



THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

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PAGE 12

Commuting comrades
on Route 2

The year I finally got my deer

BY NATHANIEL TRIPP

December came on hard, the last month of a difficult year, one which had found me adjusting to divorce and separation from my children, along with the vagaries of employment, or lack thereof.

I was uncertain whether I would be able to keep the place in Vermont, which I loved almost as much as my children. I had been working in Boston a few days a week and was driving back to the farm this particular Friday night, thinking of what I had to do the next day which was mainly split more firewood. Between one thing and another, I had fallen seriously behind on firewood, too. Overhead, stars darted between increasingly heavy puffs of cloud as I rushed north and into the notch, my own headlights like twin comets on the otherwise empty highway. Feeling frus-

Continued on Page 6

Chainsaws & North Country Girls

Alan Greenleaf & The Doctor deliver their brand of backwoods Americana



BY JUSTIN LAVELY

Alan Greenleaf and Jonathan Kaplan used to attend farmers markets to buy and sell; now they show up with guitar, piano and Greenleaf's prowess for songwriting and backwoods vocals. Whatever your musical preference, these troubadours have something for you. Their brand is Americana, a loose subset of American folk music that is perhaps best defined as "classic American music"-ranging in style from roots-based bluegrass to alternative country, gospel, blues, rock and other native forms of music. One of the main reasons Americana is used to describe such a wide variety of musical genres is because of the diverse range of cultural influences.

Both musicians started their musical training at a young age, Kaplan on the piano and Greenleaf on the trumpet. As they grew older, they spent time participating in what they call "The Golden Age of Live Music."

In western Massachusetts, Alan caught on with a local group that played several venues. The experience was bitter sweet. The great musical learning experience was laced with a young man's

dream as Alan traveled from road house to road house, playing his music for small money and all he could drink.

"The lifestyle was not what I wanted," he recalls. "We'd start playing at 9 p.m. and play until 1 a.m." The "all you could drink" supplement quickly wore thin, as did the smoke-filled venues and other fringe benefits.

Continued on Page 8

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Table of Contents

PAGE 7	Follow the Money Adeste Fidelis by Rachel Siegel
PAGE 10	Up On the Farm Early What's Your Beef by Lorna Quimby
PAGE 11	Letters from the Past by Lynn A. Bonfield
PAGE 12	Commuting Comrades by Sharon Lakey
PAGE 14	People & Places My Seventh Continent by Dick Boera
PAGE 16	From Tires to Treasures by Martha Evangelista
PAGE 19	No Small Potatoes by Vanna Guldenschuh
PAGE 20	Heads & Hearts by Carla Occaso
PAGE 23	The Frugal Vermonter by Bruce Hoyt
PAGE 24	Walden Hill Journal by Ellen Gold & Jeff Gold



music
Page 27



film
Page 29



events
Page 25

From the Editor

A proud family moment

November was a banner month for the Beattie family. The group has plenty of past accolades to choose from, but this past month must have been gratifying for Marty, Jane and Kitty, as well as their mother, Catherine.

Sisters Jane Beattie Kitchell and Kitty Beattie Toll, both democrats, came out on top in local elections. Jane was re-elected and will be headed back to Montpelier for her third term. Kitty, who campaigned door to door, was elected to her first term as a state representative. Later in the month, their brother Marty was recognized by the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce not only for the improvements he made at his Route 2 store in Danville, but also for his philanthropic nature and contributions both to Danville and surrounding communities. He was awarded the "Business Person of the Year Award."

The Beatties grew up on a 5th generation Danville farm with their mother, Catherine Beattie, a former state representative in her own right, and her late husband, Harold Beattie. The farm continues to operate today under the direction of the next generation of the Beattie family, all of whom are raised with an emphasis on public and community service.

Jane spent 35 years in Vermont state government, retiring in 2002 as Secretary of the Agency of Human Services. She is an active volunteer in her community, working on numerous projects every year for her church, local library and Danville

Chamber of Commerce. Currently, she serves on the boards of the Vermont Foodbank, Bradford's Enhanced Living Inc., Northeast Regional Community High School of Vermont, and the Northeastern Vermont Area Health Education Center.

Kitty is a long-time member of the Danville Congregational Church, and presently serves on the Board of Trustees and Board of Deacons. For many

We think the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce and local voters made the right choice.

years, she was Co-Chair of the Danville Chamber of Commerce, and is a past member of the Danville Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Toll also served on the Board of Trustees for the Pope Memorial Library. She was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in the St. Johnsbury District.

Marty's First Stop has been a landmark in the Northeast Kingdom for the better part of two decades. As Marty's business grew over time, he continued investing in his hometown's buildings and infrastructure.

We think the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce and local voters made the right choice.

THE North Star MONTHLY

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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.

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DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to publication.

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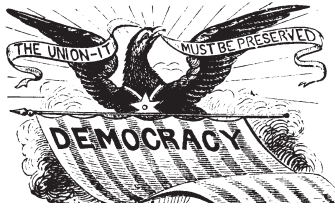
President Lincoln challenged to a duel, the rebuilding of a saw mill in McIndoe Falls bankrupts owner, who winds up in jail

The North Star

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THE NORTH STAR

November 9, 1877

China Shuns Railroad - The Chinese government, according to a recent cable dispatch, after a brief experiment with the railroad, has decided that this modern innovation is not compatible with Celestial civilization, and has accordingly stopped the only road in the empire - the one recently constructed between Shanghai and Woosung. The opposition is said to rest on a belief that the "Fire Dragon" would deprive the poor people of the wages they earned as carriers, and there is also a superstition that evil spirits attend the monster. But the government is old enough to have outgrown the childish belief in bugaboos. The question remains, will the iron horse allow itself to be vanquished by the Celestials, or will it run over that nation as it has every other.

Earthquake - Last Sunday morning, about 2 a.m., several residents of this village awoke to what they believed was an earthquake

shock, but such was really the fact. On the morning, the shock was felt throughout New England, northern New York and Canada. The shock passed from west to east and in some places lasted over a minute. A rumbling noise, followed by the shaking of buildings has been reported, but in many places the shock caused bells to ring and articles to be thrown around. In Burlington, the shock was the most violent experienced in years - buildings were shaken, bells were rung, and people were awakened from their sleep much terrified, some running into the street. At St. Johnsbury and Rutland, the shock was more or less felt but in any case, no serious damage was reported.

Bear Killed - The last Lyndon Union relates the following:

Last Sunday, Lyman Hudson was in the Ferdinand Forest, in Newark, to examine traps he had set for small game and encountered a two-year-old bear. By the tracks in the vicinity, he knew that several bears had passed that way recently, and for all he knew, were still in sight of him. Hudson sent in another discharge when the bear came out to fight and immediately withdrew again, occasionally snapping out a paw to show fight. Hudson kept a nervous lookout for more bears while he put in a new charge but they failed to appear while he aimed under the rock again and fired. The bear came out full form and Hudson hit it over the head with an ax. The bear then

put both paws up to its ears and cried like a child but offered no further resistance, submitting gracefully to have its throat cut.

November 16, 1877

President's Duel - A story full of inaccuracies concerning the duel between President Abraham Lincoln and General Shields has been going the rounds of the newspapers. We have recently learned in reference to this affair by George T. Brown, who was present and witnessed the closing scenes in the somewhat remarkable drama spoken of. The misunderstanding originated through a publication in the Sangamon Journal. Written by Miss Julia Jayne, afterward Mrs. Lyman Trumbull, but for which Mr. Lincoln assumed the responsibility. This led to the duel with Shields, who felt himself aggrieved by the article in question. Lincoln, being the challenged party, chose broadswords as their weapons, hoping to terminate combat without bloodshed. The parties and their friends came to Alton, crossed the river, and selected a point a few hundred yards above a point across from Plaza Street. Through the friendly efforts of Col. E.D. Baker, Col. John J. Harding and others the affair was amicably arranged on the duel ground and the principals were ever after warm friends.

In Jail - John Lines, of Victory, was put into the St. Johnsbury jail recently, on account of taking honey from a tree that had been previously marked by William

Stone. Stone sued him, obtaining a judgment of \$15 and costs, the execution amounting to about \$30, which he failed to pay.

Potatoes - M.D. Scott, of Westmore, has raised this season 450 bushels of potatoes from an acre of ground.

Coal - Some more of our village residents are to burn coal this winter. Coal is said to be very cheap in price, the cheapest it was ever known to be, which must result in very materially reducing the price of wood this winter.

Never saw It - George Stocker, of Danville, was in West Danville last Tuesday where he interviewed a circular saw, in swift motion, at Merrill's shop. He had his arm on the table when the saw caught his coat sleeve near the elbow and tore the cloth just enough to escape the flesh. George, having already lost one hand by accident, thought he wouldn't interview the saw any longer.

Scales - There was shipped from the scale factory 38 car loads of scales in September, and 41 car loads in October. And there was received of manufacturing material in September, 139 car loads and in October 154 car loads. Of this number of cars, more than seven-eighths were received and shipped over the Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad.

December 7, 1877

R.E. Peabody, of saw mill and lumber notoriety has come to grief, and now lives in St. Johnsbury jail where he was confined last Sunday

morning. He was arrested on the charge of forgery and has admitted to the crime to the amount for \$13,000, all of which was for notes uttered by him, on which he never received a cent of money, but were issued and distributed by him to his creditors who were pressing him for payment or additional security. Peabody started a big mill and went extensively into the lumber business in the town of Groton a few years since on the line of the Wells River Railroad. He caused everything around him to prosper and among other deeds, founded the town of Peabody Station on the line of the new railroad. Peabody had in his view, at no distant day a town with paved streets, marble edifices, a theater, gas, daily newspaper and all other modern improvements. Before his dream was realized, there was a heavy fire at McIndoe Falls, in which the large lumber at that point was destroyed. The times were close and hard and the capitalists were afraid to invest in rebuilding the mill. Peabody stepped to the front and rebuilt it in magnificent shape, at a heavy expense, and placed therein the most costly and approved machinery. It was an amazing triumph for Peabody and a good thing for the village of McIndoe Falls, but an exceedingly bad thing for Peabody's creditors and more intimate friends. Owing to the heavy financial load under which he was staggering, the mill property soon passed out of his hands.

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The Feast

A touch of frost was all it took!
A wealth of tiny apples,
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glowing amid fall leaves,
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Robins and Grosbeaks
gorge on the fruit,
and then like drunks
stumbling from a pub,
they get ready to fly.

These miniature B-52's
are overloaded. They fly
unsteadily to the nearest perch.
They sit swaying, glassy-eyed,
wanting to burp!

- Isobel P. Swartz

As Goes Maine, Vermont refuses to go

BY JOHN DOWNS

Back in 1936, when President Roosevelt won his second term, Maine and Vermont were the only states that supported Republican Alf Landon. Headlines read, "As goes Maine, so goes Vermont". I was only 17 at the time and part of a solidly Republican family that was a summer resident of Maine, one of the best state in the republic. I have proudly called myself a Mainiac over the years.

In the Nov. 15 issue of the Caledonian-Record, there was a depressing and chilling article about the "hundreds" of incidents of "hate crimes" since Obama's election that are many more than usual, said Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The article identified recent incidents in 13 states that highlighted the stubborn racism still in America. Vermont was not one of them; I am not worried that it will become one.

One of two incidents in Maine was particularly painful for me to read about. Standish is a small rural town located a few miles from North Waterboro where I happily spent every summer until I graduated from college at age 21. A sign inside the Oak Hill General Store read: "Osama Obama Shotgun Pool." Customers could sign up to bet one dollar on a date when Obama would be killed. "Stabbing, shooting, roadside bombs, they all count" the sign said. At the bottom of the marker board was written, "Let's hope someone wins."

I was so incensed that I called information for the telephone number of the store, anxious to find out how many had paid to join the pool, or, hopefully, that the pool was really a misguided and deplorable hoax. I learned that the phone had been disconnected. I have since learned from my nephew in North Waterboro that the store is rented from an Obama supporter, so I expect that something is bound to happen. The least that Standish folks could do is to boycott the store until the offending sign comes down.

The last thing thinking Americans want is for Barack Obama to become a martyr because of his race. Incidents such as those described in the article can't help but encourage the rare zealot to act irrationally. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan were victimized in recent time as were Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King. In our nation where too many people choose violence to vent their anger, one never knows what spark could ignite an individual or group to protest anger with violence.

Our Secret Service, mandated to protect our president and his family, must have learned a great

deal in recent years about anticipating violence. Nevertheless, during the recent national primary and general elections, I couldn't help but shudder occasionally as the candidates mixed freely with the crowds, their only protection being a bevy of conservatively dressed agents who could do nothing

One of the great global challenges is to encourage and welcome diversity in societies

ing but carefully observe the individuals closest to the candidates. But there is a limit to the effectiveness of such surveillance. We can be thankful that the vast majority of individuals in such crowds are law-abiding citizens intent on learning more about the candidates and lending them their support.

One of the great global challenges is to encourage and welcome diversity in societies. The United States has come a long way from the days in the 1960s when my law partner Bob Rachlin and I each spent two weeks in Mississippi to help the few overworked lawyers who were defending the civil rights of black citizens. Local, white Lawyers would not become involved, fearing for their lives and the survival of their practices.

