this area, there is a real need for someone to help with that process," says Ashley, adding that local guidance counselors do a fine job helping students, but the volume of those needing help limits the service counselors can provide.

"I'm looking to expand on what they are doing," said Ashley. "Many students don't connect with a counselor."

Relationships and communi-

cation between students and their parents can become strained because of the stress involved in the decision, says Ashley, who sees himself as a potential buffer and communicator between the two sides.

The dilemma facing prospective college a student resonates with Ashley, who at 26 isn't that far removed from the process. He looks back at the decision he made in 2000, after graduating in the top five of his class from Danville High School, with fond memories and the realization that it changed his life. "It was a big step but I'm so much better for it."

A recent graduate of the University of Southern California, Ashley chose to go to school about as far from Danville as one can get and still be in the continental United States. After staying in California for a few years after graduating, Ashley decided to return home for family reasons.

Though he loves the area he grew up in, Ashley often speaks about the diverse and plentiful opportunities that exist elsewhere, outside of Danville, outside of Vermont and even New England.

He also conceded that he was not the biggest fan of winter, which also played a role in his

decision to head west.

Whatever the reasons, Ashley says he remembers being "on his own" during most of the decision making process regarding college.

"I was extremely fortunate [in my decision], but I don't think I was focused enough on the process," he explains, "It's hard for students to understand just how important this decision really is."

An inside knowledge of the college admissions process garnered from friends in the field is the basis for Ashley's expertise. He also has a few years of general consulting experience on everything from environmental issues to political policy. He has also worked with job seekers and professionals looking to advance or alter their careers. This portion of his services is centered on helping clients reach their personal and professional goals through resume development, improving time management skills and work efficiency.

On the policy analysis side, Ashley offers Legislative bill development and drafting, as well as local town plan and zoning ordinance building. Throw in a little "consensus building" service and Ashley sure has a diverse offering of products for his prospective clients.

Ashley still plans on working

in these areas, but at least seasonally, his objective in the short-term will be in-bound college students.

When asked about his consulting fees in relation to the already lofty prices of college tuition, Ashley said the cost is "worth it."

"When you look at the total cost of college tuition for four years, consulting fees pail in comparison."

Not only that, but Ashley is hoping locals will understand the value of making the right decision.

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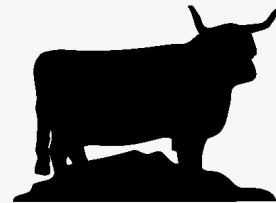
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Up on the farm early

Continued from Page 8

ed children, I'd have said "forget it" to the whole deal. You can imagine how much better I felt when another woman told how she always sailed through pregnancy without a hitch, delivered exactly fifteen minutes after her arrival at the hos-

pital, and had never had needed a stitch in her life. She was the winner in the Best Mother of the Year contest.

Then there was the woman who had complications that you wouldn't believe. Her ordeal on the delivery table gave her guilt rights over her children to

the day she died. She only got through safely because her ob-gyn was the best in his field.

Their nurses told them they had never seen a better mother. Their nurses were wonderful. And so they were and so they are. But I had one who had to give me a shot after Laura was born. For some reason I've never understood, she told me—while she was injecting

the substance into my arm—that, if she wasn't careful to time the shot just right, my uterus would rupture! She no doubt had a fine sense of drama, but I had all I needed at that moment.

When Kathy was little, I joined Just-A-Club, a group of women who met once a month. We needed some respite from our offspring, although some dragged them along in spirit. We talked over our pregnancies, deliveries, and what wonderful things our little joys were

doing. It was different talking with my contemporaries than it was with older women who were long past these early days. Their memories were selective, hazy over painful details, and tended to prove they had been super moms from day one. Not what a beginner needs to hear. With Just-A-Club we battle-scarred veterans could hash over the past and put things in perspective. And, if some member was being unbearably B.M.o.t.Y.ish, we could look at each other and roll our eyes.★

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the ARTS around

August

- 1 The Police, SPA, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- 1 Joes and Mike at Ricker Pond State Park, Groton. Acoustic guitar duo. Joe & Mike will entertain park visitors with soothing sounds from the 1960s to 1980s. This concert is easy listening and enjoyable for the whole family. 584-3821.
- 1 - 7 Mongol (2007, Russia) [R]. Director: Sergei Bodrov. Stunning and historical epic illuminates the life and legend of Genghis Khan as in the dramatic and harrowing early years of the ruler who was born as Temudjin in 1162. Catamount Arts. St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 3 Jethro Tull and Peter Frampton, Meadowbrook Pavilion, Gilford, NH.
- 8 Back Shed String Band in concert in the Park, Main Street, Bradford, VT. Sponsored by the Bradford Historical Society. For information call 222-4423.
- 8-10 Lake Champlain Bluegrass Festival starts Friday from 3 to 11 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Three-day tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 after July 31 and at the gate. One-day ticket for Friday or Saturday is \$30; Sunday is \$20 at the gate.
- 8-14 Redbelt (2007, U.S.) [R]. Director: David Mamet. A sting is in the air when a Gulf War veteran who runs a jujitsu studio in L.A. accord-
- ing to strict samurai code, finds his ethics under challenge. Catamount Arts.
- 9-22 Opera North with Madame Butterfly, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 10-27 Lies and Legends: The Musical Stories of Harry Chapin at Lost Nation Theater on Main Street, Montpelier. Celebrating one of our greatest modern troubadours, one cut from the same cloth as his long-time friends Pete Seeger and Bruce Springsteen, and inspired by folk-hero Woody Guthrie. Thursdays through Sundays. Curtain is 7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays; 7 p.m. Sundays.
- 14-23 Opera North with The Magic Flute, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 15 Rod Stewart, Tweeter Center, Mansfield, MA.
- 15 - 21 Roman de Gare (2008, France) [R]. Director: Claude Lelouch. In the still of the night, three lives are about to cross... a woman abandoned, a stranger awaiting his chance and a best-selling author who imagines the thriller of the year. Catamount Arts.
- 16 The Allman Brothers with Bob Weir & Ratdog, Tweeter Center, Mansfield, MA.
- 16 Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, Waterfront Park, Burlington.
- 16 Michael Kennedy at the Groton Nature Center. Kennedy will entertain park visitors with traditional music & storytelling. Irish, English, Scottish, American music will be performed on:

- English Concertina, Guitar and Musical "singing" Saw. Old time traditional stories from around the world will be shared. More information at www.vtstateparks.com/html/vents.cfm.
- 19 Journey, Heart and Cheap trick, SPA, Saratoga Springs, NY.
- 22 Eddie Money, Hampton Beach Casino, Hampton Beach, NH.
- 22 - 28 The Edge of Heaven (2007, Germany) [R]. Director: Fatih Akin. This riveting film brilliantly dramatizes the uneasy relationship between two cultures, Germany and Turkey. Director Akin weaves into the mix of his character's lives his own special knowledge of how Europe's borders are disappearing, bringing people together in random, dangerous, exciting and sometimes fatal ways. Catamount Arts.
- 26 Robert Cray & Keb Mo, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne.

September

- 4&6 Jimmy Buffet, Tweeter Center, Mansfield, MA.
- 12 Hamlet. Tina Packer, the much-heralded Artistic Director of Shakespeare and Company will be playing Gertrude and her son in life, Jason Asprey, plays her son in the production, the brooding and troubled Dane, HAMLET.
- 20 The Very Best of Barbershop, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 27 Tyminski and the Dan Tyminski Band, Grammy Award-winning Rutland natives.

October

- 14 Narek Hakhnazaryan, a 19-year-old Russian Cellist at the Paramount Theatre.
- 11 Judevine, a play by Vermont Poet and Playwright David Budbill. Paramount Theater.
- 17 Haunted Illusions brings creepy Halloween fun for young audiences. Paramount Theater.
- 20&21 Black Crowes, Higher Ground, Burlington.

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'Smart Growth' comes to Danville village district

The Town of Danville has long worked to ensure that their village center has a vibrant mix of business and housing while maintaining the historic architecture and traditional layout of the village.

The goal of enhancing the compact village center is complemented by a desire to maintain the surrounding landscape. In the past, progress on these goals has included obtaining state Village Center Designation and development of the Route 2 project. In the fall of 2007 the Danville Planning Commission built upon these previous efforts and secured funding to investigate what zoning changes may be needed to make Danville Center a successful mixed use village.

Smart Growth Vermont, in partnership with the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA), has been selected by the Town of Danville to assist the town with the review and drafting of zoning bylaws and policies designed specifically to apply to the Town's designated Village Center and surrounding land.

"We're delighted to have been chosen for this important project," said Noelle MacKay, Executive Director of Smart Growth Vermont. "Danville's village centers are the heart of the community - where people gather to catch up on local news.

The Planning Commission is interested in ensuring that zoning bylaws are in place that allow for a mixture of uses, and do not place barriers to existing and new business opportunities or increasing

housing options."

"We are very pleased to be working with Smart Growth Vermont and NVDA and encourage Danville residents and landowners to take advantage of this great opportunity to get involved with the process of planning our community and to share their ideas for guiding our future growth," said Jeff Frampton, Chair Danville Planning Commission.

Smart Growth Vermont's commitment to our downtowns and village centers is in keeping with its overall mission to develop creative strategies for protecting Vermont's distinctive landscape of compact cities and villages surrounded by working rural lands.

"We have been active at the state and community level to provide incentives and assistance to allow for development in and around our town centers. Difficulty and cost of developing in existing centers is a big part of what drives development out onto farmland where land and construction is often easier and cheaper," MacKay explained. "If we want to prevent sprawl and protect the Vermont landscape, we have to encourage businesses and build reasonably priced housing in and around our traditional community



Photo By: Jim Ashley

Toby Balivet, left, speaks with Smart Growth Vermont representatives and members of the community during a recent village walkaround. In the background, left to right, are Mary Prior, Noelle MacKay, Linda Bess, Jeff Frampton, Nancy Bouffard Lewis and Mike Miller.

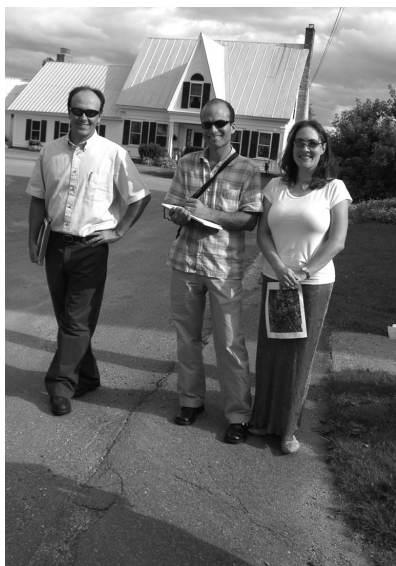


Photo By: Jim Ashley

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BOOK REVIEW: BOHJALIAN'S MASTERPIECE

MARVIN MINKLER

Chris Bohjalian has written his finest novel to date, set against the brutal, waning days of World War II in Eastern Germany. "Skeletons at the Feast," is the author's masterpiece.

The Soviet Army is advancing through Poland, and ahead of it a small, rag-tag group of refugees begin a long, arduous trek ahead of the Russians, trudging across the devastation of the smoldering Third Reich.

Concentration camps, death marches, brutal Nazis, POWs, broken families, rampaging Russian soldiers, and terrified refugees. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things, all humbled by the bitter January cold.

Yet, in the midst of this gut-wrenching carnage and horror, there is blossoming love, tender family moments, bonding friendships, heroism, resiliency, and hope. Above all, hope. The power of the narrative, and vividly drawn characters, stay with the reader long after the novel is put down.

Inspired by an actual World War diary the author was given to read, the book will stand as one of the best ever written about one of the most brutal periods in history.

The book is available now at your local independent bookstore.



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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.

Ocean-hopping

Continued from Page 1

ty, none have accomplished what he has.

It wasn't easy. He didn't make his high school's varsity team until he was a junior, despite stand-out seasons at the lower levels. Taylor was recruited to UVM by a scout who was at his game to watch a player on the opposing team. Many local and state basketball experts would not have picked Taylor out of a lineup as a "can't miss" basketball prodigy. His first year of college was spent mostly in the weight room and on the practice court, rather than in game situations. When he did hit his stride on the court, a broken bone in his wrist threatened his junior season.



I enjoyed the attention but sometimes it was overwhelming. But, I would say I do miss it a little bit.

These character building obstacles have made Taylor no stranger to hard work and perseverance. It may also allow him to appreciate his hard-earned successes when they come along. Listening to him talk on one of his recent trip's home, he sounded like someone committed to staying in the game and keeping his lofty goals alive.

It's hard to argue with his strategy after he led Vermont to three straight America East titles, finished second on UVM's career charts for points (2,442) and scoring average (21.4 ppg) and ranks first all-time for field goals made (851) and fourth for rebounds (839) and blocked shots (83). He joined the late Reggie Lewis, of the Boston Celtics as the second player in conference history to earn Player of the Year honors three times. He was named America East Player of the Week 14 times during his career to top NBA-star Vin Baker for the league record.

The results speak for themselves, even if he never plays a minute in the NBA.

Alicante Costa Blanca plays in the ULEB Gold League and has also signed American Cameron Bennerman from North Carolina State. Alicante is located on the Eastern Coast of Spain and borders the Mediterranean Sea.

Taylor's frequent continent-hopping might not seem significant to some, but for a quiet kid from West Barnet, there has been a bit of an adjustment period. When he was in

Greece, he said the language barrier was very difficult to overcome. Traveling through town and to and from practice was complicated and confusing, not to mention being alone in a foreign country.

"Staying alone for most of the year was difficult at times," he said, adding that the slow schedule of European basketball left him with a lot of time to stay in touch with friends and family through e-mail and phone calls. His team often only plays one game a week.

"It makes the season go longer than it needs to," he said. Last year, he was there for over nine months, with a small break for Christmas.

Though he was living alone, he certainly was living comfortably. As part of his contract, Taylor's team provided him with a furnished apartment and "a car big enough for [him] to drive." Not only that, his team actually paid his U.S. federal income taxes for him, although he wasn't as lucky when it came to his home state.

"I had to pay state taxes and I wound up in the highest tax bracket," he joked. American players in Europe often make very large salaries, though not as much as professional players in the U.S.

There are a lot of American players making the trip to Europe to play, according to Taylor, to the point European officials have limited how many Americans can be on a team.

The fans seem to appreciate the Americans, he said, and in some case they're wilder than American sports fans. Small crowds of around 5,000 cheer, clap, bang drums and blow whistles, but Taylor said they're not nearly as rowdy as Europe's infamous soccer fans.

Though the adjustments are difficult, Taylor is making the most of his opportunity. Every year I get better all around," he said... still hoping for a shot to play professionally here in the U.S. He plans on playing in Europe for four at least for more years, until he's at least 30, if he can avoid serious injury.


Of course, playing in Europe, fewer, if any, American viewers are able to watch him play and his face has all but



In the top photo, Taylor blocks a shot during a game for the Alicante Costa Blanca. Taylor, above on the outskirts of the huddle, looks into the crowd during a game last year.

Courtesy Photos

disappeared from ESPN and other national networks. "I enjoyed the attention but sometimes it was overwhelming. But, I would say I do miss it a little bit," he said. Maybe one day he'll get his chance, either as a player...or a coach. When his playing days are over, he'd like to try coaching a college or high school team. And if that falls through, he graduated from UVM with a degree in secondary education (mathematics) so he could always teach. His youth camps teach kids ages 8 to 15 about the fundamentals of basketball and to play as a team. "I also try to establish a sense of hard work in them and to be positive," he added. Taylor has another camp in St. Johnsbury Aug. 7. "I wanted to do camps to help younger kids, especially Vermonters that may not have a chance to get as much attention with basketball as they may want or need." In this case, the kids are getting attention from a local hero, someone they can look up to literally and figuratively. ★



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The Cat: a treasure or a mystery

SUSAN BOWEN

I have owned, or, to describe a human-cat relationship more precisely, given food and shelter to several cats in my lifetime. In return, I have been recognized as amiable and willing to oblige when assistance, such as opening doors, or the mutual pleasure of patting and knuckle-rubbing is needed. What a wonderful satisfaction for a job well-appreciated a good, sustained purr can be. There are, of course, moments of total misunderstanding as when a memento of successful hunting is proudly dropped at my feet with formal, if unwelcome, ceremony. The cat is exuding a sense of pride and generosity, which I find it hard to appreciate, even if the trophy had perhaps been caught in the act of raiding my pantry.

I have found them all to be very sure of their own value. No, value isn't the right word; a better one would refer to the cat's own sense of its place in the world, or its purpose. The best-known exemplar of self-sufficiency and reserve is surely the Siamese cat. I would agree that the Siamese habit of granting friendship or loyalty to only one person is not the best thing for a family cat. But I have enjoyed the combination of being both care person and number one person at the same time. The biggest problem was the telephone. None of my Siamese cats managed to understand that phenomenon. To see me talking apparently to nobody roused the same reaction in all of them: 'She's talking; there's no one there; she needs my help!' Same result: they race to my side, vocalizing in a tense voice, 'I'm here, it's all right, it's all right, talk to ME!' More than one person, trying to converse with me, has asked afterwards, "Do you have a baby in your house?"

A Siamese cat regards his position as "guardian of the house" with great seriousness. It seems that long ago, in their native Siam, they were official watch cats in the palace. I can verify their reliability. As twilight would begin to deepen, this faithful servitor would mount a window sill upstairs on the driveway side of the house, and begin his watch for anyone coming up the drive, stranger, friend, member of the family, all caused the same loud cry of alarm.

During one of our early years here on the Water Andric, I brought a male Siamese cat with us. I was just learning about this breed of cat, and wondered how such an elegant creature would react to the very different life in the countryside. One day, he was walking with me around the east end of the house where there was a steep bank down to the lower meadow. Suddenly he stopped, motionless. I also stopped. With two bounds he was down

the bank, I heard a brief squawk, and then silence. Sheer instinct had brought him his first rabbit.

At another time I had a series of orange cats. The first one was born in the foundations of the Methodist Church on Danville Green. The mother cat belonged to May Macdonald, who lived nearby, and thus the kitten was named Donald MacDonald. I forget just how long we had that cat, but he was, as far as I can remember, thoroughly satisfactory. His most remarkable and never forgotten exploit occurred when my husband was working on a research project in Scotland and England. (While in Scotland, we were able to visit the original Water Andric, much like our stream, though spelled Endrick Water. While in England, we stayed in a small hotel while Ralph conferred with a graduate student. One afternoon, we returned to the hotel and entered our room. Instant pandemonium and excitement!

There was an orange cat on the bed! The children greeted him, "It's Donald McDonald!" they cued. A maid appeared, wondering what was going on. "Is that the hotel cat?" I asked, as the cat and the children were enjoying a sentimental reunion. "Oh, no," answered the maid. "Our cat is old and never so friendly." Though Donald MacDonald was no longer on view when we got back from supper, the children and I were convinced that it was our cat who had magically arranged to make an all-too-short visit. So, when your cat looks at you with an "If you only knew" look in its eye, perhaps he's planning a little trip you will never know about. I wonder if it would show up in his DNA? I suspect not.

Whenever we have had a cat, or a dog, it has been interesting to observe them, to notice how different they are in some ways, but also in other ways how similar. Some kind of communication is certainly

going on. We learn how the behavior of the cat or dog is sending us a message, and we can learn how to make some things very dear to our animals. People who listen and watch their pets carefully often can tell us exactly how many words they know.

At the same time there is a considerable difference between dogs and cats in the ways they relate to us. A dog

wants to participate actively in human affairs. Even though he may seem to be dozing, he is aware of your movements, and will be instantly at your side if you show signs of going out.

The cat, I think, has an agenda of her own, and is prowling, or washing herself, or gazing out of the window to add to her stock of general information. Perhaps this is a good time for humans to raise questions (something we, unlike animals, are able to do) about our place and our purposes in our world.

Book Friends

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

As a child I spent many hours alone, but I don't remember being lonesome. Books were my companions and I found characters so real that I counted on them for company. I was given an assortment of dolls, and when friends came to visit we would join in the endless task of dressing and undressing them. I must say that I did not find that very challenging!

My "book friends" were the ones I cherished. I was especially devoted to A.A. Milne's books and the endearing characters of Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore and Tigger. My artistic mother made small cloth copies of all my favorites. She cut them out and stuffed them so that I could play and talk with them, which I did, endlessly. I think my doll-loving friends were a bit bored with my animals - you couldn't dress them up!

Continued on Page 20

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My Tom Sawyer lives!

Continued from Page 17

At night I went to bed surrounded by Pooh and his pals. When I went off to boarding school a few of my animals went along and adorned my pillow. Two or three who were not worn to shreds even accompanied me to college, where a formal doll or two often reclined on my classmates' pillows. I don't know

whether I was envied or considered a bit odd for my choice of companions, but it did not bother me and my old animal friends remained comfortable pals.

Replicas of the A.A. Milne figures did in time appear on the market, but I may have been among the first to own a full set of the homemade characters. I hope there are still children who

love the Milne animals and count them as good book friends.

There were lots of other book friends in my early reading days, including those in *Treasure Island*, *The Swiss Family Robinson* and, of course, *Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn*. My grandmother's house contained shelf after shelf of what to me were old-fashioned books that were popular in her generation. Some of the heroines were rather too-good, and of course virtue always triumphed over evil. A bit dull! There was never a shortage of book friends to discover, whether for girls or boys. There were Tom Swift books and Nancy Drew books that could be devoured one by one.

I don't know whether today's boys and girls find their friends on TV instead of in books. I do know that libraries do a lot to encourage kids to read books, and that there is a good response, especially with kids who come from reading households. I hope they make wonderful book friends to enrich their childhood, and that they develop a delight in reading that goes on and on throughout their lives! ★



Photo courtesy of www.naturalsciences.org

Cliff Swallows

Continued from Page 6

moment, that feeling of helplessness whether watching your child drive away for the first time, or a new lamb struggling to stand or a swallow nesting when one realizes that enough is enough, what is done is done, when parenting, farming, or harboring cliff swallows becomes an act of faith.

It is the acceptance of that faith which brings serenity. And parenting, which is the most mysterious and important thing that all living creatures do, can be what tests our faith most severely. To be loving without being controlling, to accept swallows for what they are, without making them into chickens, and accept chickens for what they are, too, for that matter, is not an easy trick to learn.

This is not fatalism, not a matter of giving up. It is, instead, the recognition that we, as individuals are no more important than any others, we are not would-be gods, or the center of the universe, but merely a very small part of a huge and magnificent system which sometimes acts in ways which we cannot possibly comprehend, let alone agree with at the moment. But I'm still going to keep shooting English sparrows. ★

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North Country Chorus celebrates 60 years

The public is invited to visit a special exhibit featuring the rich history of the North Country Chorus and the work of former member and nationally recognized artist Allianora Rosse.

The exhibit was conceived and directed by Betty Nickerson, of Peacham. It includes photographs, programs and memorabilia from the group's many concerts and tours, as well as Madrigal Dinner costumes, props and figures.

The exhibit will be open through Aug. 8 at Alumni Hall on Court St. in Haverhill, N.H. Admission is free. To check on hours call (603)989-5500 or email alumnihall@charterinternet.com.

The North Country Chorus, under the leadership of Musical Director Alan Rowe, is a community chorus of about 80 members serving the Upper Connecticut River Valley of New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Chorus typically presents two series of concerts each year as well as three nights of Madrigal Dinners in January. Performances during the Christmas season and in the spring feature mostly sacred works.

Plans are underway to perform Handel's Messiah on Dec. 5, 6, and 7. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at 7:15 pm at the Wells River Congregational Church in Wells River.

The chorus invites all singers who are willing to commit to its standards of attendance and musical excellence. Anyone interested in joining should contact Alan Rowe, Musical Director, (748-5027 or Conductor@NorthCountryChorus.org) or Hope Hutchinson, President, (757-3649 or President@NorthCountryChorus.org).

To learn more about the North Country Chorus visit www.northcountrychorus.org.



Courtesy Photo

Director Alan Rowe leads the North Country Chorus in concert at San Pietro di Castello in Venice on its recent 10-day concert tour of Italy. The group also performed in Florence and Rome.

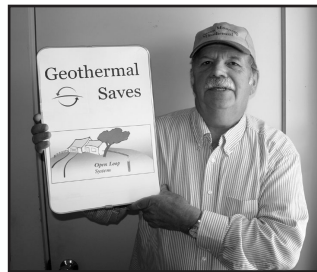


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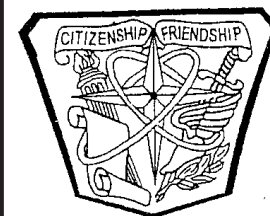
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What's Happening at the Town Hall?