I went back to Mississippi in 1997 to see what changes might have taken place. One successful black lawyer in West Point had some white clients, and was the county prosecutor and a first-term senator in the Mississippi legislature. Except for the fact that he didn't socialize with whites, life couldn't have been better. There were no economic barriers that he had to overcome. What a change!?

Our political systems are currently faced with diversity problems. Well-educated Hispanics and African-Americans are numerous, and a political party ignoring or belittling them does so at its risk of rejection at the polls. Each year our public and private educators and employers generally, do a better job of encouraging and bringing about true diversity. It will be a never-ending job as more and more minority people fight for equality. Our place in the world will be defined, in part, by how other nations view our efforts. The election of Barack Obama was a giant step in the right direction.

It is up to all citizens to diminish chances of a presidential assassination by their words and actions at all times.


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Confusion & Reflection

BY ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

I am confused! I know this because I had already written my monthly column for the North Star, but something was not right. I finally realized that I have a different perspective on the election of Barack Obama as president than most voters, and I have to get it off my chest!

Every journal, newspaper and magazine, and all the pundits on TV and radio have held forth on the amazing and transcending event that happened on Nov 4th, 2008. I agree! I am thrilled, but for me the viewpoint is different. I think it is also relevant because I may represent a more objective view. At heart I am not an American, even though I have lived in the U.S. for 43 years, am an American citizen with an American husband and family, and have been involved in many facets of local community life. My reason for saying this is because I cannot relate personally to the depths of guilt and misery that many native-born Americans, black and white, feel about slavery.

Great Britain was involved heavily in the slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the late 1700's, more than 35,000 Africans a year were captured and sold into slavery, by British slavers. I learned about this in school, and I also learned about William Wilberforce, 1759-1833, who worked to finally end the British slave trade in most of the British Empire, with the passage of the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. It was part of 19th century British history; it happened a long time ago and it never made much impression on me!

This sounds cold-hearted, but these slaves for the most part had been employed in the "Colonies", especially the West Indies, that mysterious part of the British Empire that, as a teenager, I knew or cared little about. Some of them were servants in the homes of the 18th century British landed aristocracy, but so were many poor British people. I was much more disturbed and outraged by the descriptions and statistics about the labor conditions of women and chil-

dren in the 19th century mills, mines and factories of my own industrial Yorkshire.

Life in Britain today is multicultural. Many people from former colonies and the Commonwealth came to Britain over the years. Any Commonwealth resident could settle in Britain. They were not always welcome, because of differing life styles and the lack of jobs, but they came anyway. Eventually they were integrated and became an important part of the labor force. Today there are still cultural, racial and religious clashes, and conflicts within communities. Much of this is economically based, rather than on underlying memories of slavery and oppression.

I believe that they had "moved on" psychologically, and were looking forward, instead of lingering over past injustice. Britain, despite its abuse of its colonies, left one important contribution to them - education. Even when I was in the university in the 1950's many of my classmates were from Africa, India and Pakistan. These were students from diverse backgrounds, as equally qualified as I was, taking the opportunity offered to them for a good higher education.

As an imported American, what excites me most about the 2008 US election, is that we have chosen a young, intelligent, well-educated president. Barack Obama is a man who has risen to this position of power, and some wealth, through intellectual ability and hard work. This is a path open to all Americans who have the ability, time and persistence to work for a goal that is important to them. It is a great example for the young people of today who may have been thinking that it's not who you are that matters, but who you know and how much money you have.

If Obama's election finally begins to put to rest the ghost of slavery that has always hovered over American History, if this encourages blacks and whites to move forward together, equally at last, it truly will be a great achievement.

Letters to the Editor

Dear North Star,

I was especially interested in the piece entitled "General Miles's Report," in the history section of your October issue of the North Star monthly.

My grandfather, General George William Baird, served as assistant Adjutant General to General Miles when Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perces Indians surrendered in 1877.

Later General Miles' family gave to my family Chief Joseph's gun which we, in turn, gave to the Museum of the American Indians then in New York City. Both my grandfather and General Miles were great admirers of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perces Indians, but it was not for several years that General Miles was able to have the Nez Perces return from the Indian Territory to their own land. In my family, we always liked the tale that my grandfather had suggested to General Miles that they allow Chief Joseph and the Nez Perces Indians to go into Canada only some 40 miles from where they were located.

But General Miles felt he must follow orders and the battle ensued. Indeed, my grandfather was actually wounded and was later to receive the Medal of Honor for "carrying orders and inspiring the command with his own bravery."

Sincerely yours,
Betty Baird Nickerson
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The Year I finally Got My Deer

Continued from Page 1

trated, lonely, and even a little scared at that time in my life, I had no idea that my own universe was on a collision course with another.

Meanwhile, back at the farm, the seventh month of life must have seemed like the most blissful of all to universe number two. After a summer filled with good things to eat, including a nibble of my broccoli and Brussels sprouts, and some confusing moments during rifle season, the apples were tasting better and better. Freezing at night and thawing by day, they were soft and filled with cider. By 11:00 #2 had a pretty good buzz on when I came around the corner on the last leg of my journey, going about 20 MPH. There she was, leaping in front of me. I thought I saw a faint smile on her lips. Then she did a sort of plie and disappeared. I felt no impact, heard no sound. "Well, at least I didn't hit that deer" was one of my last thoughts that evening.

The next day was one of those perfect early December mornings with brilliant blue skies and a nice tracking snow. I cranked up

the cook stove, piled more wet firewood on top of the stove to dry, and made some coffee. I went outside and took a look at the front of the car. Not a mark on it. Then I followed the twin tracks of my trusty Hakkapelittas about five hundred feet to where they intersected with the tracks of universe #2. There it was, out in the middle of the hayfield, a faint smile now literally frozen on its lips. At first I was stunned and transfixed by this tableau of sacrifice. But as the moments passed I became ever more grateful and even euphoric. I went back to the house stepping more lightly than I had in months.

I immediately started calling my friends and telling them about my deer. Fortunately, one of them warned me that I should add the game warden to my call list before making any plans involving the deer. Ken Denton, who may have a slightly different version of this story, showed up later that day and listened patiently as I explained that I still wasn't sure I had actually hit the deer. Then he gave me a short lesson in field dressing, which also served as an autopsy and revealed that I had,

indeed, struck the deer, or else maybe it had fallen from a great height. I bought a tag.

This was not a trophy buck but at sixty pounds it was easy enough to haul back to the barn. I hung it just inside the door for all to see, hoping that the mail man and the UPS man and any others who happened by would be suitably impressed by my prowess. Alone with my deer in the twilight, I felt a great communion with its spirit, the spirit of the hunter, the spirits of my ancestors, as well as gratitude. Having never been so intimate with a deer before, I marveled at its beauty, the perfection of its design, the grace of its form and the purity of the white belly hair, the tawny flanks, the black accents. And having not had a really good meal in a while, I began to imagine what it might taste like.

There have been many blessings in my life, this deer among them, but another is to have that same Vanna of "No Small Potatoes" fame as a close friend and neighbor. I had consulted with her and her husband Jack from the start; I think Jack was

the one who suggested calling the warden. I had even hunted with Jack in the past, hunted to no

avail, and we agreed this was an excellent opportunity. A week or two later I took my deer over to their place where the three of us, Jack with the saw and Vanna with the knife, disassembled the deer. We used the technique which Vanna recommended, which is more of an anatomical dissection following the grain of the musculature. I was left with a few fine steaks and something that looked like a deer that had been hit by an eighteen wheeler. But while working we had also speculated upon the possibilities of re-assembling this deer around a stuffing of, as I recall, chestnuts and oysters among many other things after steeping it in a marinade. Vanna may want to weigh in on this.

As the solstice drew near, with its promise of renewal against what seemed like grim

odds, I invited all my best friends. It was, as I recall, the first real party here since that marriage had broken up and they all came bearing gifts of side dishes and libations. The dining room table was two doors atop saw horses, covered with a bed

Then he gave me a short lesson in field dressing, which also served as an autopsy and revealed that I had, indeed, struck the deer, or else maybe it had fallen from a great height. I bought a tag.

spread and surrounded by an odd assortment of chairs. A few may have even had to sit on sheet rock buckets but nobody cared. As they left, left late after a long and uproarious evening, I stood outside under the stars warning my guests to watch out for the deer which were certainly dining upon the roadside apples, as they do to this day. Oh, those stars on a cold clear night!

I felt that Vermont had given me the best gifts of all; great food and friendship and the promise of years ahead. And in less than a week, my children would be home for Christmas.

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December Meal Schedule

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 \$4 for guests 60+ (Others \$5) is appreciated.

Dec. 2 - Baked beans, hot dogs, corn bread, carrots and V-8 juice.

Dec. 4 - Creamy spinach and artichoke dip, turkey stir fry and rice.

Dec. 9 - Chicken a la king, peas, stuffing, carrots and juice.

Dec. 11 - Taco salad, refried beans, salsa, tropical fruit salad.

Dec. 16 - Holiday Dinner at the Danville Inn.

Dec. 18 - Vegetable lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread and OJ.

Dec. 23 - Pepperoni or veggie pizza, tossed salad, apple crisp and juice. (Cub Scouts will be caroling!)

Merry Christmas

Dec. 30 - Oven BBQ chicken, broccoli cheese and rice casserole, blueberry muffins and carrots.

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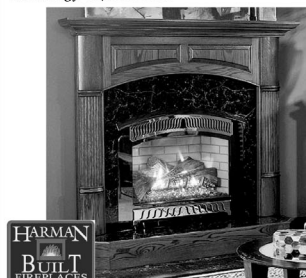
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Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

“Adeste fidelis”

So here we are: incomes stagnant, home equity gone, nest eggs scrambled, and no credit to ease the pain with the salve of materialism. We will get up and go to work every day, and we will wonder how it will all end. We will resent those wealthy enough to wait it out, for their wealth came from private markets and inordinate risks that eventually overwhelmed not only their own esoteric investments but the markets themselves, our markets. The same markets in which we tried desperately to get the toe hold in capitalism that our shrinking wages couldn't afford: in which we tried to finance a house or a vacation before our kids were grown, in which we tried to finance an education that would pay off in our lifetimes, in which we tried to fund a retirement to replace disappearing corporate benefits. Such resentment can be the stuff of revolution.

During the Great Depression, the labor market froze. Through the New Deal, the Federal government tried to create jobs, to become the employer of last resort. That didn't end the Depression, although other factors such as bad trade and monetary policies may have interfered, but it did make people feel better, and it very likely saved capitalism. The Depression was such a theoretical as well as real abyss that restoring people's faith may have been as important as restoring incomes.

Now, we hear that the credit markets are “frozen.” Banks, even if they have the liquidity, are unwilling to lend at all: to consumers, businesses, or even to each other. So the Federal Reserve is lending directly to banks and corporations. It is guaranteeing mortgage guarantors. The Fed has always had the power to be the lender of last resort, and although it has rarely used that power, it is making up for lost time now.

The Fed and the Treasury are also buying up commercial paper and even equity in struggling banks and corporations. They are buying any bad investment out there, in hopes of keeping markets liquid and confident. The US government has become the investor of last resort. This manic lending and investing is the New New Deal, attempting to reverse the ugly feedback loop of fiduciary fear that has paralyzed our banking system and threatens recession and unemployment.

The government's really difficult job, though, even tougher than reviving the economy, will be to revive our faith in capitalism as we knew it. For even when the credit markets finally get their fill of liquidity and capital flows again, lenders won't be able to lend as freely, constrained either by shareholders or regulators, who may even be one and the same.

Without easy credit, consumption will necessarily be restrained, because most of us have not seen any real increase in incomes for a generation and our consumption has been enabled only by debt. It will become increasingly and painfully apparent to more of us that in the last generation we have not earned our standard of living so much as borrowed it, and now the loan has come due with no rollover clause.

Since consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of our GDP, business profits and thus investment and therefore growth will be constrained, and so equity share values. Then those of us who did save and who did invest prudently - for growth to sustain us in our ever longer older age - will see our best laid plans gone, and our imagined good life gone with them.