Barnet

Town Clerk: William Hoar
 Selectboard: Ted Faris, Stanley Robinson and Jeremy Roberts

July 14

Drainage - William Vermuelen, the owner of the property which houses the Barnet Post Office, appeared to discuss repairs he needs to do to the area immediately in front of the post office. The parking area has a problem with a drainage pipe that runs under the pavement and causes problems with walking into the post office. The Postal Service has told him he needs to remedy this issue by the end of August. The place in question is in the Town's right of way and he is appearing to request permission to work within this right of way. The Board has no problem with this and so granted permission to work in the right of way area. Bill asked the Board if the Town would help with paying for some of the paving work. Board agreed to look at it after he receives a price for the work.

Bridge Closing - Read letter from Vermont Agency of Transportation in response to an inspection made on July 9, 2008 on bridge #33 on Town Highway #19 (Keyser Hill Road). Inspection of the bridge revealed severe deterioration of the beams. The bottom flange of the six beams is rusted completely through and the beam webs, up to two feet beyond abutment #2 have also completely rusted through. Buckling of the beams was evident on the abutment #1 end of the bridge. Due to these conditions the State recommended that the bridge be closed to traffic until appropriate repairs can be made. The Selectmen so concurred and have closed the bridge.

Tax Rates - The Board signed certification of tax rates for 2008. The total Homestead Rate will be \$1.7139 and the total non-resident

rate will be \$1.7455.
Road Safety - The Selectmen have received notice that the Towns of Barnet and Danville have been selected for a Road Safety Audit Review. The Selectmen have been asked to meet with State highway representatives to go over the intersection of Barnet Center Road and the West Barnet Road as this area has been the site of several accidents in the past. This meeting is to discuss possible alternatives to alleviating the potential for accidents. They will meet at the Town Clerks Office on July 21 at 9 a.m.

Road Salt - The Board reviewed a proposal sent by the Vermont League of Cities & Towns to have Towns join the collaborative that is asking the major suppliers of salt in Vermont for prices for the 2008-09 winter season. Towns are being required to join this by July 25 and to agree to purchase at least 80 percent of their yearly salt purchase through the collaborative. The board took the proposal under review.

Town Plan - Selectmen officially received the proposed Town Plan today as a result of the Planning Commission's approval of it after their public hearing held on July 1. The Selectmen need to hold a public hearing between 30 and 120 days after today's date of submission. The earliest they can hold a hearing is August 25.

Danville

Town Clerk: Virginia Morse
 Town Administrator - Merton Leonard
 Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Denise Briggs, Doug Pastula, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

June 19th

Tree Fund - Mary Prior was present to find out the results of her request of \$1,500 from the Town Small Tree Fund, for plantings of various fruit



Photo By: North Star Monthly
 Frequent showers this month have led to bright colors in flower gardens.

trees, berry bushes, herbs and flowers per a plan developed by Danville High School Senior Mary Lynch, under the guidance of the Historical Society, at their house on Hill Street. The fund is supported with interest from \$4,750 that was left to the town through the will of Charles Brainerd. The Board discussed whether or not the trees had to be planted on town land in light of the precedent set when money from the fund was used to plant trees on the Pope Library lawn. The board approved the request.

Better Back Roads - Leonard Merton reported that he and Kevin Gadapee attended a Better Back Roads meeting on the Road Salt issue at the town garage. BBR recommends towns get together in a large group to contract for road salt this year. BBR also recommended filling all the space towns have available with salt as soon as possible to build up the amount in storage.

Curb cut - The Board approved an existing curbcut for Bryce and Debra Gonyaw for their lot on Walden Hill Road. The Board then reviewed the budget and signed the orders.

Smart Growth - The Planning Commission requested approval to hire Smart Growth Vermont for their bid of \$10,000 to make recommendations to the Planning Commission on zoning changes to the Danville Design Review District. They were chosen from five applicants and will be paid for by the Planning Grant. Approval was granted.

Mapping - The Conservation Commission requested approval to

hire Brett Engstrom to continue mapping and consulting in the town forests and other forested areas at a cost of \$1,909. He was chosen from several bidders on a previous mapping project with the Planning Commission and they feel he would be more consistent with the mapping already done. This new mapping would be paid for by a grant from the U.S. Forest Department. Approval was granted.

Ancient Roads - The Ancient Roads Committee is requesting to hire Consultant Paul Hannan for up to ten hours of assistance at an approximate cost of \$800. He is the most noted authority on researching old roads and has given advice to many towns in the state. This would be paid for by the Ancient Roads grant. They would also like approval to use Andy Dussault, local Surveyor, for up to ten hours at a cost of approximately \$500.00. Approval was granted.

Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett
 Administrative Assistant - Dan Hill
 Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Kevin Calkins and Kermit Fisher

Highway Report - The Board reviewed the highway report. At 46 percent through the year, payroll is 54 percent expended and the entire budget is 42 percent expended. The Board discussed various road maintenance policies.

Liquor License - The Board voted to approve the second-class liquor license of Circle K Vermont for 2008.

Overweight Permits - The Board voted to approve the overweight permit of Acklin Humphrey with the standard conditions and to authorize Dan Hill to sign the permit on behalf of the Board.

Paving Bid Results - On Pinehurst Street, from the town line to Route 114, the existing pavement is to be reclaimed and the entire section of road is to be paved. The overlay will be applied next year at an approximate cost of \$45,000. The board voted to accept the bid of Gorman Brothers for the reclaiming and the bid of Pike Industries for paving and berm work, as long as they coordinate their schedule to get the job done before the Caledonia County Fair.

Randall Bridge Discussion - Donna Wheeler (Chamber of Commerce) and Dick Boera (Historical Society) discussed the ownership of the Randall Covered Bridge with the Board. The Chamber of Commerce currently owns the bridge but only the Town can receive grant funds for it. The Chamber and Historical Society will continue to help to fund preservation of the Town's landmarks. The board authorized the Town of Lyndon to take over the Randall Covered Bridge for public use as a tourism attraction with no automobile traffic to be allowed.

Path Around Lyndon (PAL) - The Town has been awarded \$28,000 of grant money to design the proposed path. The grant requires a 20 percent match of local funding, of which 10 percent needs to be in cash. Project PAL has sufficient cash to fund this



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

cash requirement. The Board would like to continue with the project and contribute about \$3,000 to the project next year.

Peacham

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

June 18, 2008

Town Plan – The Select Board discussed the significance of a July 9, 2008 meeting with N.V.D.A. with the Peacham Planning Commission and general public. The Board also reviewed planning goals for the 2010 Town Plan. Future population density topics were also discussed.

Town Clerk - The town clerk reported on the status of special projects that were proposed in 2007, such as the recording of deeds, mortgages, property transfers tax returns, electronic recording of index system implementation, voter checklist regarding September primary and November election, and the Town Clerk's application for two State H.A.V.A. election grants one for \$1,298.71 and the other for \$300.00.
Posts – Gary Swenson moved that the Select Board authorize Don Davis to clear an entrance area between former VLT land and cemetery and to install two posts wide enough for a pedestrian entrance only. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports - Governor Mattocks Road and East Hill are cleared of down trees, which resulted from recent storms. Repairs to garage shed continue. Immediate plans for road work include: Morrison Hill Road, culvert replacement on Blanchard Hill Road, and ditching on Thaddeus Stevens Road.

Dump Truck - One bid for \$11,225 was received on the one-ton dump truck and accepted by the Board.

Transfer Station - Second dumpster building and roof are complete. A new small shed was discussed for storage of old tires, etc.

St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch
 Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier
 Selectboard: Bryon Quatrini, Gary Reis, Daniel Kimbell, Jim Rust, and Jean Hall Wheeler.

June 23, 2008

Housing - Will Rivers said the town needed to aggressively seek more housing. Rivers said the town needs to support the Bay Street Development Plan. There needs to be a 3 to 5 year plan for making this a reality. Larry Sharer recommended the developers of the St. Johnsbury House be contacted to see if they would be interested in other types of housing development in St. Johnsbury. Rich Lyon asked about 75 percent grant funding from USDA for sewer. The town manager said voters did not approve the bond request for Breezy Hill – and at the time that would have been 75 percent grant funds. The water projects have recently been funded at 60 percent through USDA.

Bay Street - Stan Wilkins said the Town should be looking at where it may be possible to add apartment units to existing dwellings – to provide additional housing opportunities. Gary Reis said Montpelier was awarded a planning grant to look at empty nesters living in big homes to determine feasibility of additional housing. St. Johnsbury should consider something like this. Will Rivers said that Bay Street has to be a priority. People have shown interest, we need to determine the Town's role in making it happen.

Attendance – Priscilla Messier said that in all of the years that she has scheduled Boards for review there has only been about three times when a meeting had to be postponed due to lack of a quorum. Stan Wilkins said that it is important to receive input from all of the members of a particular Board. Larry Sharer said that he felt that it is up to each Board to address specific attendance problems on their own. Jim Rust said that he felt that the individual Boards needed

to review attendance from time-to-time. Jim said that applicants deserve the full attention of the entire Board. Jim said that individual Boards should address attendance on their own.

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail – Alan Robertson, representing VAST, was present to ask members of the Select Board to review the plans and pictures of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail that has been sent to them and provide VAST with any comments, good or bad, related to the trail, trailheads, and any other matter. Robertson said that it is important that VAST get input from individual communities along the proposed trail. Robertson said that it appears that the Western Avenue Park and Ride may be a location for a trailhead for snowmobiles. Alan said he was not certain how machines would enter the trail from this location. He said it may involve off-loading at another area and then parking in the Park & Ride. Gary Reis asked if engineers are considering this proposed use in the design of the new Park & Ride. Jim Rust said that times when snowmobilers would use the Park & Ride and when commuters do is very different.

Vital Statistics Presentation – Jeannette Farmer was present to review the Vital Statistics restoration and preservation program. Farmer outlined the procedures used by the Town Clerk's Office to preserve public records – and highlighted the collaboration in record restoration between the Town, St. Johnsbury Academy, the Athenaeum, and Fairbanks Museum.

Standing Ovation - It was moved by Jean Hall Wheeler, seconded by Gary Reis, and unanimously voted to approve a resolution related to Jeannette Farmer, who recently retired from the town clerk's office. Jeannette received a standing ovation from the members of the Board, staff, and citizens present at the meeting.

Reappraisal – The town manager informed the Board that discussions have continued with Caroline Lockyer about completion of the reappraisal for 2009. The town manager advised the board that Caroline has offered to forgo a portion of the remaining balance of the contract and allow the town to complete the remaining inspections. Peter Whitney said he still does not know how many inspections still need to be completed, but he should know in the next 30 days. Bryon Quatrini recommended that the town manager and assessor provide the Board with a full review of the remaining work to be done on the reappraisal and the costs associated with completing this work as soon as possible, and that the Board be provided with an update on the status of the reappraisal on a regular basis.

Water/Sewer Rates - Finance Committee Chairperson Daniel Kimbell informed the Board that the Finance Committee reviewed the proposed rates and the recommendation to consolidate blocks (as proposed by Robert Dufresne) at their last meeting. Daniel Kimbell said the Finance Committee recommends the Select Board adopt the rates as proposed effective January 1, 2009. Gary Reis asked about the impact on average homeowners, the manager provided a spreadsheet detailing estimated impacts for different volume levels. Daniel Kimbell said he believes this proposal is the best recommendation for moving forward with covering operational costs, and beginning to address future debt service. Larry Bona said declining block rates were in place in St. Johnsbury because it is business friendly. Bona said if high volume users do not continue to pay for water service, all users will be forced to pay more.

Bona suggested the Board should be doing everything possible to encourage business and not increase costs significantly. Daniel Kimbell said that St. Johnsbury definitely does not want to be anti-business, but the majority of costs associated with the water/sewer system have been borne by the lowest volume users for many years. Kimbell said that the increases proposed in St. Johnsbury still represent water/sewer rates that are less than some Vermont communities. Following discussion, it was unanimously voted to adopt water and sewer rates effective with the bills beginning on January 1, 2009.

Interstate Weight Limit Discussion – Several people have contacted the office with interest in this topic. U.S. Representative Peter Welch said this issue should come back up again next session.

Walden

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

June 24, 2008

Creamery - The Act 250 permit for Cabot Creamery was discussed, specifically, a concern that has been raised about the increased impact on Walden's roads by their trucks. The board does not feel it appropriate to restrict their use any more than they would restrict use from logging trucks, milk trucks or any other trucks that use Walden's roads. A board member will attend the meeting in Cabot taking place July 1.



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Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

There are just a few days left to buy your tickets for the Pope Library Quilt Raffle. This beautiful "Vermont Snowflakes" quilt was pieced and appliquéd by one of our very talented trustees, Diane Webster and quilted by Mary Schilke. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The lucky winning ticket will be drawn at 9 p.m. at the Danville Fair. The quilt is on display at the library and tickets are available here and at the Fair.

We will hold our annual August book sale on the library lawn during the Fair from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Book donations can be dropped at the library during the week of July 28. Visit the Pope Library's Ice Cream Booth at the fair. Stop by for a delicious cone, sundae or float.

Our Sunday Concerts on the Green continue with Catamaran, St. J's hottest new young rock band, on Aug. 3, The Bob Amos Band on Aug. 10, The Danville Town Band on Aug. 17 and Cold Country Bluegrass on Aug. 24. In the event of rain concerts will be held in the Methodist Church on the Green.

The Pope will participate in the Vermont Humanities Council's 2008 Vermont Reads program in the fall. The book is "A Restless Spirit: The Story of Robert Frost" by Natalie Bober. This year we are collaborating with The Danville Historical Society and Danville School. Copies of "A Restless Spirit" are available at the Pope.

Our newest book acquisitions are: The Informant by Eichenwald, The Whole Truth by Baldacci, Where are You Now? By Clark, The Front by Cornwell, Fearless Fourteen by Evanovich, The Other by Guterson, 7th Heaven by Patterson, When You are Engulfed in Flames by Sedaris, Are We There Yet? : The Golden Age of American Family Vacations by Rugh, Wallace Stegner and the American West by Fradkin and Younger Next Year: A Guide to Living Like 50 Until You're 80 and Beyond by Crowley. Come in and check them out!

Last of all – thank you Terry Hoffer and staff for the incredible paper the North Star is. Our library has always been well represented and we are grateful. After reading about Justin in the North Star I have complete faith that the paper is in very competent hands and wish him all the best.

Enjoy your new deadline-free life Terry!

Peacham Historical Society Annual Meeting Aug. 5

The Peacham Congregational Church will play host Tuesday, Aug. 5, to the annual meeting of the Peacham Historical association.

Dessert and conversation start at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m. followed by special guest speaker Dr. Thomas Visser.

Visser, an associate professor of historic preservation, serves as the director of the graduate program in historic preservation at the University of Vermont. He

teaches courses in researching historic buildings, architectural conservation, building technology, and other preservation topics.

Visser has taught courses in the Historic Preservation Program and has completed nearly two hundred funded research projects while directing the program's Architectural Conservation and Education Service since 1985.

Visser currently serves on the board of directors of the National Council for Preservation

Education and on the board of advisers for The Preservation Education Institute. He has also served as a board member of Preservation Action and the Ruggles Foundation and has been accepted as a professional associate by the American Institute of Conservation (AIC).

Locally, he has also served as the chair of the Burlington Design Review Board and the Burlington Historic Preservation Review Committee.

News from the Brainerd Library

ELIZABETH SZYMANIK,

An attractive new sign now adorns the outside of our building so new comers to the area can quickly find us as they drive through North Danville village.

And, it's now easier to find our way around inside the library as well. Janet Carson recently finished painting attractive wooden plaques to identify each category of books. A spe-

cial thanks to Janet and to Emmons & Young Construction for donating the lumber.

Mark your calendars now. On Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. ,Vince Feeneyrom Marshfield will be presenting "The Allen Brothers: Original Vermont Developers." This program is co-sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council and it promises to be very interesting.

New acquisitions include a

large new selection of children's books written by Vermont authors. These include "As Long As There Are Mountains" by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, "The Scrimshaw Ring" by William Jaspersohn and "Malian's Song" by Marge Bruchac.

Library hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. and also on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m.



Zachary Porter on Joe's Pond...



About me... I am Zachary Porter, I am 6 years old. I just moved to Vermont. I love to play video games, watch Spongebob, ride Jet ski's and fish. My favorite food is McDonalds double cheeseburger. My best friend is Saywer. I have leukemia so will be in the hospital for a while, but things will be back to normal in no time. My grandparents have been Joe's Ponders since 1945... I love Joes Pond too!!

Come to the **Benefit Show for Zachary** at the Danville School **August 14th at 7pm...** Wildlife Photographer **Ray Richer** is presenting "Another **Miracle in the Marsh**" a multimedia show about the loons... there will be raffles and a silent auction that evening... Admission is \$5 adults children under 12 free... All proceeds will go to the Zachary Porter Trust Fund... come meet the family... Contact the Richers for show info: **563-3083**

Please donate to The Zachary Porter Trust Fund

All donations go to the Porter family on behalf of Zachary.

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Gardening & Growing

Marsha Garrison

My first garden was a long, narrow strip along a concrete-block garage wall. I "received" this garden when I was six years old. I had just gone to live with my grandparents, and as they brought out seeds and geraniums, they announced that this land was thereafter to be my land. I was pleased and proud and eager to see what my land could do.

I spaced geraniums as my grandfather directed. I planted marigold seeds at the front of the bed and scarlet runner beans in the back. I tied strings to nails running along the top and bottom of the garage for the beans to climb. Someone -and I'm sure it wasn't me - thereafter watered and weeded what I had begun. As the summer went by, I looked

on my land and I liked what I saw.

I retained a sense of owning this strip of ground for years, despite the fact that I never weeded or watered and sometimes didn't even plant it in the spring. The ten noncontiguous square inches in the Yukon Territories that I painstakingly acquired by saving the deeds that came in Puffed Wheat cereal boxes were more glamorous properties, but they didn't provide the same sense of sovereignty that came with my strip of geraniums, marigolds, and runner beans. And somehow -

Continued on Page 29

From food scraps to plastics: positive impact on the planet

We all generate food scraps—at home, at work, at school, and when we eat out at restaurants.

There are two scenarios for where that food goes. In one, most of those scraps end up in a landfill. Some households may compost at least part of the year, and some restaurants may separate scraps for composting or send food home with a staff member who raises pigs or chickens. But the majority will be trucked to a landfill, where they will be packed into a cell and will quickly release methane gas—a potent greenhouse gas—into the atmosphere.

In a second scenario, school and restaurant kitchen staff diverts food scraps to compost collection containers, while leftovers from dinner plates and cafeteria trays are put into com-

post collection containers as well. The scraps are then picked up and brought to a local composting facility or farm on a regular basis. At home, families actively compost or use another kind of food scrap management system, such as a small in-ground digester called a Green Cone.

This scenario is the goal. Keeping food scraps out of the trash, and out of the landfill, through a variety of means. By doing so, we can each reduce our carbon footprint, we can each reduce the load on our existing landfills, and we can each save money.

With rates as high as \$4 per bag, garbage isn't cheap. And you just might be paying to dispose of things that don't need to go in the trash besides food scraps. For instance, recycling

depots and most bag drops and haulers are collecting number 1 and number 7 plastics now—that means all of those cottage cheese and yogurt containers and their lids are now recyclable.

Once you remove all of the recyclables and then compost or otherwise handle all of your food scraps onsite, there isn't much left to pay to throw away.

Reducing the amount of trash you produce is a low- or no-cost change you can make that will have a positive impact on both your budget and the planet.

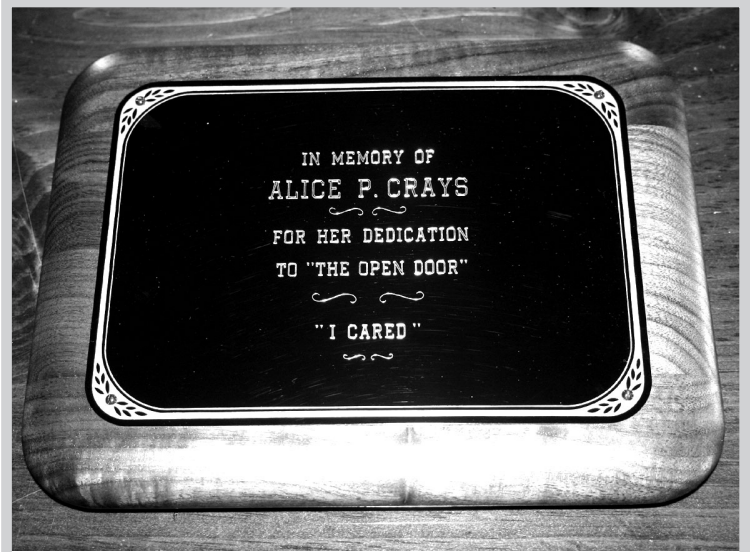


Photo By: North Star Monthly

A plaque to be placed in The Open Door on Hill Street reads:

**In Memory of Alice P. Crays
For her dedication to "The Open Door"
"I Cared"**

Alice passed in August of 2007 at the age of 94. She was a generous volunteer. She donated the store's sign, flowers, rugs and much of her time. She was also on the board of the non-profit company as the secretary. She used to say her "special place" was the food shelf.

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Check-in at 8:00 a.m., Walk at 10:00 a.m.
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No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

The all-too-short Northeast Kingdom summer is in full swing. Long days and warm weather lead to ripe and ready to pick vegetables presenting themselves in our gardens or on the display tables of our local farm stands. August yields the produce we have been waiting for since we first opened those seed catalogs in February – red ripe tomatoes, crispy beans and cukes, deep colored greens of every description, summer and winter squash and root vegetables from beets to potatoes.

This is what the summer food scene is all about. It's not just the season for hamburgers and hot dogs – it's time to think fresh vegetables!

Grill them, roast them, make casseroles and gratins, steam them or eat them raw – you won't find any food more delicious in the summer than fresh local vegetables.

My favorite way to prepare veggies in the summer is to simply grill or steam them and

add a little salt and olive oil, but the following recipes are 'must dos' for me in August, when all the ingredients are fresh and flavorful.

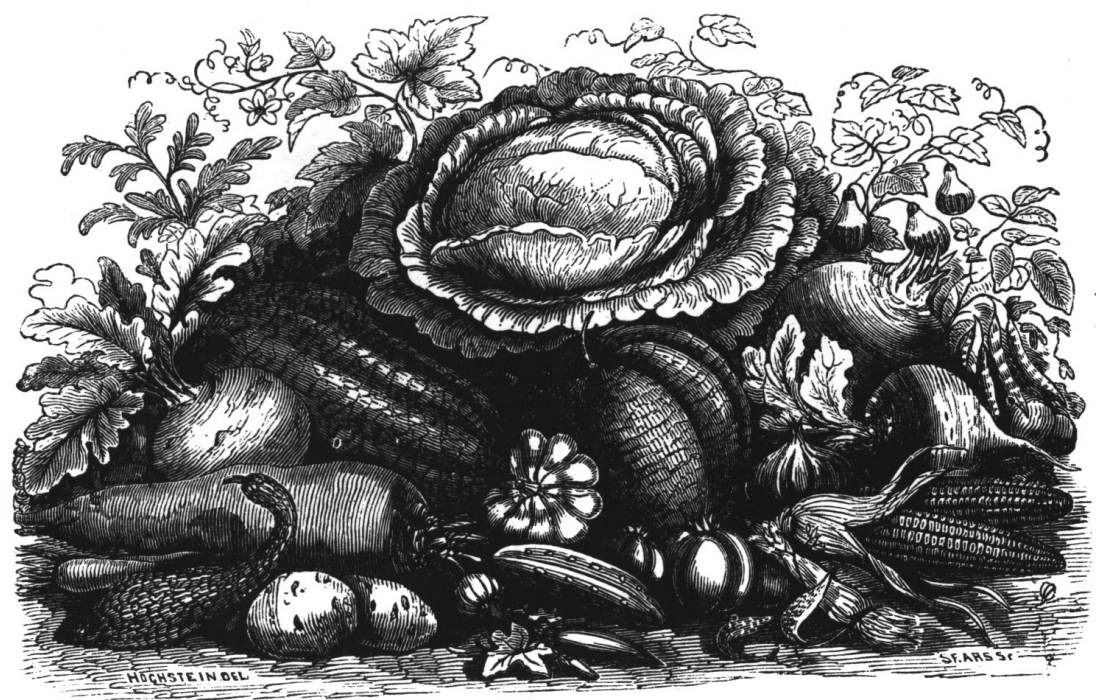
Scalloped Tomatoes

This old fashioned tomato dish is good beyond imagination. Everyone will ask about this delightful side dish when it's served. It is a real American tomato recipe. Make sure you let this dish set after it is baked. It needs this time to meld all the ingredients.