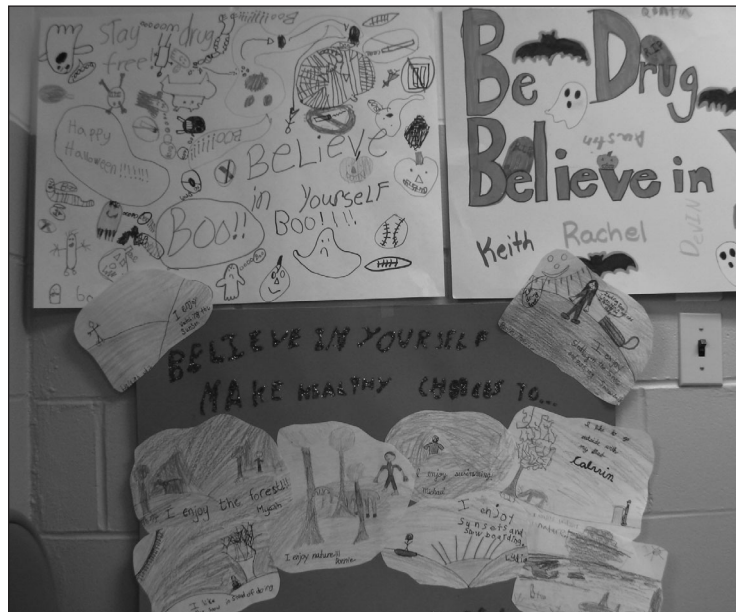
So the federal government will respond with dramatic gestures, some of more economic substance and significance and

some more as placebos, as it has already begun to do. It will strain to restore markets, and it will strain to restore faith. It will have to become not just the employer, lender, and investor of last resort, but also the reformer of last resort, convincing us that next time things will be different. Of course, things already are different. This is not Another Great Depression: we now have a more evolved banking system and

more globally complex financial markets, we have some safety nets, and we have almost eighty more years of experience with capitalism. We have a worldwide consensus that it's the way to go, based on evidence that alternatives will at best provide small comfort. Still, for all its successes, capitalism has stood us up again, and by now, some of us have lost the bloom - and naïveté - of youth.

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.

Peacham School



During National Red Ribbon Week in October, the Peacham Elementary School held many activities to educate each other about reasons to stay drug free during their lives. This was a contest with a winner going into local newspapers, but in the end, all the posters warranted a spot. First and Second Grade are on the top right and Fifth and Sixth Graders are on the top left. The bottom posters were made by Third and Fourth Graders.

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“I was worried about losing my ability to be independent.”

DONNA WHITING, LUNENBURG, VERMONT

Donna Whiting is an independent and proud woman. She lives by herself, maintains her woodpile, mows her lawn, and loves to spend time with her grandchildren, ages 10 and 16.

About a year ago, she developed plantar fasciitis in both feet. “I was terrified I would lose the ability to take care of myself since the pain was so debilitating,” she said.

She made an appointment with Miriam Simon, PA-C at NVRH Corner Medical. “Miriam has been my healthcare provider for the past 10 years. She listens to me, and takes the time to explain things to me. I trust her. It's as simple as that.”

Miriam set her up with Mike Matteis, Physical Therapist at the Lyndonville office of Dan Wyand PT and Associates. Through soft-tissue mobilization, ultrasound and strengthening

and stretching exercises, Donna's symptoms improved and her fear turned into empowerment.

“It's a win-win situation,” state both Miriam and Mike. The close relationship between the two offices is terrific. Everyone benefits. And we have the satisfaction of helping and seeing people get better. People like Donna make it easy. Her commitment to getting better and staying well makes such a difference.”

Mike Matteis, Physical Therapist, Dan Wyand PT and Associates

Miriam Simon, PA-C, NVRH Corner Medical

Donna Whiting

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Hard livin' with soft songs

Two farmers turn to music and lyrics, born in the Northeast Kingdom woods

"It always reminded me of that Waylon Jennings song, 'I ain't livin' long like this.'"

Alan settled down and got married. Growing up hearing tales of his grandparents 15-generation farm in Maine, he decided to build a log cabin off the grid in Huntington, Mass., to "hearken back" to a lifestyle he greatly missed. His

Alan says buying his land and building his house took all \$47,000, but the couple had no mortgage and a chance to live the lifestyle they dreamed of, though sometimes it was more difficult than they expected.

"I often romanticized about the farming lifestyle," he said. "I wanted a real life and sometimes, it was too real.

Scraping along is very humbling."

The Greenleaf's were looking for a simpler existence deep in the Northeast Kingdom woods. A nearby farmer sold them 200 acres of undeveloped farm land, far from electricity, in Peacham for a rock bottom price. As it turned out, the price wasn't the only thing that was rocky. Alan quickly went to work building his home and setting up

his cattle farm. The next 20 years were spent raising his two daughters "off the grid." The family turned to solar panels for electricity, while they grew and slaughtered most of their own food. In its hayday, Greenleaf's farm sported 20 head of cattle and 1,000 maple syrup taps. Alan remembers the occasional difficulties of raising two daughters with a finite supply of electricity. Inevitably, hair dryers were often stashed behind bedroom furniture.

"It was a hardship for the kids when they got older and became teenagers," he said. Before they had kids, the Greenleafs used only kerosene lamps so solar power "wasn't a hardship at all" for the parents.

After years of fighting for a fair price for his beef, Alan sold his last heifer in 2001 and quit farming. He

watched as the woods slowly reclaimed his grazing pastures.

"When I bought this, the farmer told me it was going back to the Indians," he remembers. "I guess it is again."

Alan's life of passing the farm on to his children was also derailed when his daughters showed little interest.

Not long ago, Alan and his wife went their separate ways and one of his daughters headed off to college. The other is attending St. Johnsbury Academy. Though this may seem like a run of bad luck for a man who spent most of his life building his home and working the land, Alan recalls it differently in what is arguably his most popular song, "I Love My Chainsaw."

Got many things to be thankful for in this life

Two beautiful daughters, a handsome ex-wife

Not too-old pickup

out in the yard

Not too much run up

on my credit card

Got my trusty old

Ford tractor in the barn

Many nice hand tools

to work this old rocky farm

And in truth, there's not much with which I'd gladly part

Using music as an outlet, Alan enjoyed a successful solo stint on the Vermont live music scene, touring local bars and farmer's markets all over the state. But a few years back, he met Jonathan, who was running the famous school lunch program at the Peacham



School. Jonathan was a local vegetable farmer, who was using local, organic foods to supply the program.

"I was ahead of my time," says Jonathan, who wishes he had waited a few years for the "localvore" movement to take root. "We could have kept Alan's farm in business if we knew how popular 'buying local' was going to become."

Jonathan in many ways is the antithesis of Alan. While Alan was farming his land in Huntington, Jonathan was earning degree after degree from the University of Rhode Island, before moving to Durham, N.H. where he earned his P.H.D. in Botany. Education was different in those days, he remembers, his entire educational experience cost him \$7,000. He gave up farming vegetables in 1999 because he quickly discovered how difficult it is to farm with a mortgage. Now, when he's not playing gigs with Alan or tending his pigs, "The Doctor" teaches science courses part-time for Lyndon State College. As a young man, Jonathan sometimes resented the piano lessons that were forced on him by his parents. But as time went on, his dexterity and skill improved and he entered what he calls the "higher levels of music."



grandparents eventually left their farm to work at a shoe factory north of Boston. Alan's grandmother later died in the suburbs of Boston, leaving him with no relatives in Massachusetts and the house to sell.

At the same time, wide-spread development was coming to Huntington and the Greenleaf's were becoming disenfranchised with their surroundings. Alan received \$47,000 in proceeds from selling his grandmother's house, which the couple used as seed money for their move to Vermont. Alan's ex-wife had befriended Harry Welch, an established Groton farmer the couple had spent time working for during brief trips to the Northeast Kingdom. The Greenleaf's would work for Maple Syrup, which they transported to Massachusetts and sold at farmer's markets.

"I often romanticized about the farming lifestyle," Alan Greenleaf

"It became my release from studies." Jonathan has held numerous jobs, including Food & Beverage Manager for the Red Coach Inn in Franconia, N.H. The duo often returned to play at the Red Coach and other Franconia venues such as the Cannon Mountain View. Their CDs, which they sell during their performances and through their website, are produced in Easton at Mojo Studios, a grassroots recording business founded by a few members of "The Wicked Smart Horned Band."

Their CD sales have been a pleasant surprise. They sell 5-10 at every farmers market and they even sold 25 over a ten day period through online mail orders. The CDs are also available at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild in St. Johnsbury.

Together, the two Peachamites have played all over the state and beyond, from the "Heifer Stroll" in Brattleboro, to First Night in Burlington, to The Cave at the Mt. Washington hotel. Their favorite spot is "The Bee's Knees" in Morrisville, because they say they love the audience.

Gigs can also be sociological experiments for Alan, who is often astonished by the conflict of their appearance and musical preference.

"Jonathan can play a few Grateful Dead covers and I always find it surprising to watch the people mouthing the words as he plays. Sometimes you'll see this guy who looks like a banker singing along with a Grateful Dead song and you can't help but think the guy has an interesting past."

"Music has always taken me to new places to meet new people and that's what I missed about it when I wasn't playing."

Alan and Jonathan have also received some quality radio play on local stations. Alan notes the DJs tend to like his song about the relationship

between local females and warm weather called, "North Country Girls."

**Ah, those North Country girls,
When the hats come off
and they bounce their curls
Those North Country girls,
When the coats come off
it's a whole new world
Those North Country girls,
Sashaying in the Spring
sunshine.
Where the Winter's are
long and the farmer's
strong and the loggers still
log
You might see some
sheep, hear the peepers
peep down in the bog
When the rivers are running
and the turtles sunning
and you grab your
fishing rod
That's when the gals head
to town and the spring sun
is pouring down**

With the help of their constantly changing musical style, "Alan Greenleaf and The Doctor" have the ability to appeal to large population of

Northeast Kingdom listeners and beyond.

Alan's songwriting process seems unique, though he believes many creative people use something similar. He often writes his music late at night when he's "half asleep," because, as he puts it, "It's a time when I'm out of my own way."


"I think all creative people say the same thing. You can't just suddenly decide to sit down and be creative. You need a large block of free time. Sometimes, I'll be working in my garden and start humming a tune. I'll stop and say, 'What was that.'

Both Alan and Jonathan believe that modern life is having an adverse affect on creativity. Too many distractions and too much "artificial and immediate gratification" keep children from really searching their souls for the creativity found within.

For Alan and "Doc," the quiet, tranquil life of Peacham offers plenty of time for humming and listeners everywhere are better for it.



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Groton Vermont Restaurant Unveils Economic Stimulus Package

Brown's Market Bistro, voted by its owners as one of the "Top 3 Casual Fine Dining Experiences in Groton Vermont" is not waiting for Washington, Wall Street or Montpelier to craft an economic relief strategy. The charming, fun and centrally located, neighborhood bistro has implemented its own financial relief program that is guaranteed to keep more money in consumer's pockets.

Bistro owner and Chef Rick Trexel says he believes that going out to dinner someplace special with people you enjoy is an important, rewarding, redemptive, uplifting and wholly civilized enterprise. "It is hard to beat a night out with friends, good conversation and a fun culinary experience." The trick is to keep the dining experience high and the check at the end of the evening reasonable. According to Trexel, there is a simple way to strike that balance. "Skip the expensive



wine list and let patrons bring their own wine or beer to the restaurant!"

Brown's Market Bistro sits on the Wells River along Rt. 302 in beautiful Groton Village and features live music with Jean Anderson and other local artists on Friday and Saturday nights. The Bistro caters parties and special events and is open for dinner Tuesday through Saturday. Sunday Brunch is served between 11am and 2pm.

For Reservations call us at
(802) 584-4124.
Check out our menu and web page at:
www.brownsmarketbistro.com

"BYOB... may be part of the solution", Bistro Owner Rick Trexel

Trexel says that, "Keeping the Bistro a BYOB restaurant might not be the whole answer to the global economic challenge, but it may be part of the solution". Local economists can and will debate the issue, however, the essential point here is that Brown's Market Bistro is a fabulous, local, fun, casual fine dining experience...and its always BYOB.





Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



What's Your Beef?

On our way into Danville recently we noticed lots of Black Angus cows on the former George Morse farm. Dick said, "I bet they're going to raise organic beef," and I agreed they probably were. Then I began to think about organically raised meat. It suddenly occurred to me that I'd grown up eating "organic meat."

Up until the 50s, Dad bought little meat at the stores. Once in a while, a little hamburger, which Maw had to cook immediately, or ham—though it was usually shoulder, because shoulder was cheaper than ham. Other than that, the meat we ate was raised on the farm.

Dad didn't raise so-called beef animals to eat. Most of the time when we had beef on the table, it was a tough old Jersey. Dad's style of butchering was to hack off what looked like a likely cut. The pot roasts would have peculiarly grainy

slices. Steaks were the right shape but not always cut from the right section. We all relished liver, heart and tongue, for they were tender. We didn't have to spend time chewing a stringy piece of beef until we could safely tuck it under our plate. Maw didn't have to hide her unchewable pieces of meat. She lacked her bottom teeth, so she had no grinding surface. Lucky Maw! After she had worried a slice of meat for a while, she could put the little wad on her plate with no pretense of hiding it.

The other kinds of meat we ate were organically grown, too. We always had deer meat and the deer fed on our grassy meadow, ate the apples that fell in the orchards or lapped up the beech nuts in the fall. Of course, Dad cut them up, too, in his inimical way. The best deer meat I ever ate was bits and pieces from a hind quarter that hung, frozen, upstairs in the shed. The

meat was covered with a thin blue mold, which we scraped off. Then we cut thin strips off the frozen haunch until we had enough for a meal. Maw sizzled the strips in butter or bacon fat, thickened gravy, and we ate every bit she cooked, no matter how much. The strips were thin enough so they had to be tender!