- 8 fresh tomatoes - peeled and cut into thick slices*
- 3 cups fresh bread crumbs**
- 1/2 cup sugar

- 1/2 lb. butter – softened (you may not need it all)
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 onion - chopped
- 1/2 onion thinly sliced

Butter a large glass pie plate (a regular baking dish will do) and place a layer of tomato slices on the bottom. Sprinkle with some of the chopped onions, a tablespoon of the sugar and 3/4 cup of the bread-



crumbs. Dot with butter, salt and pepper and about a tablespoon of the cream. Repeat this process two or three more times depending on the depth of the dish. Put sliced onions on the top and dot with butter. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes or until it is bubbly. After removal from the oven let this dish sit about 45 minutes before serving.

Peeling tomatoes: Get a pot of water boiling and dip red, ripe tomatoes into this water for about 40 seconds. Take the tomatoes out and put them in a colander. Run cold water over the tomatoes so they stop cook-

ing and simply slip the skins off. It yields a ripe tomato with only the thin skin removed. A thing of beauty!

Make breadcrumbs in either a food processor or blender. I like to use English muffins or a toothsome white bread. You can use store bought crumbs but the homemade ones are superior.

Swiss Chard

High in vitamins and minerals and easy to prepare, the wide variety of leafy green vegetables are a delicious addition to any meal. Swiss chard is one of my favorites, but you can

use this recipe for most any green. Some would only pick the young and tender shoots, but I think greens are at their best when their leaves are full and dark and the plants are as high as an elephant's eye. They still cook up nice and tender and have an incomparable robust flavor.

I have a foolproof method for cooking chard for either immediate use or freezing. I learned it from my mother - she learned it from her mother. Cooking at its best!

Prepare the Chard:

Wash the leaves very well in



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two baths of water and drain. Cut the stems out of the leaves and reserve them. Use all the stems - big and small. Chop the leaves in medium to large pieces and set aside. Chop the stems in small pieces across the grain (like you would celery). Put stems in a high-sided frying pan and bury 2 tablespoons of butter and 1 whole clove of garlic in the middle of the pan for every 4 cups of stem pieces. Add 4 tablespoons of stock or water. Cover and cook for about 45 minutes over medium to low heat. The result is a translucent and fragrant mix ready to flavor the chard leaves with a delightful hint of butter and garlic.

Meanwhile, heat a large stockpot of water and when it has come to a boil add the chopped leaves. Cook the leaves until tender. It usually takes about 15 minutes. Drain the leaves and set aside.

Add the cooked stems to the reserved leaves and toss them together.

You are now ready to use the Swiss chard or put it in freezer bags to enhance soups or use as a vegetable all through the winter.

Garden Eggplant Parmesan

Simplicity is the key word in this recipe. Don't make the mistake of adding extra ingredients or cooking it too long. The most common mistake is adding 'more' to this dish. It does better without the addition of breadcrumbs, mozzarella or cheddar cheese and uses very little parmesan. Just follow the instructions and you will have a real vegetable treat.

3 medium to large eggplants - peeled and sliced about 1/4 inch thick

1 1/2 cups flour

4 eggs - beaten with 3/4 cup water added

2 cups olive oil (can use a mix of canola and olive oil)

4 whole cloves garlic

1 cup 100% parmesan cheese (preferably fresh grated)

Prepare the Eggplant:

Heat 1/2 cup of the olive oil

in a flat bottom frying pan. Put two of the whole garlic cloves right in the oil for flavor. Set out a flat plate with the flour in it and a flat bottom bowl with the eggs and water in it. Dredge the eggplant in flour and dip in the egg mix. Drop the eggplant into the hot (not smoking) oil and fry on one side until lightly browned. Flip each piece over and brown the other side. You have to fry the pieces only one layer deep - don't pile them on top of one another in the pan. Set the pieces aside on paper toweling - you can stack them on top of one another here. Repeat until all the slices are fried. If at any time the oil blackens, discard it, wipe the pan and replace with the other 1/2 cup of oil. You can do this whole process a few hours ahead of time if you like.

This is a fairly laborious task, but I always find it rewarding and peaceful to fry eggplant to a perfect golden

color. It's a kind of cook's meditation. Just make sure you set aside enough time to enjoy the process.

Make the sauce:

10 whole fresh tomatoes - peeled (substitute two 28 oz. cans of whole tomatoes - in their own juice)

3 basil leaves (substitute one scant teaspoon dried basil)

1 tablespoon sugar

1 tablespoon salt (eliminate if using canned tomatoes)

Squeeze the tomatoes into a medium saucepan, crushing them slightly. Add the sugar, basil and salt. Cook for no more than 20 minutes. This will be very light tomato sauce. Set aside.

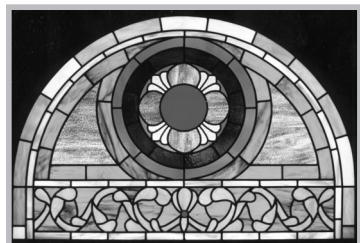
Put the casserole together:

Use two smaller casserole

pans rather than one big one for this recipe. Ladle a cup full of sauce in the bottom of the pans and set a single layer of the eggplant on top. Shake a little salt on top of the eggplant. Ladle a cup more sauce and a sprinkling of the parmesan cheese over the eggplant. Continue this process until all the eggplant is used up. This may seem a little watery but the eggplant will absorb the water from the tomatoes.

Place in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes - do not overcook. Remove from the oven and let sit for at least one hour before serving.

Serve this dish at room temperature or a little above. It should not be too hot. The leftover eggplant is great in a sandwich.



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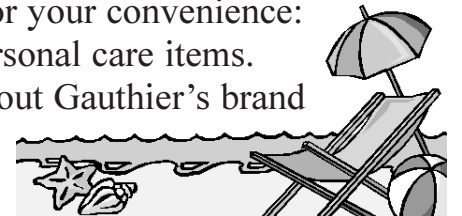
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BY MARY L. CURRIER

Bid for House seat is a lifelong dream for Kitty Beattie Toll

husband, Abel, live in Danville with their two daughters, Kate and Margaret.

As a wide-eyed five-year-old, Kitty recalls witnessing former Governor Phil Hoff first announcing his gubernatorial candidacy in her hometown of Danville. This young girl recognized that "a seed had been planted." She recounts the good fortune of having spent so much time at her mother's side while the legislature was in session. So, inspired by childhood memories and her mother's example as a legislator back in the 60s, Kitty, at age 12, took her first step into the political landscape by being selected to serve in Montpelier as a Legislative Page.

This inquisitive and socially conscientious youngster blossomed into a young woman with hopes of someday fulfilling her dream of serving as State Representative.

"In 1992, I seriously considered running for this seat, but decided the time was not right

for me as an individual, and I feel in the last 16 years I have gained many experiences, am more mature, and have participated in more community organizations, groups and activities giving me a better understanding of the people I would be representing."

Now that Kitty has these years under her belt she feels this is the "right year to take on the challenge both personally and politically."

After graduating from Danville High School in 1977, Kitty continued her education in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont at Lyndon State College, where she earned her Bachelor degree. She then went on to the University of Vermont to earn a Master's of Education degree. Kitty taught for 14 years in the Vermont public school system.

When asked in what ways she felt her life had prepared her for a seat in the House of Representatives, Kitty was quick to credit her parents. "We were

taught by our parents to be involved in our community, taught the importance of our local school and the education we were receiving, taught to respect other members of the community, encouraged to take risks, seek out opportunities and explore areas outside of Vermont whenever the opportunity arose."

When tracing Kitty's political path to this point, it leads to an extensive resume and proven record in community service which includes: present member and former co-chair of Danville Chamber of Commerce; long-time organizer of Danville Fair; Deacon and Trustee of Danville Congregational Church; member of Danville Parent Teacher Group; Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital corporator and capital campaign volunteer; Lyndon State College fundraising volunteer; former member of Danville zoning board and planning commission; and past Trustee and Chair of Pope Memorial Library.

Kitty's involvement with local organizations is a strong expression of the issues with which she identifies: Developing a strong local job market to strengthen our communities;

Enhancing educational opportunities; Keeping graduates employed in Vermont; and Protecting our environment. Kitty puts these issues in the forefront because she does "care what type of world we leave for our children."

Kitty's longtime commitment to the welfare of our local communities and state speaks to her concern to nurture Vermont's "heritage of being strong and independent and caring of one another." She also puts in the forefront "the quality of life of all Vermonters and keeping traditions alive and well."

Whether Kitty shakes your hand wearing her parent, teacher, farmer, or activist hat, she will do so in hopes of hearing your concerns. Take the opportunity to talk to her and chances are she will listen. She shares the philosophy that "good decisions are made when one is willing to listen and weigh out all factors and know the impact a decision will have." It is with this philosophy that Kitty hopes to take her commitment to youth, community and the heritage of Vermont to the House of Representatives in January.

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Gardening & Growing

Continued from Page 25

despite the fact that I never did real gardening chores or even thought about varying the inevitable geranium-marigold-runner-bean scheme - this bit of ground made me a gardener.

Or at least, I think it did. It's true that there was twenty years of germination between my first gardening efforts and the next I undertook. And who knows what would have happened had I not happened to take up residence in plant-poor Manhattan: from deprivation comes desire, and from desire comes fantasy and even initiative.

In my sun-starved West Village living room, I pored over the gardening magazine that brought brilliant pictures of planting possibilities every month. This subscription also

produced an abundance of free spring catalogs to fuel my fantasies of magical gardens that I might produce if only I had earth in which to plant them.

As the occupant of a ground floor apartment, I actually did have some earth, or, to be more precise, a small strip of compacted dirt separated from a larger vista of compacted dirt by an ugly chain-link fence.

Given that my dirt got no more than half an hour of sun per day, it was clear that I couldn't grow vegetables. But one spring day, perhaps inspired by one of those catalogs, it dawned on me that stockade fencing, ivy, and impatiens could turn a depressing vista into an inviting, shady garden retreat.

Inspired and green-

deprived, I acted on this vision: I borrowed a station wagon, drove to New Jersey, and returned with fencing, fertilizer, peat moss, and plants. Once the fence was up, I started to dig. Instead of pay dirt, I struck concrete - endless concrete four or five inches below the surface of every square inch of my patch.

I thought of giving it all up, but the idea of having an inviting, shady nook had penetrated too deeply. So I bought a sledge hammer and, armed with this new gardening tool, I spent a whole series of Saturday mornings pounding, digging, and hauling chunks of concrete to the garbage bin out front in order to create two narrow strips of concrete-free ground.

With the addition of peat

moss and fertilizer, I finally had beds for my ivy and impatiens, both a little shorter than my old strip by the garage, but real and plantable.

The plants finally went in and, spurred by my newfound expertise with modifying hard surfaces, I retrieved old bricks from the garbage of a nearby

construction site and constructed a small patio. Finally-months after that first vision I put out a tiny table and two chairs; I sat in my garden.

The impatiens never did bloom, but the ivy thrived. It was not what I had envisioned, but it was green and yes, it was shady and inviting.

Natural Resources Management Academy for teens

The University of Vermont Extension 4-H Program and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department are embarking on an educational initiative called "Natural Resources Management Academy."

This unique outdoors program is intended for high-school students interested in the environment and ready to explore, in-depth, their passion for Vermont's natural resources.

The academy is a weekend full of fantastic learning opportunities aimed at understanding Vermont's forests, wildlife, soils, and water ecosystems. The program has been designed to provide extensive exploration of natural resources

management, hands-on field experiences, group learning activities, and opportunities to rub elbows with Vermont's leading experts on the environment.

The Academy, which will take place September 5 through 7 at Fish and Wildlife's Buck Lake Green Mountain Conservation Camp in Woodbury, Vermont, will accept youth in grades 9 through 12.

Cost for the weekend is \$90, which includes lodging, meals and handouts. Information and registration materials are now on the Vermont 4-H website.

You can download the application at

<http://www.uvm.edu/extension/programs/4h/events/downloads/NRmanagementacademy08.pdf>.

For more information, please contact Lauren Traister, University of Vermont 4-H Educator, at 1-866-260-5603 x 103 or lauren.traister@uvm.edu.

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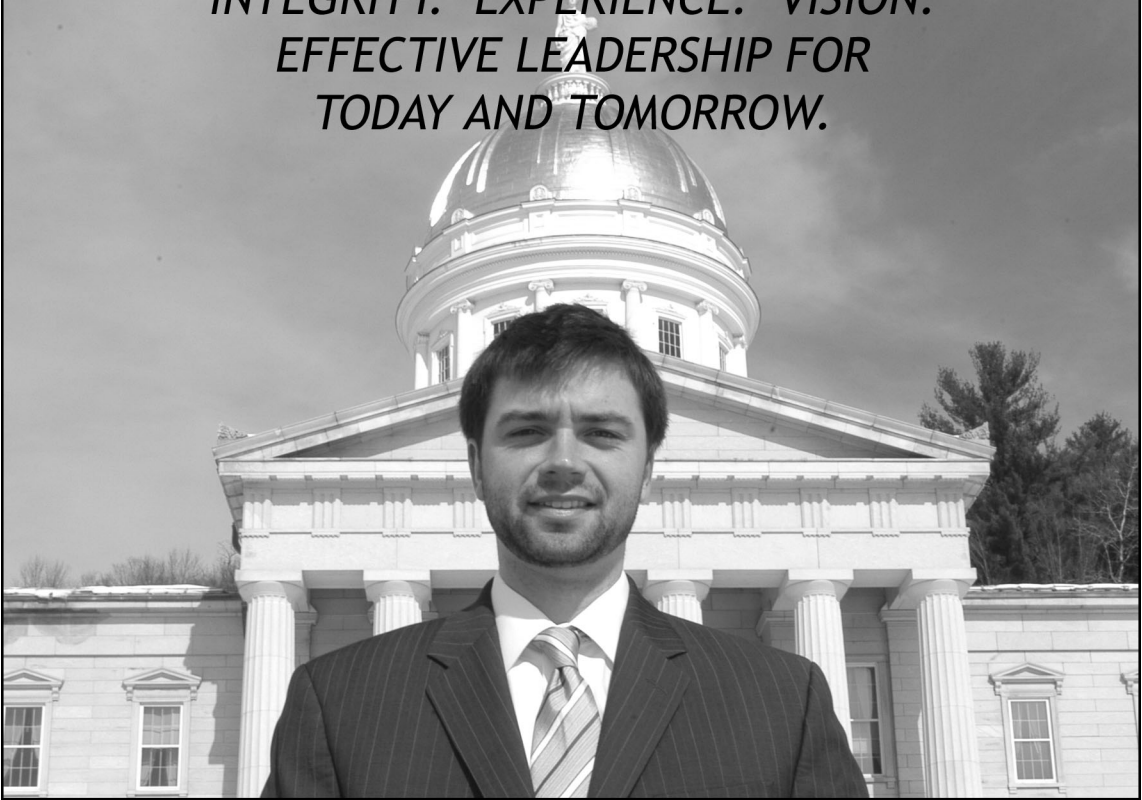
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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

Lynn A Bonfield



Elisabeth Clark Strobridge (1826-1899) wrote to her brother, Ephraim Wesson Clark (1828-1900), from her home at the tavern at Peacham Corner - today where the library is located. Ephraim was one of a group of Peacham men who traveled to California in December 1851 in search of gold. Intent upon paying off the mortgage on his father's farm in Peacham Hollow, Ephraim - still in California - was upset upon learning that his father had purchased additional acreage adjoining his farm. Ephraim's sister writes to explain why she and her husband, Lafayette, have also recently purchased land in Peacham.

August 1854

My very dear Brother

My pen has been silent so long you may have given up all hope of hearing from me, & I am ready to acknowledge myself greatly in fault & think every time I write a letter I will never put it off so long, so do once more forgive your penitent sister- We had some faint hopes last fall, which we dared not to speak aloud that we should see you in the spring, & now I find

those hopes reviving again with regard to next spring- Your banishment seems long to us, longer I think likely than to you, my prayer is that God will so order events that we may [be] permitted to meet once more on earth. . .

We have had a very dry time every thing is parched for want of rain, though yesterday we had a fine shower which has cooled off the air so that we are all shivering to day - we fear the potatoes are very much injured, they are very small & not fit to use and it is hard scrdcing [scratching] to get old ones to use, they have been 50 & 75 cent per bus [bushel] - hay makers have had a fine season for geting hay- Lafayette has cut from 25 to 30 ton - we had [hired] help enough to do it up in a week & finished Saturday-

By the way you are surprised that we have made such a [land] purchase, I do not wonder at it. I am surprised myself that we dared to venture it but we still hope that it was for the best- You can hardly realize the increased price of every thing [since you left] without any prospect of lessing-

The price of hay has been 8 & ten dollars & oats 42 & 50



Peacham Corner Store

thus prices makes our hay & oat bill count up pretty fast & Lafayette thought if we should continue in our present business long it would be of advantage to bag & raise [our] own stuff - it was the lowest it could be bought for & [William] Mattocks prefered keeping it to selling it for less - there is a good barn & the best Graft orchard in town - a good hay cart & several things thrown in.

We keep 6 horses now, 2 for the stage & four for letting & farm business - they are all very busy this time of year - the livery stable business has increased a good deal since you left - this is our second year of staging & L[Lafayette] thinks it has done

full as well as expected - he has a thousand dollars worth I presume of horses & carriges - this will scare you - it would us once - you will think we have a good many Irons in the fire but they all work together- The stage business last year amounted to over \$600 dollars besides the mail money which was enough to pay the driver - last month the livery stable business amounted [to] \$75 00 only three of the horses were used one was sick or at worth [work] but this is more than an average a good deal - as to the tavern business I cannot tell, as he has not kept it footed up lately, but we think it is increased since the first year, it was double last winter for two

or three months to what it was the winter before

Have I not been quite particular, I thought prehaps it would gratify you to know something what we were doing, when you went away we had a going very well. L. has a great deal of care to keep everything agoing - teams never stay fixed long when let constantly- I do not like the interruptions it occasions in domestic life it makes my care more & work much harder. . .

Lafayette has just come in with some bottle of brandy & is going to take a little - he is unwell with bowel complaint, has been telling me what to write to you &c but dont like to write himself he sends a great deal of love & give our best respects [to those in California] Tullins Strobridge & family & also Ashbel [Martin] & John E. [Eastman] & John Blanchard. . .

The original of this letter is preserved in the Peacham Historical Association. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Editor's additions are in brackets; words missing are indicated by ellipses.

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Older Wines

One of the most common wines for people to age for many years is Champagne. Couples get a bottle as a wedding present and save it for their silver anniversary, or some other special occasion that may never arrive. Yet, while older Vintage Champagne has fans, it may be the age worthy wine that novices are least likely to appreciate. As Champagne ages its effervescence dissipates, the crispness disappears, and if all goes well, it becomes a rich, mellow, almost-still wine that bears little resemblance to the frisky bubbly served at the festive occasion.

Whether or not your Chardonnays are worth of aging completely depends on the style of wine you like. If you like it rich and buttery, drink it now.

Many Northern California Chardonnays are low-acid wines that will fall apart after a couple years. But if you like a Burgundy-style Chardonnay with vibrant acidity and interesting minerality rather than tropical fruit flavors, try putting some aside for five to ten years to see how the secondary flavors develop.

Among the world's best age-worthy wines are Italian Nebbiolo-based reds from Barolo and Barbaresco, gaining fragrant, floral aromas over time. However because these regions are undergoing changes in production, the longevity of current releases is unpredictable. Barolos from the 1950s, '60s and '70s were different in nature as winemaking was more primitive and the wines were released with ferocious tannins. Back then wines in Italy

were made by farmers, which were very poor. People did not have the money for barrels and other equipment. In those days wine was made in a manner that it was almost undrinkable for the first ten years. In today's Italy, Amarone or a good Brunello di Montalcino have just as much longevity as do Super Tuscan blends with high percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon.

Recent favorite Pinot Noir is very unpredictable, and its ageing is no exception. Generally, the recommended drinking window for Pinot Noir is much less than for Cabernet Sauvignon. Most are best within seven to ten years of harvest, while many Cabernets are just starting to open up at that point. Well-known exceptions are some of the legendary Burgundies (which are Pinot Noir) that age as well as the finest Cab's.

Many sommeliers caution Pinot fans not to age their wines too long, because most Pinot Noirs are delicious young and meant to be enjoyed within the first five years, particularly the newer, more fruit-forward styles

from California.

Older wines in general are more delicate and elegant. Most are too fragile to last long once opened and should be enjoyed within hours. You don't want to have them with any sauce that is overly sweet or powerful. Not too much seasoning, salt, or powerful flavors. If you really want to enjoy the bottle of wine that you've stored for so long, you should plan the menu around it and support the wine with mildly flavored dishes.

Blended Wines

New wine lovers soon come across the concept of blended wines. And no, they did not make it through the blender, so to speak. Although at the winery they often undergo a similar treatment in big vats with big mechanical arms pushing the wine down or stirring it. But we leave that to another article about wine making. This one is about wine drinking.

At the basic level, there are two types of wine, 'blended' or 'varietal'. Varietal wines are

made from a single grape variety, while blended wines are made using two or more.

The most obvious example is the difference between the two great red wine styles of France. Burgundy red wine is made of the single variety Pinot noir. Bordeaux red wines are most often blends of up to five varieties, Cabernet sauvignon, Cabernet franc, Merlot, Malbec and Petit Verdot. There are a few Bordeaux wines made from a single variety, but they are the exceptions that prove the rule.

So much for the basics. The distinction between varietal and blended wines is less clear in the real. Many varietal wines are made from blends of wine grown in several regions. In order to have a consistent product many wineries buy grapes from different growers. Samples from many vineyards are tasted and evaluated before the final blend is decided upon. The result is a blend of regions, rather than varieties.

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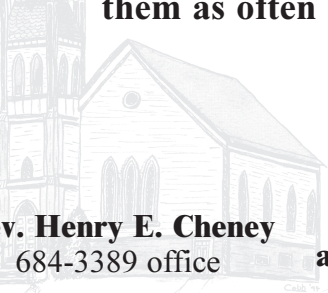
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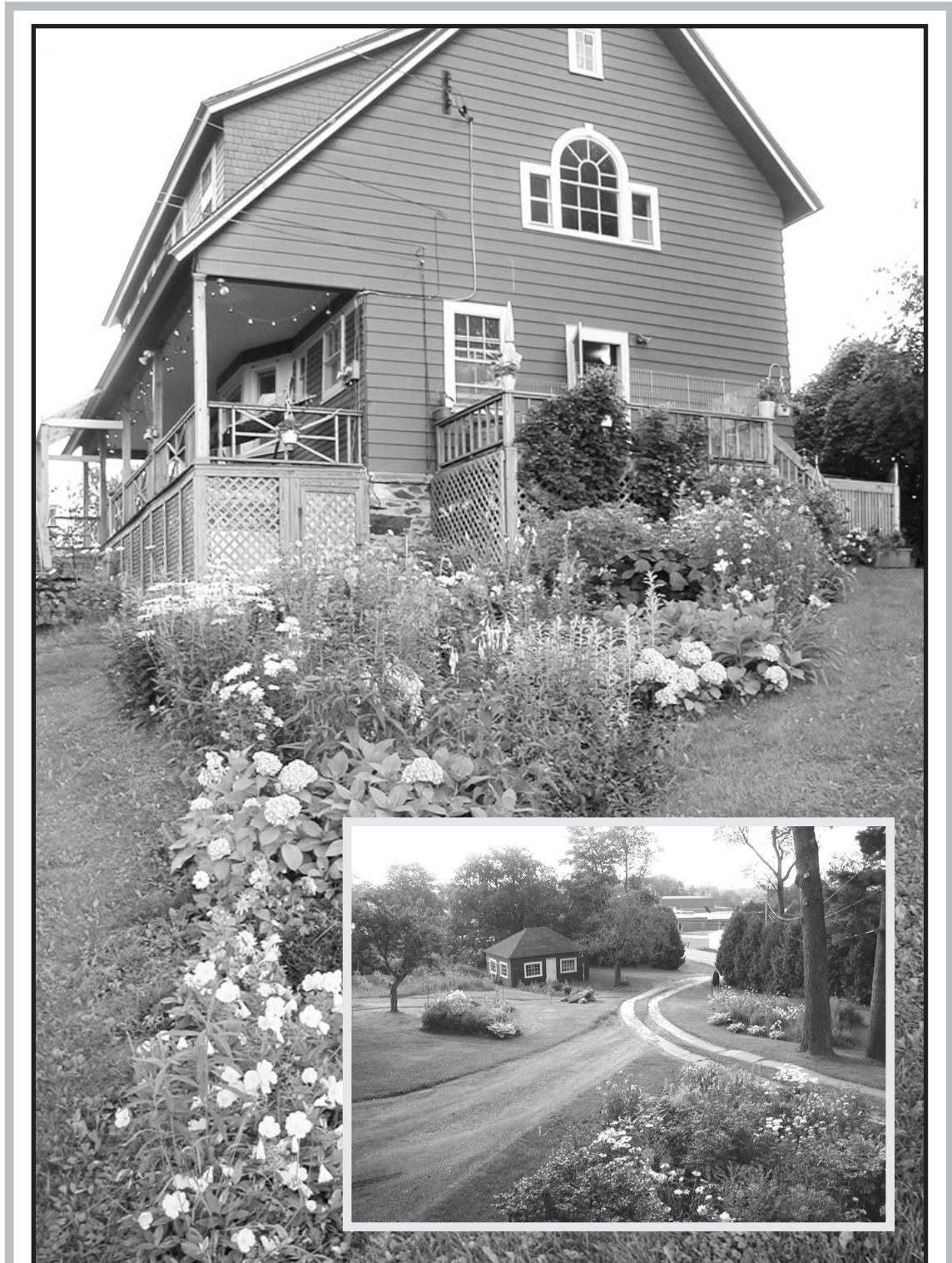
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Pure VT Maple Syrup in a variety of containers from gallon to half pint jugs and specialty glass. Maple cream, candy, sugar and maple jelly to order. We have the "Vermont Seal of Quality" and we ship. 718 Calkins Camp Rd., Danville, VT 05828. (802) 684-3323. gadmaple@together.net