Gar's hens were range-fed. They roamed over the barn yard and the front yard. When one played at Gar's, one looked closely where one put one's bare feet. Gar fed her hens extra corn but there were no fancy preservatives. Our hens at home were confined to a pen, but it was a fairly large one. One of our morning chores was to take uneaten cooked oatmeal out to the hens. How they fought over what appeared to us to be an unappetizing mess! The hens also conveniently ate potato peelings and apple peelings in addition to the cracked corn and the pieces of oyster shell in their feeders.

Dick remembers mixing Provender with skim milk to feed the pig. I barely remember Dad mixing something from a bag into buttermilk and then pouring the mess down a conduit in the barn floor that led to the pig pen underneath. How they grunted and snorted and how delicious they made it sound! The pigs loved apples in the fall and to hear them eat apples made the drool run in one's own mouth. In good weather, Dad had a pen beside the vegetable garden at the back of the house. I barely remember Pompey, the last pig the folks raised. He was a demon at getting out of his pen. He'd root around a soft corner and soon "Pompey's out! Pompey's out!" someone would shout. Once we all ran from the supper table. I was too young to be much help but stood on the back porch watching the

fun. Pompey would squeal and spin in a different direction whenever anyone got near him. Mimi laughed so hard; she got a stitch in her side and couldn't help any more. It was some time before we sat down again for our by-now-cold meal and every now and then Mimi would give a snort and start giggling again.

So I was raised on home-grown meat with little assistance from the grain companies. The coming of the Ag teachers and Extension workers and their teaching of the latest scientific feeding of animals

for the most efficient production meant the local farmers became more and more dependent on the grain stores. And we still didn't have the enormous feed lots the Chicago meat sellers had. We didn't eat much Western beef until after the War (WWII).

It is only late years that farmers have added antibiotics, hormones and all the other horrors we've assaulted our bodies with. Now the cheapest meat is probably the most dangerous to our health, but during the The Great Depression, we ate the best and didn't know it!

Water memories

East Peacham water has come a long way

BY DICK QUIMBY

How things have changed in my few short years. Growing up on a small hill farm, we had no running water. The water came from a well (spring-fed) not far from the house. There was a pump at the end of the kitchen sink. If you wanted a drink, you worked the pump.

On wash day when I was a child, one of my chores was to pump water enough for the wash, which Mother did by hand—she had no washing machine.

Some houses had water running through lead pipes into a tank or tub at the end of the sink. As a kid, I thought that was much better than pumping.

In the late 40s, water faucets at the sink came when the R.E.A. lines brought electricity for a Power pump.

There was always a kettle and reservoir full of water heating on the kitchen stove.

We were lucky. I can remember one house where they had to go a short distance to the well, fasten a pail on a pole, reach down,

bring up the full pail and carry it to the house.

When I first bought our house in East Peacham, it was on an old water system, originally put in to supply the East Peacham Creamery. Two springs high up on the hill were piped into a barrel and down to a storage tank just above the village. The system supplied five houses. By that time, the pipes were old and very leaky, but water did run from taps and into the bath tub. I spent many hours with our neighbor, who owned the system, hunting for leaks and repairing the line. Now that everyone in East Peacham has drilled wells, there is no problem.

In Peacham Corner, where my grandmother lived during the summers, the village water system was installed in 1926. In the 30s and early 40s there were still some pumps and well houses. I remember a well house just north of the Reis's house. There was a chain pump in front of the house Caroline Long owned—the only one I can remember seeing in town.

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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

Lynn A Bonfield



Farmer and abolitionist, Leonard Johnson, raised eight daughters on Peacham's Cow Hill. In later life, he moved to the house at Peacham Corner, now owned by the Engles. He wrote this letter in 1869 to his oldest daughter, Martha, in South Carolina, where she was teaching former slaves in one of the freedmen's schools. As was usual in letters from this time, the main topics were health and death and the weather.

Martha taught in the South for seven years. She died at the age of forty-nine in 1871 and was buried in Beaufort, South Carolina. Leonard Johnson died at the age of ninety-three in 1890 and was buried in the Peacham Cemetery. His obituary recounts his tolling the church bell one solid hour in 1859, after receiving the news that abolitionist John Brown had been hung. Today this act seems an unusual expression of opinion, but at the time, abolitionists throughout New England followed suit.

**Peacham
Dec. 5 1869**

Dear Martha,

Yours of the 26th of November came to hand by last nights mail, and agreeable to your injunction to write immediately, I commence this Sunday eve, and will endeavor to answer your inquiries, and inform you in regard to some things you did not inquire about, and first of the deaths. The first after you left [Martha recently visited Peacham] was the verry death of a daughter [of] Mrs. Leonard Brown or now Mrs. Jenison, she died in less than 24 hours from the time she was taken [ill]. The disease was pronounced spotted fever.

The next was two deaths which occurred on Sunday, two weeks ago to day, and they were Mrs. [Benjamin] Bickford and

Mrs. Ashbel Goodenought, they died within an hour of each other. The next was our nearest neighbor Mr. George Darling. He was buried a week ago to day he had worked verry hard for him and took cold and typhoid fever set in and he employed a little pill Doct from Marshfield and death was the result.

Mrs. B. [Bridget Bickford] never took [to] her bed, but hung to her chair and several times fell out, they barely got her to the sofa at last. Mr. B. has shut his house [on Cow Hill] and gone to live with [his daughter and her husband] James and Emily [Kinerson on the Peacham-Danville Road], and seems verry well contented. Mr. G. too has sold all out to Alex Balaw and he is to go to live with some of his children.

In regard to the weather here it has been a most extreme cold autumn but as yet but little snow. The last three days have [been] extremely cold, the thermeter down 9 degrees below zero, and last night a small snow storm not enough to make good sleighing. But of all the rain storms we have seen, we have never had anny to compare with what we had the first of Oct. If you had been a week later in starting your journey south the freshet would have detained you nearly a month, in fact we had no southern mail for over ten days, and such destruction of property in roads and bridges mills and mill dams. Mr. [S. H.] Rowel at Water Street [South Peacham] is the greatest sufferer in town. His a starch mill, he lost 1,000 bushels of potatoes, but that is a small part of his loss, and he sick at the time with typhoid fever, but he is recovered and his mill is all righted up again and his fifty thousand bushels of potatoes nearly all made into starch.

Mr. [Perrin B.] Fisk [pastor at the Peacham Congregational Church 1866-70] was chosen



Courtesy of the Peacham Historical Association

Forty years after Martha died, three of her sisters had their photograph taken at the Bickford place with the Old Merrill House in the background located at the crossroads of Penny and Ha'Penny Streets. Left to right are Elisabeth Johnson Palmer Allen, Susan Johnson Chandler, and Clarissa Johnson Clark.

Chaplain of the [Vermont] legislature at the last session consequently had to be in Montpelier most of the time of the session. His place was supplied by Moses Martin some of the time. Ephraim and Clarissa [Leonard's daughter, Clarissa Clark and her husband] were here to dinner the day before yesterday. We gave them your letter to day. Your Mothers [stepmother Judith Bailey Johnson] better than usual this fall. My own health was never better.

I might fill this page with something that would be somewhat interesting to you I suppose but you must excuse me for tis bed time and I am tired. Your Mother joins me in much love and kind wishes for your welfare. Please write again soon.

Your affectionate father,
Leonard Johnson

The original of this letter remains in private hands; a photocopy is at the Peacham Historical Association and was published in The Peacham Patriot, February 1983. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Editor's additions are in brackets.

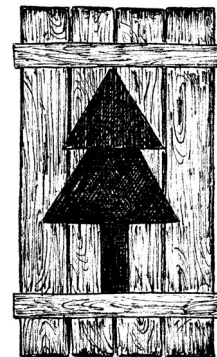
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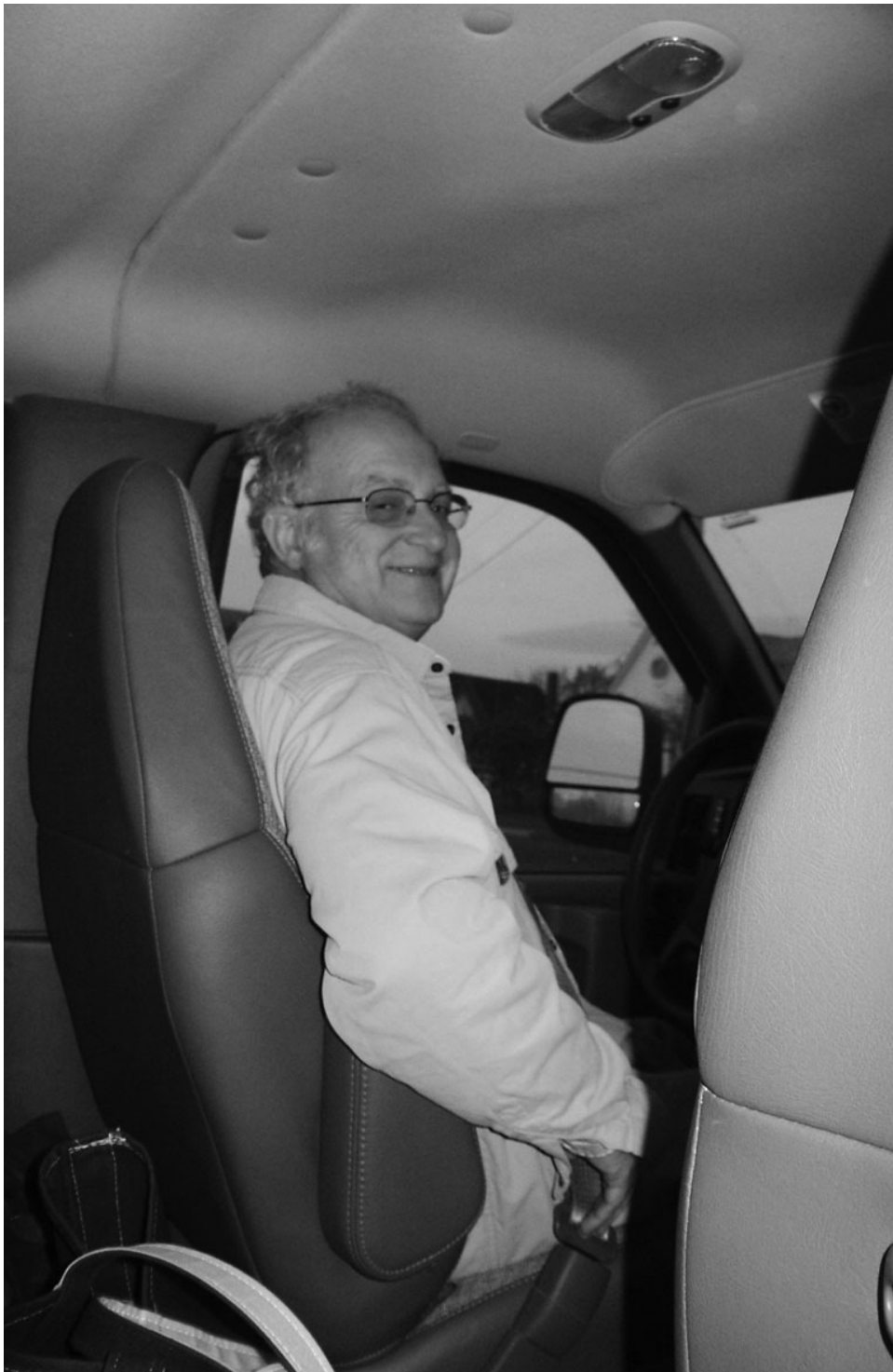
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From left: Cindy White, Donna Percy, John Blackmore, Joan Field, George Coppentrath, Betsy McKay, Sam Kempton, Darlene Pilbin, Sue Coppentrath and Cindy Hastings.



Route 2 Commuters celebrate the Birthday of their unique program 30 Years, 750k miles

Richard Boulanger, left, of Lyndonville, drives once or twice a week. "Four or five people trade off on that job," says Richard.

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY SHARON LAKEY

Picture this. It's the summer of 2008. Gas prices are at an all-time high. Ending our vacation in Salt Lake City, my husband and I are entering I-15 during morning rush hour. We spot a black diamond lane sign that reads: 2 PERSON MINI-MUM PER VEHICLE. There are two of us in the car, so we move into that far-left lane, and, shockingly, mile after mile we discover we are the only car in it. To our right, I watch as we move past a multitude of cars and trucks, all bearing one person, drivers' eyes focused dead ahead.




Nancy Lewis, of Danville, steps aboard the 15-passenger GMC van. "It has a little wider wheel-base than the former vans we drove," says Richard Boulanger, "and that makes it safer."

Now picture this. It is Nov. 5, 2008. Gas prices have lowered some. It is 6:25 a.m. in Danville, Vermont. Three people, standing in front of the Dole Block building,

are chatting about the election, waiting for their ride. Soon, a GMC 15-passenger van pulls up bearing the license plate "Route 2." The three disappear inside, greeting the driver and fellow passengers, and the van eases back onto the highway.

America has just elected a president whose talking points have included the need to change an energy policy that makes us dependent on foreign oil. But the much larger issue, as President-elect Barack Obama


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Route 2 Commuters, from left to right, Jim Kellogg (St. Johnsbury), Tom Dimatteo (Marshfield), David Murphy (Montpelier), Gary Gulka (Cabot), Patty Strader (Peacham), Susan Zucker (Danville), Nancy Lewis (Danville), Richard Boulanger (Lyndonville) and Richard Lee (Lyndonville). The hats are a van-time knitting creation by Nancy.

describes it, is a "planet in peril." Consider the two opening scenarios above and the following statistics from an air quality report published by the State of Vermont: in one year's time, the Route 2 commuters vanpool saves an estimated 3,875 gallons of gasoline, thereby reducing nitrogen oxides by 690 pounds, volatile organic compounds (some of which are carcinogenic) by 604 pounds, and carbon monoxide by 5,002 pounds. And this has been going on for 30 years.

In 1978, as part of its effort to encourage fuel conservation and help the environment, the Vermont Agency of Transportation made it possible for groups of like-minded people to finance a van with zero interest. Enter the Route 2 commuters vanpool, made up mostly of State of Vermont workers traveling daily from the Northeast Kingdom to Waterbury. In those days, the group was required to form a non-profit organization, following all the regulations that go with that designation. They had to purchase a van and handle all of their own business. This program is still available today, but the State has also partnered with VPSI (Vanpool Service Inc.), a national organization that leases vans. Under the new system, a group does not need to become their own non-profit, and VPSI will coordinate maintenance, insurance, and fare collection.

On Nov. 5, Route 2 Commuters, Inc., members were invited to gather at the home of Nancy and Dan Lewis on Sugar Ridge road in Danville to celebrate the 30th birthday of their organization. It was a charming event for the 18 who attended. Good food and drink was enhanced by the many stories to share. With three-quarters of a million miles on the road behind them, there are bound to be stories.

Richard Boulanger of Lyndonville, who has been riding and driving for 26 years, shared the story of the moose accident. The commuters and van survived despite the fright and flying glass shards. "There was about \$4,000 worth of damage," noted Richard.

"No," interrupted Gary Gulka of Cabot, who has been riding for 22 years and is the organization's business manager, "it cost us \$6,000!" Richard acquiesced and went on to tell of the time he was a victim of "Abandonment by the Van." His audience burst into laughter as they imagined Richard chas-

ing after the van on foot with a blissfully unaware driver avoiding all contact with the rearview mirror.

Gulka shared the story of Laser, the seeing-eye dog that rode with one of the passengers in the front of the van. "Yeah," broke in Tom Dimatteo of Marshfield, "remember when that dog ate Jim's lunch!" Dimatteo, a driver and rider for 22 years, went off on a few of his own stories - black ice and a near miss with a clueless pickup driver. Most fun was the telling of the hair-raising ride when they went "4-wheeling" with Bob Taplin at the controls.

One of the big questions in my mind was how difficult it might be to organize a vanpool. "At first," said Boulanger, "we worried about trying to make it fair, like maybe reducing the riding fees for those who drive. But we gave that up, and it just worked its way out. Those who want to drive, do, and those who don't, that's okay. We quit worrying about that."

According to Gulka, in all 30 years, only one rider was asked to leave because they weren't paying the fees. Maybe that is because it is so much less expensive to ride the van than pay the expenses of driving one's own vehicle. As the business manager, Gulka remembers the exact cost of all three accidents. Luckily, the reserve of dollars built up in the treasury managed to cover the repairs to the van without raising extra rider fees.

The question, "Why do you ride the van?" was asked of all, both new and old riders. Surprisingly, the answers never wavered from the following: it saves a lot of money (the most common first response); it is easier than driving yourself every day; there is time to "read," "knit," "sleep;" and, it helps the environment.

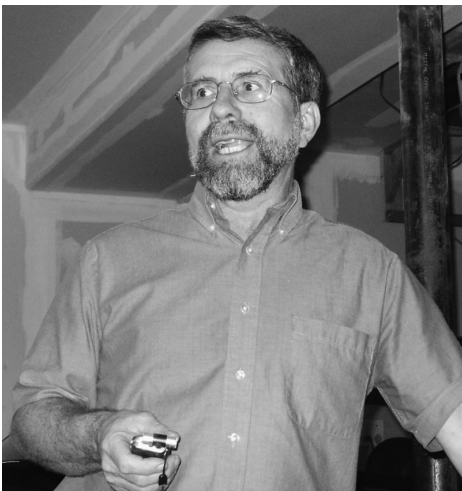
However, the response that brought a smile to everyone's face and was most often said at the end of the interview was "camaraderie," the connection between people in a daily activity, the team-ness of it all. "That is what makes it fun," said Dimatteo.

For those who may be interested in accessing commuting options of all kinds, there is information available through Go Vermont, ConnectingCommuters.org. Their website is www.connectingcommuters.com.

For more information and media related to this article, go to <http://sharonlakey.blogspot.com>.



President Richard Lee, Lyndonville, remembers the "Flood that never was."



Business Manager, Gary Gulka of Cabot, clearly remembers the cost of all three accidents over the past 30 years.

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People & Places

My seventh continent

In last month's issue of the North Star, travel writer Dick Boera, of Lyndonville, delivered Part II of a three-part series describing his 2004 trip to Antarctica. Boera is a frequent traveler and contributor. The following is the final chapter of excerpts from the detailed journal he kept during his adventures.

Monday, March 1
(60°30' south)

At 0600 we arrive at Sandefjord Bay in the South Orkney Islands and board our Zodiacs for a wet landing at Coronation Island. Chinstrap penguins are in super-abundance here coexisting with fur seals, threatened only by the predator leopard seals that treat penguin thrashing more as a sport than a source of sustenance. A unique feature of the hillsides is their pink appearance caused by the color of the algae found in this region. We take a Zodiac tour around the inlet amid the icebergs and leopard seals on individual ice floes awaiting careless penguin prey swimming by. A wet landing on Monroe Island across the bay for more pictures of the same wildlife as we climb across the slippery rocks. Shore to ship at 10:00, then the ship is on the move west again. Icebergs, icebergs, icebergs! I have to laugh as I think about taking so many photos of the first icebergs we saw and now, as we sail toward Elephant Island, there are hundreds in all directions. Spectacular, mind-numbing beauty! It was dull and overcast early, sunny at midday, very cold and windy now; hard to stand out on deck, but everyone is out there with cameras clicking away. We've just finished lunch, the captain announces "Right whales sighted." (The captain seems to be genuinely excited each time a new species of whale or unusual sea bird is spotted even though he must have seen them all dozens of times.) These right whales are

Part III

STORY BY DICK BOERA

60 tons, 40-50 feet long, and the estimated population in the Southern Hemisphere is about 12,000, but they're still considered endangered, according to naturalist Todd who's a fixture on the bridge. He also tells us that stone points have been found embedded in the blubber of whales of a type that haven't been used in over 150 years; some of these whales could be over 200 years old. A pair of them plays around the ship for a half hour, entertaining all as the captain slows and patiently attempts to anticipate their movements. It's difficult to capture their dives (with elevated tail) on camera, but I may have caught a couple of the more spectacular plunges.

Tuesday, March 2
(61°2' south)

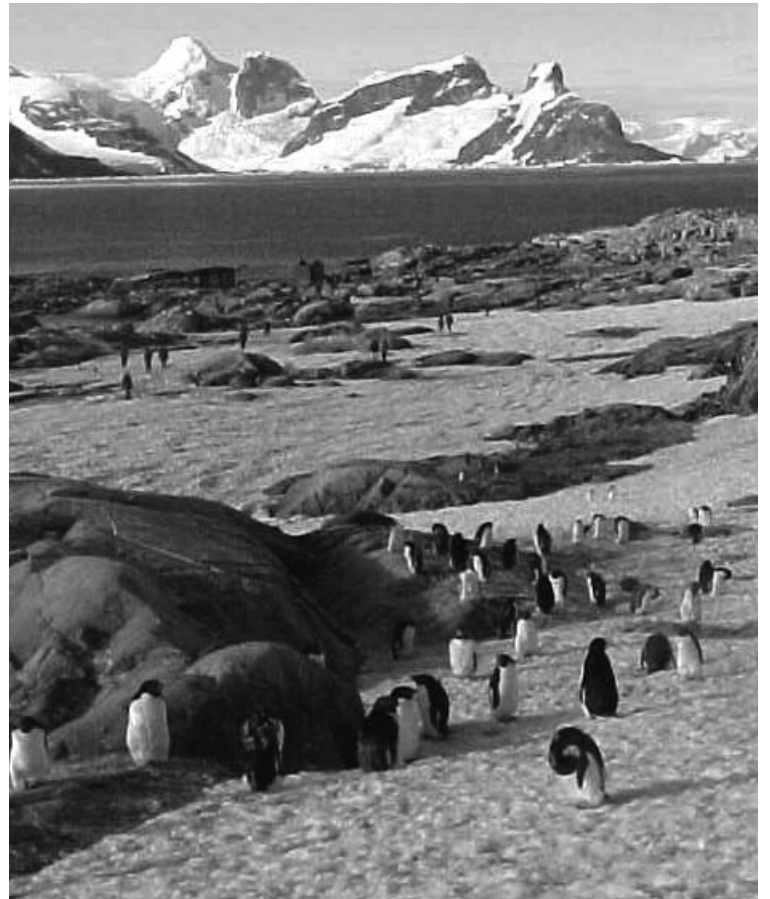
We're awakened at 0800 by an announcement that we are at Point Wild, Elephant Island, the desolate home of 22 of Shackleton's men while they waited 128 days for rescue by "The Boss"...after being marooned for over 15 months previously! We can be here only a short time and the Zodiacs can't possibly attempt a landing due to the high winds, high seas and driving snow. It's a very forbidding landscape that I've captured on camera; hard to imagine how the men survived those months. This is summer, temperature is +35°F (but below zero with wind-chill factored in) and they lived here at the height of the austral winter. There's low visibility, but the ship pulls in close enough for us to get good pictures of the tiny beach site and the small monument to the Chilean tug captain who brought out the crew. We don't anchor but move on to Cape

Valentine where Shackleton's party in three lifeboats first landed and remained for two days. Here, too, it's too treacherous for us to venture ashore.

We have breakfast and move on to Gibbs Island, embarking on a Zodiac tour half way around the island, getting pretty wet and finding it too choppy to get many decent photos of the chinstraps and fur seals who don't seem to mind the weather one bit. It's cold but invigorating. We need all the layers of (clothing) protection from head to foot.

Wednesday, March 3
(62°14' south)

Arrive at King George Island, the Jubany Research Station, at 0600 and we're ashore by 0730. This is a protected bay, the water is calm and there's very little wind but it's still very damp and chilly. There are about 30 (German) scientific and (Argentine) support staff at this base. (27 nations are involved in Antarctic research.) It's a grim place to spend any time, much less the four-month commitment for those who volunteer for the assignment here. After a tour we're back aboard at 0930 and move on to Deception Island, Whaler's Bay. We're put ashore on another black sand beach and make the long hike to the top of the volcanic crater that was formed during an eruption in 1969. The basaltic rock makes it a bit difficult to traverse with any speed. The view of the caldera from the crater rim makes the trek worthwhile, a bit reminiscent of Maui's Haleakala. On coming back aboard at 1700, hot chocolate awaits us at the gangway...a welcome and needed treat. Shortly after 1900 (the sun is still 30° above the horizon), about twenty of us (brave...or stupid...souls) go ashore in Pendulum Cove to swim! First a running dive into the freezing waters (I followed the doctor



"The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."

St. Augustine

thinking that was the thing to do, but only one other followed us), then thaw out in the caldera-warmed pool of water that the crew had scooped out of the thermal sands. It's an unbelievably invigorating experience, the worst part being the freezing air greeting the exit from the "pool" while you're trying to towel off and get back into a parka, get the sand off your feet and feet into boots. Those who forego the dip and remain bundled up gleefully take pictures of and for the more fool-hardy.

Thursday, March 4

Wake-up call at "you know what" time: "Ladies und chentulmen, we are now at Port Lockroy unt pas-sunges mit tag numpers 48-93 vill board Sodiaks at 0730 howers. Brakefuss vill be surfed von sex zu ate." The first group goes ashore on Goudier Island while the

Germans go to Jougla Point. Base A (on Goudier) at Port Lockroy is now a museum and post office; it was established by the British on orders of Winston Churchill in 1944. A large number of gentoo penguins roam the island and several sets of gigantic whale bones dot the icy beach. We then switch with the German group and Zodiac over to Jougla Point. It's a bitter cold tour of the bay and the waters are choppy due to high winds.

Leave at 1030 to head through Neumayer Channel to Paradise Bay. At the channel entrance there are humpback whales breaching all over the place and some come so close they brush against the ship. Even so, it's difficult to time the camera shutter just right to capture tail or flippers in mid-air. Fabulous entertainment! We arrive at Paradise Bay after lunch at 1330 and make our first landing on the Antarctic

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Peninsula...the Continent...at the Almirante Brown base, a deserted Argentinian research station with only gentoos now standing watch over the lone building.