Broadview Farm Maple

Pure VT Maple Syrup available in Grade A Fancy, Medium Amber, Dark Amber and Grade B. "Vermont Seal of Quality." Maple Cream, Maple Candy and Maple Sugar are available. We ship via UPS or Parcel Post. Joe Newell, 442 York Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (802) 626-8396. joe@newells.net

Goodrich's Maple Farm

Award-winning Maple Syrup & Products. Retail, Wholesale and Mail Order. Sugaring equipment and supplies. Custom tubing installation and consultation. 2427 US 2, Cabot, VT 05647. (802) 426-3388. www.goodrichmaplefarm.com

Cabot Hills Maple

Certified Organic Syrup
Vermont Fancy, Medium Amber, Dark Amber and Grade B syrup. Marcia Maynard and Family, Thistle Hill, PO Box 68, Cabot, VT 05647. syrup@cabotillsmapple.com (802) 426-3463. Visa/MC. To buy our syrup call, email, write or order online at www.cabotillsmapple.com

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Morrill & Guyer Associates

791 Broad Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (802) 626-9357. Fax (802) 626-6913. realestate@homeinthekingdom.com www.homeinthekingdom.com

Peter D. Watson Agency, Inc.

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Century 21

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Susan S. Quatrini, GRI, Broker-Owner. 1111 Main Street. St.

Johnsbury, VT 05819. (802) 748-9543 or (802) 748-3873. c21qre@sover.net

David A. Lussier Real Estate

Farms, Acreage, Homes and Investment Properties. 540 Main Street, PO Box 872, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (802) 626-9541 or (802) 626-8482. Lussier@kingcon.com

Robin Jacobs, Managing Broker Peabody & Smith Realty, Inc.

357 Western Avenue, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819, (802) 748-4407 ext. 16. robinj@peabodysmith.com www.peabodysmith.com

Barbara Machell, Realtor Begin Realty Associates

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Reynolds Real Estate

VT Certified Appraisers, Donald Morrill and Annie Guyer. 791 Broad Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (802) 626-9357. reynolds@charterinternet.com

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Snowmobiles, Snowblowers, Motorcycles, Lawntractors, ATV's and Rototillers. Harry Gammell VT RT 15, Walden, VT 05873. (802) 563-2288.

Peacham Library

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. - Noon

Tuesday and Thursday
1 - 7 p.m.

Tax Preparation

H&R Block

Tax, Mortgage and Financial Services. D. Neil Stafford, master tax advisor. 443 Railroad Street, Suite 1, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. (802) 748-5319. 76 Main Street, PO Box 65, Littleton, NH 03561. And Lyndonville Branch (Jan.-Apr.) 101 Depot Street, Lyndonville VT 05851. (802) 626-0884.

Tires

Berry Tire Co., Inc.

New tire sales and automotive repair. Everett Berry, 1545 Red Village Road, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (802) 626-9326.

Goss Tire Company Your Firestone Dealer

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Volunteers

R.S.V.P.

Do you have some free time? Do you want to help an organization in the Northeast Kingdom as a volunteer? For information call the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program and the Volunteer Center at (802) 626-5135 or (802) 334-7047.

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St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Mon. & Wed.
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tues., Thurs., & Fri.
10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sat.
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free Wireless Internet
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Click & Clack Talk Cars

An Idle Solution

Dear Tom and Ray:

A friend of mine has a 1997 Honda CR-V, which he bought used a few years ago. It is generally in good shape but has a problem that has become more and more alarming during the past year or so. Sometimes, while driving, the engine will

start to race, and the CAR refuses to slow down. When the engine is racing, my friend has to step on the brakes very hard to get the car to slow down. Usually, after getting the car to slow down, the engine stops racing. But lately, sometimes it hasn't stopped racing. It seems to be getting worse. The CR-V has been to the deal-

er several times, but the mechanics have found nothing. This problem doesn't happen when they have it. They say they have never heard of the problem. What could this problem be? Is it fixable? Thank you for your help.

- Neil

RAY: Funny you should mention it, Neil. Just the other day, we had a 1997 Honda CR-V in our shop with the same exact problem.

TOM: So, what was it?

RAY: We had no idea either. We couldn't get it to misbehave for us. We checked the computer for codes, to see if any of the engine sensors were malfunctioning. We found nothing. We checked the database for any service bulletins or anything that would provide a hint. Nada. So finally, out of desperation, we cleaned the throttle body and added some fuel-injector

cleaner to the gas tank.

TOM: And that fixed it?

RAY: Well, no- Not really. We still don't know what's wrong with it, but I'll tell you what I plan to do nex. When the customer comes back in waving a baseball bat at me, I'll try to clean the idle air control.

TOM: The AC is a device that's responsible for boosting the idle speed when certain conditions are met. For instance, if the fuel-air mixture is too rich, a sensor will send a signal to the car's computer, and the computer will instruct the AC to bring in more air to boost the idle.

RAY: Or, if you turn on your air conditioner, which requires a lot of power, a sensor tells the computer that the air-conditioning compressor is on, and the computer then tells the AC to raise the idle speed to compensate for the extra load. It's possible the AC is sticking in the open position sometimes. And perhaps cleaning it will solve the problem.

TOM: You think so?

RAY: Well, no. Not really. Actually, it might. But if it

doesn't, I'd probably replace the AC next, which is roughly a \$400 job.

TOM: OK. Now I know why you want to try cleaning it first.

RAY: Right. Unfortunately, if it's not the AC, you'd have to look next at the computer itself. But in all my years of working on CR-Vs, I've never had to replace a computer so I doubt that's the problem.

TOM: We'll certainly report back if we solve this problem, Neil, and you guys do the same (or, if anyone else has solved this problem on a CRV drop us a note at our Web site, cartalk.com).

RAY: But in the meantime, at least make sure your friend knows that he can always shift into neutral when the engine is racing. That will stop the car from accelerating.

Fired Customer

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have been taking my cars for repairs and service to the same repair/tire shop for more than 10 years. The last time I went in for an oil change, the



Danville Land

This spectacular lot is located just a mile from Danville village. Enjoy a meadow surrounded by mature trees and views to the east. Septic design on file and electric has been brought in underground. What a spot for your home!

11.03+/- acres offered for \$88,240



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Lyndonville, VT 05851
(802) 626-9357
Fax (802) 626-6913

HOUSE FOR RENT

Beautiful, cozy 3 bedroom log cabin and 3 horse barn on 12 acres above Joe's Pond in West Danville. Private setting, great trails. Artesian well. Can rent with option to buy. \$1300.00 per month. Annual lease available September 1. Call 802-684-3939.

Danville Senior Action Center

August 2008 Menu

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 \$2.50 for guests 60+ (Others \$3.50) is appreciated.

Aug. 5 - Tuna Salad plate with roll, Cottage Cheese, Melon, Orange Juice, Molded Fruit Salad

Aug. 7 - Breakfast for Lunch Nollie's Donuts, Sausage with Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs with Veggies, Fruit Salad Orange Juice

Aug. 12 - Chicken Caesar Salad, Rolls, Pasta Salad, Fresh Melon

Aug. 14 - Scalloped Potatoes with Ham, Pumpkin Bread, California Veggies, V-8 Juice, Fruit Crisp

Aug. 19 - Chicken with Ziti, Broccoli and Alfredo Sauce, Peas and Carrots, Whole Wheat Biscuits, Juice

Aug. 21 - Beef Stew with Biscuits, Cole Slaw, Pudding with Animal Crackers, Orange Juice

Aug. 26 - Shepard's Pie, Rolls, Peas and Carrots, Bread Pudding, Orange Juice

Aug. 28 - Spaghetti and Meatballs, Vegetable Medley, Apple Juice, Garlic Bread

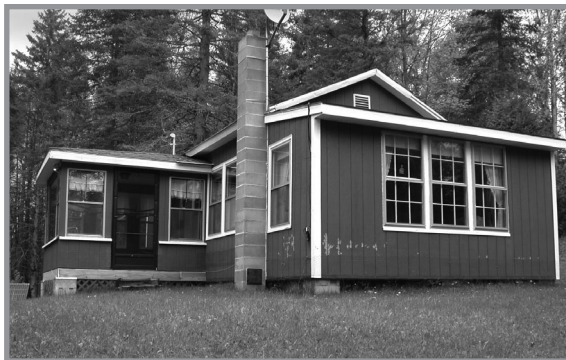
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ML2728628 Excellent location, privacy, and lots of living space. What more could you ask of this 4-bedroom, 2-bath family home. The home is nicely sited to take advantage of natural light and solar energy and enjoys breathtaking views of the White Mountains. It's within walking distance to the village school and all other town amenities, but far enough out for good privacy and room to roam on your own 2 acres. Other features include the first floor laundry, large family room in the walk-out basement, and a wonderful open porch for sitting and relaxing.

\$239,000



ML2723498 "Neat as a pin" cottage only 3/10 of a mile from Joe's Pond boating access. There are 2 bedrooms, a full bath, electricity, septic system, a drilled well, and a lovely little sunporch, as well as a spacious kitchen and comfortable living room with a woodstove hearth. This is a perfect 3-season getaway, but you may want to use it year-round as it is well insulated and has a wood stove, a gas heater and the snowmobile trail borders one boundary of the property.

\$107,000

Main Street
Danville, VT 05828
(802) 684-1127

Start your search here.



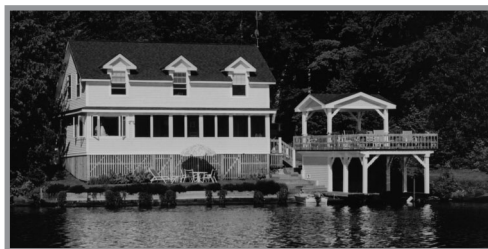
309 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-2045

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ML2732221 Relax on Joe's Pond in this easy to care for camp. Sit on the front deck or enjoy the view from your sunroom. 100 feet of waterfront gives you plenty of room for boating and swimming. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with full concrete basement and can be used year round. Comes fully furnished!

\$375,000



ML2732770 Waterfront Home. You've earned it...go ahead and spoil yourself! This waterfront home on the 3rd pond at Joe's Pond is absolutely exquisite in every detail from the cozy breakfast nook to the large screened-in porch to the gazebo and deck over the boathouse - it's all perfect. Three spacious bedrooms, 2 baths, 100 ft of frontage, professional landscaping, drilled well, approved septic...even a lot across the road for future development of parking or a garage. Come, take a look, feel the joy and peace of your small piece of "heaven on earth".