It's a wet landing but the sea is calm. After a slow climb up a steep ice slope...gorgeous panoramic view from the top and great photo ops...it's a quick, slick ride down, using just the parka and wetpants for a slide. Next is a Zodiac tour of the hospitable bay. Good photos of Weddell seal on shore and we see a Minke whale in distance, but too far away to get a decent picture of a breach. The battery runs out on the digital camera just when we have a perfect opportunity for shots of a huge leopard seal on ice floe...our first real close-up. As other Zodiacs approach, he feels threatened, dives off and follows us, then suddenly appears alongside and dives under the rubber boat. These are predators; driver Marko tells us that one punctured a Zodiac last year causing quite a scare. We all feel blessed to have had such good weather for today's highlight, many of us setting foot on a seventh continent for the first time.

We're now at 64°14' south.

Friday, March 5

On deck before wake-up call today to see Orcas (Killer Whales) and Minke's cavorting and looking for prey among seals. We're put ashore on Petermann Island...with the Continent just opposite...to be greeted by Adélie penguins for the first time, amid gentoos and fur seal pups. It's a beautiful summery day...clear, sunny, no wind, 37°...could have worn summer outfits. Peel off layers of clothing and take photos in all directions...over 100 digital shots, of which many will be culled as duplicative. We're there for three hours, wandering all over the island, some climbing up an icy slope (with four penguins trying to ape humans...hilarious) and making the long slide down. It's scenery "with no earthly analog"...the high point of the trip in

that respect.

Anchors aweigh at 1130 to set course north to the Drake Passage, retracing our course back through the Lemaire and Neumayer Channels. The scenery is even more striking now; it has to rate high on the list of the most beautiful stretches of scenery in the world. The Antarctic Circle is at 66°30'. Our furthest penetration south was 65°11' today at Petermann Island...still, hard to accept, about 1600 miles from the geographic South Pole!

Now entering the open sea of the Drake Passage the weather becomes overcast, it's snowing heavily and the seas are high; the whitecaps seem like Hawaiian surf. The ship is doing 15 knots, pitching and rolling wildly. A couple of trays full of chinaware and glasses are scratched off the inventory during dinner tonight.

Saturday, March 6

Gone now are the sights of mountains and icebergs, penguins, seals and whales...even bird sightings are scarce. The seas are rough all day.

The "Around Cape Horn" documentary at 1100, a Mystic Seaport video produced in 1929, is interrupted by our arrival at the Cape island itself, a massive outcropping of rock (resembling Elephant Island) at its southern tip. Everyone is out on the windy deck in awe of the forbidding, foreboding sight as the towering waves crash over the ship's bow. There's a CD presentation at 1700, a digital photo recap of the highlights of this voyage. It's for sale, but most of us have taken so many (and many better) photos,

Someday - before it's too late for you or Antarctica - consider treating yourself to a visit to this very special place on our planet...

- Dick Boera

that it's hardly necessary to consider the purchase. Nice option though for those who either didn't want to be encumbered with a camera or who ran out of film. Ship enters the Beagle Channel late in the afternoon, taking aboard Chilean pilots and customs officials at Puerto Williams. We're anchored here on a calm sea until midnight.

Monday, March 8

At 0800 we arrive at the entrance to the Garibaldi Fjord, still in the Beagle Channel. It's a mild 51°, but a bit overcast and windy. Take an extensive Zodiac tour of the fjord for two hours, a light rain falling part of the time. The wildlife is plentiful...sea lions, Andean condors, shags, turkey vultures, a lone Magellanic penguin (that I get credit for spotting), and a little gray bird that is later identified by the experts as a gray-flanked cinclodes. The glaciers are awesome and the waterfalls...à la Norway...spectacular. (I know these adjectives have been over-used, but there are no adequate substitutes.)

At 1815 the Captain's Cocktail Party includes his heartfelt toast to all nationalities represented aboard and a note of thanks to all for observing safety rules with the result that there's not been a single

accident or serious illness during the course of the entire journey.

Tuesday, March 9

Wake-up call at 0600, luggage is left outside cabin at 0630, and as we breakfast the ship docks at Punta Arenas, in Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire), Chile. We disembark at 0830 for a bus tour of this city founded by Hernan de Magellan. There's a statue dedicated to the explorer in the main park and we drive to a high point to get a good view of the port. There's nothing impressive, but it's a fairly clean, well-ordered city of 120,000 population, dependent upon oil (particularly offshore drilling), fishing and tourism. We're given a box lunch after visits to the Institute of Patagonia's open air museum of antique trains and machinery and a quite interesting regional natural history museum, then driven to the airport.


The flight to Santiago takes off on time and reaches that Chilean capital at 1800 after one stop in Puerto Montt. [A big mistake was leaving my camera in carry-on bag in the luggage rack, then having a window seat with an elderly crippled lady snoozing on the aisle seat and a student with a lap top in middle seat, making it impossible to retrieve my camera

to capture the spectacular scenery of snow-capped southern Andes on a clear, sunny day...terribly frustrating. When I'm finally able to reach the camera during the Port Montt layover, the sky turns cloudy and scenery changes to drab plains.] We're given a mini-tour on the way to our hotel in the heart of Santiago...where we have a prompt sign-in, welcoming cocktails and luxurious accommodations. There's a beautiful view of this part of the city from my 11th floor window, although the Andes are almost obscured by haze just as they were when Julie and I visited (almost exactly) a year ago.

[The flight back home is uneventful...]

Summary of numbers of species seen on this 4,259-mile expedition cruise...during the course of 20 landings and 4 additional Zodiac tours.

- ◆ Penguins - 6 (rockhopper, gentoos, Magellanic, king, chinstrap Adélie)
- ◆ Whales - 6 (right, pilot, fin, Minke, humpback, killer; some saw crabeaters as well)
- ◆ Seals - 4 (fur, elephant, Weddell, leopard)
- ◆ Sea birds - 45 (including 5 species of albatrosses)
- ◆ Song birds and others (e.g., vultures, condors, falcons) - 12



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- Josepha Emmes

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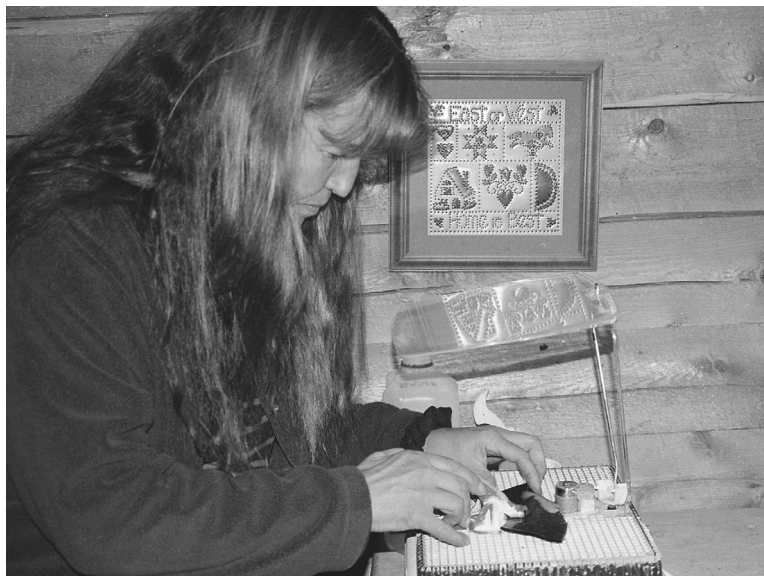
From tires to treasures

Sally Goss creates Vermont memories in glass

BY MARTHA EVANGELISTA

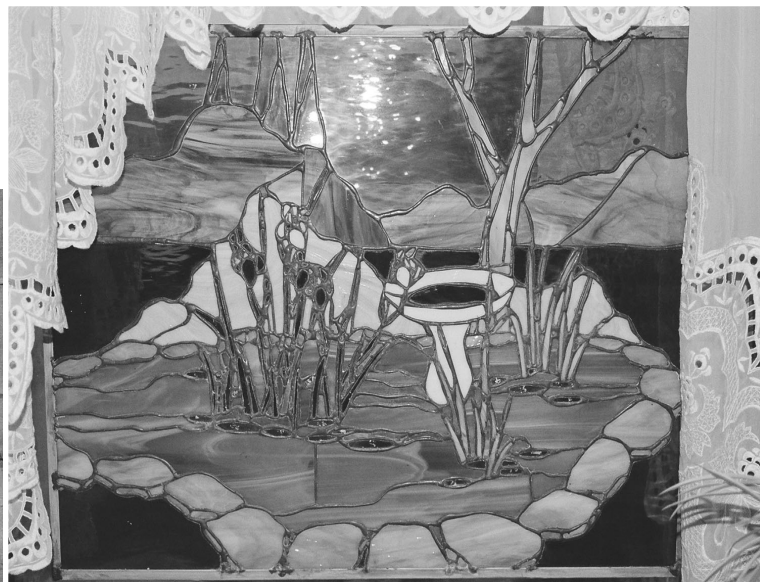
Tucked away on a quiet dirt road in Peacham, native Vermont juried crafts-person and avid gardener Sally Goss owns and operates Mack Mountain Crafts. Born and raised in Burlington, Sally and her two sons moved into a handcrafted log house in Peacham in 1994. About seven years ago, Sally left Goss Tire to pursue her dream of creating works of art in colored glass.

She enrolled in classes in Lancaster and Whitefield, learning the traditional art of stained glass from other craftspeople. Sally uses one room in her house strictly for cutting glass, soldering, and framing. It's a comfortable workshop with music and a television. Sally comments that she finds her art relaxing and addictive; she often loses herself in her work. Working with small



shards of glass has its disadvantages, however. "I keep an enormous supply of band aids handy," she laughs. Many of Sally's pieces take upwards of 60 hours from start to finish. "If you don't love it, it's not worth doing," she says. "When it's all said and done, I probably make

about a dollar an hour!" In searching for the best materials and machinery, Sally has discovered the internet is essential. She does most of her buying online. Materials consist of colored glass, copper foil, cutting boards for framing, saws, glass grinder, and soldering gun.



Sally's designs range in size and shape from small holiday ornaments and night-lights to detailed window size scenes and garden walkway stones. Often times, customers are traveling and the prospect of transporting a large piece home is just too risky. Smaller items such as night lights, ornaments, and small window hangings are big sellers at craft fairs. Sally comments that

every time she creates a new piece it becomes her favorite. Although, she admits the piece she truly prefers shows a stunning array of birch trees with mountains in the back ground and a full moon rising. Last Christmas Sally sent this gorgeous work of art to her father, who now resides in Florida. Every day he gazes out his window and feels Vermont tug at his heart.

While Sally can create most any scene in stained glass, she comments that it is nearly impossible to create a work in glass from a photograph. The intricate details and colors in a photo do not transfer well to glass; pieces can be too small, details can get lost. It's nearly impossible to create a work in glass from a photograph and have it resemble the picture. Sally works with her buyers and is able to perform custom work if someone has a certain design that they want her to create. She also does repair work for customers with stained glass pieces that have been damaged. Although many designs can be almost too intricate to create in glass, pieces that are too small often break, and certain cuts and shapes can be nearly impossible to cut and grind, Sally will work with closely with customers to achieve their desired stained glass creation. Thrifty by nature and a true believer in recycling, Sally uses small and broken pieces of colored glass to create her hand-made garden stepping stones. These beautiful stones can be placed in the garden and can weather any Vermont winter.

Sally's plans for summer 2009 are already underway. With the help of her brother, Bob, Sally will be constructing an outdoor studio/farm stand on her property. Not only will she exhibit her stained glass, but she will also be offering many varieties of field grown perennial plants, and a pick-your-own berry farm featuring strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries in season. She is also planning on having a website in the near future.

Sally's stained glass can be viewed at The Peacham Guild, Joe's Pond Craft Shop, Uniquity in St. Johnsbury, The Blinking Light Gallery in Plainfield, Grakles in downtown Barre, and at her home studio, Mack Mountain Crafts. You can reach Sally by phone at: 802-563-3113 or by email at: sgross@fairpoint.net

Craftsmanship

We all have something we can pour ourselves into

BY SUSAN BOWEN

We have been having some unusual excitement out here along Water Andric. Anyone who knew my husband Ralph knew how fond he was - some people said how crazy he

was - about his Model A Ford, as well as his doodlebug and his 9N tractor. He loved studying and teaching history, but he also enjoyed turning his brain and hand to restoring those old cars. He worked, with our daughter Sarah, to get the Model A into

good shape. She had it at college one year and he used it to travel back and forth to Long Island where he was teaching at the time. Winters are moderate on Long Island, and most drivers didn't know how to cope with snow, but Ralph, with the

old Ford's narrow tires and high body, went sailing past all those modern cars slowed off the road to one side or the other. Talk about pride and glory!

After his retirement from teaching in Illinois, although he

Continued on Page 17

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The old Model A

Continued from Page 16

taught part-time at Lyndon State for a while, he decided to concentrate full-time on restoring the car, bringing it to tip-top, bang-up, Grade A condition. He began hunting for parts, and, with Brian (a friend who had run a garage in Passumpsic for years) began taking the car apart. Then the first step in rebuilding was to scrape the chassis. What a glorious mess!

What a happy fellow!

I won't take you every step of the way, as I'm too ignorant to do the process justice, but I couldn't help but notice, as time passed, that his interest began to slacken, and he seemed to tire more easily. At the same time, various health problems arose, and alas, the Model A project languished.

But now, two years after Ralph's death, the family began to feel the time had come to put the Model A and the parts up for sale. Not long after the ad appeared, Luke, a high school student, turned up with older relatives to take a look. One grandfatherly man, a family friend, drove up in a gorgeous green Model A roadster, with advice and counsel, so we knew someone would appreciate what we had to offer in spite of its being part in the barn, part in the garage. But it had been protected from the weather; a definite advantage. Several visits later, the deal was struck. We felt that Luke was a worker, with determination enough to keep at the job, and he clearly had enough support in the fami-

ly as needed, for any difficulties that might (and probably would) arise. And an important point for us - we felt that Ralph would have recognized him as a fellow craftsman eager to turn his brain

and muscle to do the job and solve any problems that might turn up.

And isn't this the trait that marks the humans as remarkable creatures? Whenever we see something that could be done, and especially if we think it could be done in a better way,

we set to work. Somehow, though, things have been shifted around in the workplace so that there is less opportunity for the individual worker to take any personal responsibility.

Do you remember the splendid photo on the first page of October's "North Star?" It

showed a workman repairing the clock that usually stands at the top of Eastern Avenue, a wonderful depiction of the coordination of brain, eyes and hands solving a mechanical problem a wonderful human ability, just as magnificent as going to the moon, and arguably

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Giving Back

North Country Chorus helps local food banks

Upper Valley audiences enjoyed two concerts by the North Country Chorus (NCC) in early November. They expressed their gratitude by giving generously to several community food bank projects. A free will offering was collected on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Congregational Church in Haverhill, N.H., and on Sunday, Nov. 2 at the North Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. The proceeds, totaling over \$1,300, will benefit food shelves in Haverhill, Littleton, Bradford, and St. Johnsbury.

The Chorus invites the public to support such efforts in local communities with gifts of money, time and food. A list of contacts for area food banks can be found at the NCC website below.

Music lovers should mark their calendars for the Chorus' upcoming performances of Handel's Messiah. They will be held on Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church,

Littleton, N.H.; and on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wells River Congregational Church; and on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Peacham Congregational Church. The performances, under the direction of Alan Rowe, will feature an orchestra and soloists, including soprano Julie Proia, alto Maria Lamson, tenor Phil Brown, and bass Gary Moreau. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10 (\$5 for students).

Tickets are now on sale for the North Country Chorus' 28th annual Madrigal Dinner to be held in Monroe, N.H., on January 16, 17, and 18, 2009. Details and a printable order form are available at the chorus' website below. Information is also available from Marcia Bridge at 802-584-4194.

Visit www.northcountrychorus.com for more information about the chorus and all of its programs.



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St. Johnsbury December 13

Victorian Holiday Schedule

Visit the Welcome Center for holiday treats and see our Victorian tree! Children caroling, roasted chestnuts, cookies and hot apple cider all day! See www.Discoverstjvt.com for more info.

(10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Visit Santa in Welcome Center, treats and craft making.

(10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Meet Miss Vermont, who will accompany Santa

(10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Families: Make a holiday craft at the Welcome Ctr., courtesy of Stevens School.

(10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

VBA Radio Holiday Food Drive to benefit local food shelves.

(11 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Uniquity - Harp by Bill Tobin 11-1, wrap gifts

(11 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Open Houses and other events around Town.

(10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Catamount Arts - Make cards and Victorian decorations!

(6 p.m.)

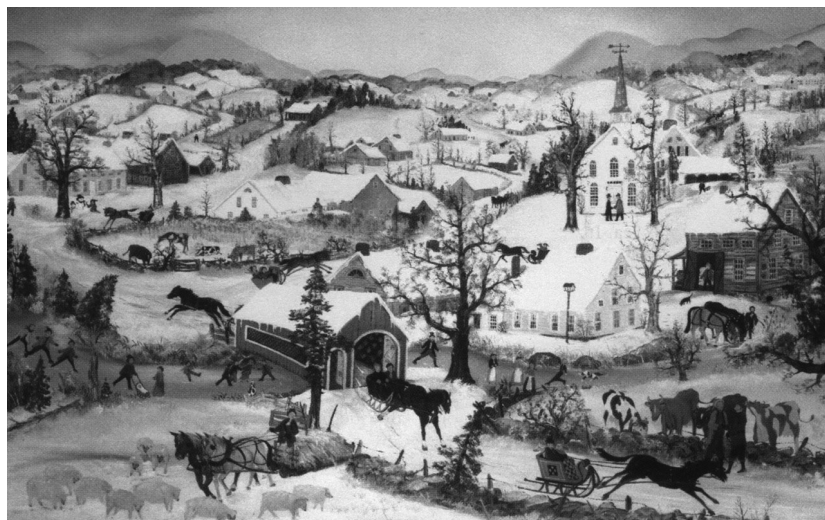
Tree Lighting at Arnold Park by St. Johnsbury Works, north end of Main St. Followed by holiday goodies at Estabrook House across from park. Second annual lighting of the evergreen in Arnold Park. Over 10,500 whitelights on this 50 ft. tree. We're claiming it's the largest natural decorated tree in VT, until we're proved otherwise! Carolers will be there and we'll sing as we did last year.

(6 p.m. - 10 p.m.)

Ice skating - Main St. Park (weather permitting, bring your skates)

Photo reprints are available at:
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No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

The December holidays are filled with myriad of family food memories. Perhaps, something a favorite Aunt made every year that not only makes you think delicious, but evokes the spirit and camaraderie of the season. From cookies and pies to casseroles and magnificent roasts, these are the dishes that bring fame to a cook and start wonderful culinary traditions. It all adds to the spirit of the season.

At our house we even anticipated the 'not so good' dishes that arrived every year with a fondness and humor. We couldn't wait for Aunt Rose's delectable cheesecake to arrive on Christmas day as well as the leaden whiskey fruitcake an old friend gave us every year. Both gifts gave us joy during the season.

In the Northeast Kingdom, I consistently hear of two favorite holiday food dishes that many folks make during the season. One has its roots in Quebec while the other is truly mid-western American. They are the French tourtiere and the all American string bean casserole. I present you with my special version of them both.

Tourtiere

A holiday tradition in the Northeast Kingdom, this tourtiere is a less traditional version of the French Canadian classic. Use any cut of fresh pork from a shoulder to a loin. I use a boneless loin that I roast in the oven, let cool and thinly slice.

When you need to take a hearty dish to a holiday pot luck - this is the one. This recipe makes two pies. Freeze one (they freeze very well) or cut the recipe in half.

I also give instructions on making a vegetarian version with Portobello mushrooms. We have more and more vegetarians sitting at our holiday table and this is a truly delicious way to welcome them - who knows you might start another tradition.

Pork Loin - about 12 inches long - buy a whole loin - cut off what you need and freeze the rest

4 large potatoes - steamed or microwaved till just shy of soft - sliced as thin as possible
3 onions - thinly sliced
Herbs - thyme, rosemary and

parsley - fresh if available (dried is fine)
½ teaspoon nutmeg
1 pint heavy cream
6 cups equal parts cider, water and chicken stock
1 cup flour
½ lb melted butter
Salt and pepper to taste
Double pie crust for two pies

Coat the pork with a mix of the herbs, salt and pepper. Place in a covered roasting pan with the cider mix in the bottom and place in a 375 degree oven till just cooked - about 1 ½ hours. Use a meat thermometer to check this. You don't want to overcook the pork. Even if it is on the rare side - it will cook more in the pie. This can be done a couple of days ahead if you want. Remember that the pork should be cooled and preferably cold to slice it thin.

Skim the fat off the liquid in the bottom of the roasting pan and set aside. Slice the pork (as thin as you can) when it is cool and set aside.

Cook the potatoes whole. You can steam, boil or microwave them. Again, you don't want to overcook them or they will be hard to slice. You can do this the day before and chill them. Let cool, slice thin pieces and set aside.

Assembly: Assemble all the ingredients in front of you in separate bowls for easy access.

Mix the cream with the skimmed liquid from the pork roast and the nutmeg.

Line two pie plates with bottom crusts.

Place a layer of sliced pork in the crusts. Cover with a few onions slices and a sprinkle of flour, salt and pepper. Ladle some of the cream mix over all. Add a layer of the potatoes, brush with melted butter and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Ladle some of the cream mix on top. Repeat this until you have well mounded pies - about 2 inches over the pie plate in the center. Ladle the remainder (if it is not too huge an amount) of the cream mix over the two pies. Cover with the second crust. Slash a few holes in the top and bake in a 375 degree oven for about 1 hour to 1 ½ hours (if you have used very cold ingredients it may take a little longer.) The crust should be well browned and the pies should be bubbling. Let cool.

This dish can be served at room temperature. If you have made it the day before and put it in the refrigerator, you will have to heat it up to warm it before service. It should not be served refrigerator cold.

This dish needs no accompaniment and stands on its own to wow an audience.

Portobello and Potato Pie - Vegetarian Version of Tourtiere

I served this at my café and I can assure you that it is as hearty as any tourtiere you have ever eaten.

Substitute 8 large Portobello Mushrooms for the pork
Substitute the 6 cups of liquid for 1 cup of cider
All other ingredients remain the same

Remove the stems from the mushrooms. Chop the stems (I use the food processor) and set aside. Butter each side of the mushrooms and sauté them in a large saucepan until they start to soften. As you finish them put them on top of one another in a bowl. As they cool they will form a nice broth in the bottom of the bowl. You will want to reserve this liquid.

Cook the chopped mushrooms and herbs in the same sauce pan with a little bit of butter until they are browned. Add the mushroom broth, cider and cream with salt and pepper and continue to cook for a few minutes. Set aside.

If the portobellos are very big you can slice them in half horizontally.

Set all ingredients in front of you.

Follow the assembly instructions for the tourtiere, substituting the portobellos for the pork.

'Not so Classic' String Bean Casserole

This is a fresh version of the classic string bean casserole from my childhood that consisted of opening cans of frenched string beans, mushroom soup and french

fried onion rings. It is not as easy as the original version, but it tastes great enough to make you a famous cook and become a tradition in your own right.

10 cups of fresh string beans - frenched (see instructions below)
½ lb. softened butter (you may not need it all)
5 tablespoons flour
1 cup half & half
1 cup chicken stock (boxed is fine)
2 cups sliced button mushrooms
2 onions - thinly sliced
1-2 cups fresh bread crumbs with salt and pepper added
Salt and pepper to taste

Prepare the beans:

Tip and tail the string beans, then french them by splitting each one in half lengthwise with a sharp knife. This sounds like a hardship but it actually goes quite fast. Blanch the beans for about 5 minutes in boiling water till they just start to soften. Rinse in cold water to stop the cooking. Set aside.

Prepare the onion topping:

Melt 4 tablespoons of butter in a large frying pan and sauté the onions for a few minutes. Add the breadcrumbs to the onions and cook for a few more minutes. I like to use breadcrumbs made from English muffins. You can make them in a food processor or in a blender. Set the onion and crumb

Continued on Page 39

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First graders David Stevens and Jessica Morgan don two of the 1,000 hats knitted and donated by Robert "Peck" Perkins.

Heads & Hearts

Local man warms both for Caledonia County school children

BY CARLA OCCASO

LYNDONVILLE – Robert "Perk" Perkins may be smiling down from Heaven to see hundreds of heads bobbing around Caledonia County schoolyards wearing hats he spent the last years of his life knitting, his wife, Kay Perkins said recently.

Kay Perkins delivered the donation to Lyndon Town School October 31 for every student grades K through 8. Last year over 600 hand-knit hats were delivered to smaller schools in the Caledonia North Supervisory Union. Robert Perkins died this summer, but Kay fulfilled his mission to distribute as many hats as possible to Caledonia County children.

"He grew up poor," Kay Perkins said. "He knew what kids were going through. He knew they had to have their heads warm. The joy he got out of it just filled his life."

The entire Lyndon Town School student body, each wearing his or her brand new brightly colored hat, filed out of their classroom and gathered outside for a school-wide photo the day they got the gift. The children excitedly compared colors and styles.

"It was really nice," said Kaelynn Silver, 8, of Lyndon. "I loved picking the color that Mr. Perkins made it. It's my favorite color (Turquoise). He made them for the whole school. He warmed our heads and our hearts. I have to say 'thank you'."

Perkins knit around 1,000 hats in all over the past two years and lived to see the first batch delivered to smaller schools last year. His family also donated hats to the St. Johnsbury Fire Department for their annual "Santa Fund" Christmas gift program and to a Lyndonville organization called H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday).

Kay Perkins enjoyed helping him with the ambitious project, which started when health problems caused her husband to spend time at the Riverside Life Enrichment Center, an adult day program in Lyndonville. After learning to make hats, Perkins knitted almost every waking moment, Kay said. Perkins brought knitting supplies everywhere he went, even to doctor's appointments because it kept him busy and made him feel useful.