\$499,000

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shop manager called me aside. He said, "You've been coming in here for years for oil changes and so on, but I notice you have a brand new set of tires and you didn't buy them from me, and I'd like to know why." He was visibly upset, so I was very careful to say that it was just a matter of price, and that I had bought tires from him in the past. He then got very upset and said, "Well, then you can let that other guy do your oil changes from now on too." And he stormed off. Why did he throw me out of his shop? Can't I shop around for tires? The worst part is, now I have to find a new shop that I can trust.

— Peter

TOM: Geez, Peter. Your mechanic does not have what we refer to in the shop as "good heapside manner"

RAY: He was doing fine until he got visibly upset and fired you as a customer.

TOM: I think it was perfectly OK for him to inquire as to why you didn't buy the tires from him. Maybe that would have produced some useful information for him. Maybe you would have said, "I didn't know you sell tires," and he

could have told you that he does, and taken steps to make sure other customers know that.

RAY: And if you said it was due to price, he could have considered lowering his prices, or responded by saying, "Well, since you're a longtime customer, I'd be happy to give you a discount and match anyone else's price, so I hope you'll think of me next time you need tires." That would have been fine, right?

TOM: Or he might have said, "That's true, I can't compete with those big tire places on price, but since I see your car regularly, I can keep an eye on your tires for you, rotate them regularly and replace one if anything goes wrong. That

would have an acceptable response too, right?

RAY: I can sympathize with the guy, to some extent. He probably feels like he's been good to you through the years, and he wishes you had at least called him and said: "I need tires, but they cost 10 bucks less per tire at Tires R Us. Is there anything you can do for me, or should I just get them over there?"

TOM: He just handled the situation poorly. So, now you have two choices, Peter. You can call him up and say: "Frank, listen, I'm sorry about buying my tires elsewhere. And I assume you were just having a bad day. I've been a customer of yours for a long time and I'd like to keep being your cus-

tommer if we can get past this." And if he truly was just having a had day — if he was unscrewing a spark plug, stripped the threads, dropped his wedding ring into the cylinder, and then went to the restroom and accidentally wiped himself with 100-grit sandpaper that day—he'll have a chance to apologize and get a good customer back.

RAY: Or, if you don't want to do that or don't think you should have to, you can go to our Web site, www.cartalk.com, and look at the Mechanics Files, enter your ZIP code, and you'll get a list of nearby shops that other readers and listeners of ours have personally recommended. Good luck, Peter.

West Barnet Senior Action Center

August 2008 Menu

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$2.50 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.

Aug. 1 – Buffet

Aug. 6 – Spaghetti & Meatballs, tossed salad, Italian bread, bread pudding

Aug. 8 – Potato/egg salad, Hamburg/roll, sliced tomato/lettuce, pineapple upside down cake

Aug. 13 – Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potato, Peas & Carrots, Dark Bread, Orange Jell-O, mandarin oranges

Aug. 15 – Corn Beef/Cabbage, potatoes, carrots, turnip, bread, tropical fruit

Aug. 20 – Chipped Beef/Egg Gravy, potato, pickled beets, biscuits, cake/frosting

Aug. 22 – Barbecue chicken legs, oven potatoes, Cole slaw, carrot/raisin salad, homemade bread, peaches & cream

Aug. 27 – Turkey Soup, mixed veggies, crackers tossed salad, fresh fruit

Aug. 29 – Roast Pork, Potato, mixed veggies, apple sauce, rolls, ice cream



ML#2714981 Spacious older 3 bedroom, 2 bath farmhouse in good condition. The home is situated on a one acre lot and is within walking distance to Joe's Pond and amenities. VAST trail is nearby.

\$174,900

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PEACHAM CAMPGROUND

These 3 well-maintained houses are well insulated and efficient to heat. Each house is fully furnished, has separate utilities and each home features 3 bedrooms, kitchen, living room and bath. Would make a great investment property (or live in one and rent out the others for extra income) - or an affordable family compound. Keep your snomobiles or boat in the large garage. Walk to Martin's Pond and ride your sled to the nearby entrance of the VAST Trail. Situated on 4.66 acres with nice local views.

\$299,000



MOTIVATED SELLERS! Spacious home on 49+ acres in Danville has 6 bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths and superior craftsmanship throughout. Hardwood floors, custom ash cabinets, Corian counters in kitchen and baths, possible in-law apt., sun-room, finished basement

and attached heated garage. Tastefully decorated and meticulously maintained.

\$449,000

WALK TO ACADEMY

If you're looking for a home with-in walking distance to school and downtown, than this 3 bedroom, 2 bath vintage home fits the bill! One of the oldest homes in St. Johnsbury, this 1801 cape still has charm and character, but with a brand new kitchen and bath, plus recent roof, furnace and updated wiring. You'll love the wide-board floors, 3 fireplaces, original beams and all the nooks and crannies an old home has to offer.

\$174,000



PRIVATE GETAWAY Just a stone's throw to Joe's Pond, this 2 bedroom camp is perfect for a getaway or for hunting and fishing. Sited on 13.4 acres, it is very private, has a woodstove for heat, wired for electricity (present owners use a generator), and there is an outdoor

house! This is NOT a rustic shack---sheetrocked walls, vinyl siding, corner hearth.

\$74,500



QUATRINI Real Estate



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Want to get away? Imagine yourself in this brand new cozy 2 bdrm., cabin sitting on 7.4+- acres. Wired with generator, your little private "peace-of-VT" Surrounded by 7 ponds yet close to town & all the modern conveniences. Swim, hike & fish all Summer & close to VAST Trail for Winter fun. Must see to believe new cabin with great price.



Being Offered at \$88,500.

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Come & see this immaculately kept home With small horse farm near Joe's pond in W. Danville! Excellently maintained 3 bdrm., Home with large 2 bay heated garage/workshop on 2+- acres. Room for horses or other animals with a riding ring, fenced pen, 2 stall, hay storage & tack room. Large groomed yard with established perennials. Plan now, move later, with a June 09 closing! Call today for an appointment to start planning for your future dream home!



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AROUND THE TOWNS



August

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Daily: Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery "Garden Reflections" exhibition featuring work by Marion Greenwood, Meryl Lebowitz, Ellen Levitt and Viiu Niiler, June 6 – July 15. (802) 535-5008.

Daily (June 8 - November 1) Bread & Puppet Museum, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Glover.

Weekends - Ben's Mill, Barnet, open Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. (through Columbus Day Weekend). (802) 748-8180.

Sundays (Starting July 6 - August 31) Bread & Puppet Circus and Pageant, 4 p.m. Glover.

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 Monday - North Danville Community Club, Meeting, 6 p.m. North Danville Community Center. (802) 748-9415.

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 - 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 - 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.

2nd Thursday - Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.

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

Thursdays - 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, 12:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

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

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

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

September

2 Monadnock Mountain Hike, 5-miles, Northwoods Center, East Charleston. 9 a.m. (802) 723-6551.

3 NEK Audubon bird trip to Plum Island Parker National Wildlife Refuge, Meet at I-93, Exit 44, Rest Area, 6 a.m. (802) 748-8515.

3 Concert on the Danville Green with Catamaran. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2256.

7 Naturalist's Choice seasonal walk with Walter Medwid, Northwoods Center, East Charleston. 9 a.m. (802) 723-6551.

7 Cookout and Gourmet Dinner, Cabot United Church, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Come for dinner or call for take-outs. (802) 563-2278.

8 Back Shed String Band concert, Band Stand, Bradford, 7 p.m. (802) 222-4423.

9 NEK Audubon bird trip to Dead Creek Wildlife Refuge,

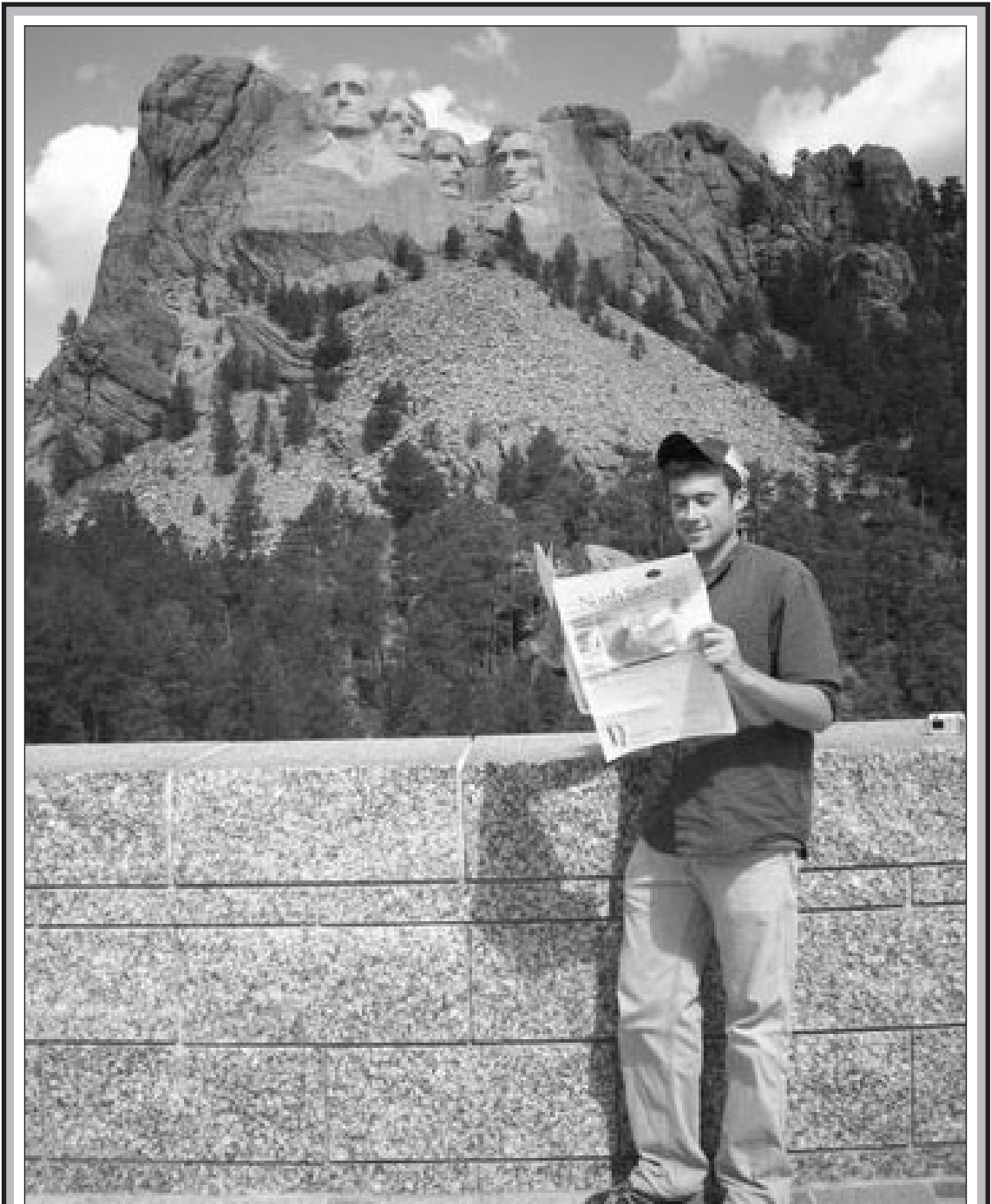


Photo By: Bob Sargent
Henry Pearl stops at Mount Rushmore, S.D. to share The North Star with four presidents on his way to Montana for his summer job at a Dude Ranch.

Meet at West Danville, Park & Ride, 7 a.m. (802) 748-8515.

9 Pancake Breakfast, Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet, 8-10 a.m. (802) 748-8180.

10 Concert on the Danville Green with Bob Amos Band. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2256.

12 Monopoly Tournament, 1 p.m. Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, (802) 626-5475.

14 Cookout and Gourmet

Dinner, Cabot United Church, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Come for dinner or call for take-outs. (802) 563-2278.

15 Bug-a-Boo! Storytelling with Sally Margolis, 3 p.m. Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, (802) 626-5475.

16 Bennington Battle Day
16 Exploring Underwater Ecosystems, Northwoods Center, East Charleston. 10 a.m. (802) 723-6551.

16 For the Love of Reading

with Susie Smolen, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, (802) 626-5475.

16 Full Moon Paddle on the Clyde River and Echo Lake, Northwoods Center, East Charleston. 7 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

17 Concert on the Danville Green with Danville Town Band. 7 p.m. (802) 684-2256.

See also the Arts Around the Towns Calendar Page 14.

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