Perkins made a huge contribution and left a positive



Third grader Kaelynn Silver and Ethan Devereaux, fourth grade, are shining testaments to Perkins' fine craftsmanship



impression that will be missed, said Lisa Sweeney, assistant director of Riverside Life Enrichment Center. She described how he started knitting to keep his hands busy while trying to quit smoking, but the project evolved into a social mission.

"He loved kids," Sweeney said. "He knew there were a lot of kids in this area that might not have a hat. He knew they needed the hat. As a way to not discriminate (between privileged and disadvantaged children) he wanted to give a hat to every child."

Perkins suffered from a debilitating illness and knitting hats was a way from escaping the illness. He also needed to find a way to continue helping people even though he was bound to a wheelchair. "At the very end he was knitting knowing that every child in the county have a hat on his head," Sweeney said. "That was his goal. I think he might have made it." She estimates he knitted over 1,500 hats in all.

Perkins inspired others by his determination and generosity. His memory lives on among those at Riverside, according to Sweeney.

"He is like a Santa Claus," Sweeney said. "On a personal level, I adored Perk. He put your needs in front of his no matter how sick he was. He would give anybody everything he could."

Perkins time spent helping others dates back a couple of decades, according to Kay Perkins. He spent many nights over the previous 20 years sitting on boards of local nonprofit organizations working to help people – mostly youth. He chaired the board for the Vermont Mini Olympic Wheelchair games, where he actively raised funds and helped organize games. He served as the president of the board of Northeast Kingdom Community Action and also served on the board of Northeast Kingdom Mental Health "until his health gave out," Kay Perkins said. Kay and Bob Perkins worked together on the Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board and as foster parents.

"It's just a beautiful story," said Marcia Therrien, the receptionist/secretary at Lyndon Town School who helped with the hat distribution there. "He's always worked (to help people) in poverty."

The Big Apple



Diana and Amanda Webster, of Danville, took a brief site seeing tour in the midst of visiting colleges in New York City last fall. Amanda will graduate from Danville High School this spring. During their trip, they took a minute to pose with the *North Star* in front of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

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Holiday concert

Pumpkin Hill Singers in Danville on Dec. 18

The Pumpkin Hill Singers joins The Holiday-on-the-Green in Danville by presenting their traditional holiday concert. This program of holiday music entitled, "In the Clearing" includes beloved traditional songs, contemporary arrangements of traditional music, and some newly-composed holiday music for the holiday season. The concert's title song comes from a new composition by Steve Parker and Susanne Terry sung for the first time in the Danville concert.



Familiar songs in the presentation are Holly and the Ivy, Coventry Carol, Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light, and the Caribbean carol "The Virgin Mary" made popular by Harry Belafonte. The group has also included carols from Spain, France, England, Ireland, West Indies, and Australia. "We added the Australian song 'Summer Carol' last year and liked it so much that we wanted to perform

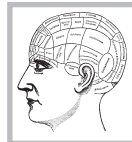
it again", says soprano Jo-Anne Reed. " 'Summer Carol' is particularly interesting in that it talks about Christmas which in Australia falls during its summer season."

The Pumpkin Hill Singers have had a busy fall in preparation for not only their holiday concert, but also for the "Sing for Peace" concert in September. This was a gathering of 120

musicians from seven groups in northern Vermont, each signing a presentation of songs related to hope for world peace. This concert was coordinated by Robert and Louise DeCormier from the group Counterpoint Musical.

The singers will again be joined by instrumentalist David Hare on percussion, Jeff Gold on English horn and recorder, and Ellen Gold on guitar, recorder, and flute.

The concert is at Danville Congregational Church on Thursday, Dec. 18 and at the North Congregation Church in St Johnsbury on Friday, Dec. 19. Both concerts are at 7:30 p.m. and are free to the public. The group's recent CD "With Song Alone" will be on sale at the end of the concert.



Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

My buddy Roy and I spent a whole tour in Iraq together. Every day he talked about returning home and living with his sweetheart. His phrase was, "It'll be heaven, pure heaven!"

Two months after we came home I went to visit Roy and meet his sweetheart. She was as lovely and charming as he described her. He seemed very distracted. When I finally got alone with him he was practically in tears. He explained that living together was, "Hell. Pure hell!" I asked him what was wrong and he said that he wanted her to make a stronger commitment. I thought he meant marriage, but he insisted he wasn't ready for marriage. He told me she said she couldn't and wouldn't give him any more than living with him.

When I reminded him that in Iraq all he wanted was to be living together he looked startled for a moment and then shook his head and repeated, "Hell, pure hell!" How could Roy feel so badly when he got exactly what he wanted?

Puzzled

Dear Puzzled,

A great question! Perhaps a complete answer would unravel the enigma that is humanity. Here's our slant on it...

When Roy got the situation he yearned for he could have become very frightened. Having it meant that he could now lose it. To lessen his fear he demanded a vague "improvement" or change in the relationship. When this was turned down he felt bereft. This serves two functions; first, the situation itself is no longer so satisfying and therefore also not as frightening. Second, he is able to return to wishing it would get better. Now he is back to the way he felt when he was in Iraq. Although he clearly feels distress on the surface, on another level, he may feel resignation or even relief. And on an even deeper level, he may unconsciously feel happiness about living with his sweetheart.

Perhaps we all have done this in our lives. Most of us can remember an experience in the past that at the time seemed difficult and painful. In retrospect the experience now appears to have been a time of deep happiness. In the moment we were only aware of more superficial feelings of distress. Later, we are more aware of deeper, less conscious feelings. Perhaps Roy will realize in the future his deep pleasure when living with his sweetheart. We hope that he will learn to appreciate this relationship before he does anything too rash and compromises or destroys it.

Here is a slightly different perspective. Depending on the intimacy levels that we experienced growing up, we may have difficulty with commitment and closeness. Everyone has developed his or her comfort zone of closeness/distance. Each person has a different tolerance. When we become close to another, each person must adjust his or her own zone. Often the partners have to learn to tolerate more closeness and/or more distance within the framework of the relationship.

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John 3:16

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Merry Christmas from our families to yours.

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The Frugal Vermonter

We're equipped to handle the hard times

BY BRUCE HOYT

Tough economic times have come upon the nation and the quandary we all now face is what to do about it. One age-old answer may be to laugh. Not to belittle the real hardships of deflated pensions, threatened mortgages and lost income, there is much to be admired in the way the human spirit rises to the challenge and bares its teeth at the wolf in the doorway.

Though it doesn't put any pennies in the pot, sardonic humor waves like the feathered plume on a Cavalier's hat. Here, for example, is a riddle from the old USSR:

Question: "What is 100 meters long and eats cabbage?"

Answer: The line at a Russian meat market.

A new riddle arising from the debris of crashed investment firms asks:

Question: "What is the difference a stock investor and a pigeon?"

Answer: "The pigeon can still make a deposit on a new car."

Out of wild and wonderful, but impoverished, West Virginia, self employed workers drive their ladder laden pickups 100 miles to work on Maryland "macmansions," and joke that their own homes are so close to



"Why is it West Virginia gets all the redneck jokes and Vermont doesn't," Bruce Hoyt

the river that they get new lawn furniture every time it rains. That, and other observations by humorist Jeff Foxworthy, underscore a proud attitude that scoffs at perpetual hard times.

Why is it that West Virginia gets all the "redneck" jokes and Vermont doesn't? Possibly because our grandmothers don't throw beer cans at road construction crews, as Foxworthy's fictional grannie does. We are better behaved. Still, the frugality of Vermonters approaches a laughable level.

Question: "Why do Vermonters have difficulty using dental floss?"

Answer: "Because they only use three inches at a time."

We empty everything. The bone-dry shampoo or liquid-

soap bottle yields two more uses when rinsed with water. The toothpaste tube gives up five more brushes if pulled through the doorjamb. A tablespoon of vinegar gets out the last of the ketchup or mustard. Tipping up the gas pump hose probably doesn't work, but we try anyway. Bread bags are recycled for school lunches. Envelopes from those pre-approved outfits become grocery lists. Computer printout mistakes get turned over and run through again for letters to just-as-pecuniary-friends. We reckon the cost and the savings of buying cheaper gasoline in White River Junction. And Vermont has clotheslines. Not just any clotheslines, but legislated clotheslines, protected from

gentrified tastes and proudly saving three kilowatt-hours per drying.

And we still hear our mothers' liturgy of conservation: "Stop staring into the refrigerator." "Turn out the light." "You'd better finish that or you get nothing else." "If you're cold, put on a sweater." "Close the door. Were you brought up in a barn?" Close the door? The front door is, in fact, closed for the winter, covered with construction paper left over from "banking the house" - a term unfamiliar to most Americans, ("Do you mean "securing a home equity loan"?)

One time, late night TV host Johnny Carson invited his guest,

the lean times.

At Christmas, in many New England families, an aunt or grandmother will bring out little string bags of candy, fruit and popcorn for everyone at the end of gift giving. Germans bring out a similar final gift called the "Weihnachts Teller" or "Christmas dish" carrying a few candies, some nuts and some fruit, to remind the adults and teach the children that, for a time in their history, that's all there was. We wouldn't have to reach very far back into our own history to gain a similar perspective.

Chin up. Economic downturns and accompanying humor are not new, as evidenced by an

Rudy Vallee, to his New York apartment before the show. On the way to the studio, the megaphone crooner from Island Pond insisted on going back to Carson's apartment. His host obliged, only to find out that Vallee just wanted to turn out the lights. We are a strange bunch, comical in our degree of thrift perhaps, but fit for getting over

1898 British riddle book:

Question: "Why is a stock broker in a panic like Pharaoh's daughter?"

Answer: "He just wants to save a little profit (prophet) from the rushes on the banks."

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Walden Hill Journal

Snow makes an appearance

Dec. 1, 2007

A blustery 9° as we turn the calendar over to start the final month of 2007. Fresh snow has been sculpted into waves and drifted into uneven piles here and there. The snowplow has cleared the road but has also dammed up the drives. Our neighbor's car was perilously balanced atop the snow bank blocking her drive. Her attempt to drive through the drift left her car stranded midair. We'll need to do a little digging to get out today. The sun is doing its best to shine through and bring a little warmth to the Arctic cold front that has swept down from the north. Meanwhile we've got the wood stove cranked up to take out the morning chill. The thermometer had dipped down to 2° when we arrived back home from a performance in

Wells River last night. A star-filled sky accompanied us on our journey there and back.

Dec. 4, 2007

Happy Chanukah! Our first big snow dump of the season is winding down. A foot of fluffy white carpets the ground, with the trees all dressed up in their winter attire. Ski resorts are happy to be up and running for the holiday season. The storm moved in Sunday night, continued all day Monday and is shaking out a few more flakes today as it moves on out to sea. We took advantage of a lull yesterday afternoon to snow blow the drives and shovel the stairs. Fortunately this storm brought lighter, low moisture snow, so while there was plenty accumulation, it was easy to move. Unfortunately that ease

BY ELLEN GOLD
Photos By Jeff Gold



worked for the wind too so we'll need to get out and clear again today. We haven't seen much of the sun so far this month. Maybe we'll get a bit of clearing today. We certainly miss that solar gain and are relying on the wood stove for warmth.

Dec. 6, 2007

4° but bright sunshine prevails. There's no doubt about heating with solar gain today. The wood stove is getting a well-earned rest. Deep winter

blue, cloudless skies offset by snow-laden evergreens and a fresh thick white blanket of sparkling snow complete this picture-perfect Vermont morning. I christened my snowshoes for the season yesterday with my usual aerobic circle route through the woods. Since I was hiking solo, I got the full workout breaking trail. There's over a foot of snow now to pack down. Today should be a bit easier going. I trampled down a path to the bird feeder as well. Those chickadees are emptying it daily. At least the suet is there to provide food when the tube feeder is seedless. Last year I didn't get out on snowshoes before mid January. This is more like it!

Dec. 10, 2007

Four concerts down and 4 to go; 'tis the season. We've gotten our main snowshoe loop nicely packed down. I tried extending it through the lowland wet area but found too much open water yet. In another month, the majority of that moisture should be iced up and snow covered for surer footing. For now I'll stick to the perimeters. Late afternoon is my favorite time to snowshoe if it's not too cold. The low, directional sun usually manages to find a break in the clouds by then to send golden beams through the snowy woods. Stopping by the snow covered beaver pond offers a worthwhile view of the setting sun. I usually emerge from the woods just as the remains of the sunset is spreading a rosy winter glow across the sky. There's not much time to dally this close to the solstice. Once the sun is down, darkness quickly steals

in.

Dec. 13, 2007

6° this morning after an overnight low of 3°. It was 12° last night when I looked out back to see if the sky had cleared. Sure enough, it was crystal clear with the Milky Way sweeping across the house from front to back. Cassiopeia was high in the sky with the Big Dipper lower and standing on end. Only the trusty North Star was in its permanent spot. There seemed to be an unusual number of shooting stars. I checked with Northern Woodland's calendar and found: "December 14: Geminid meteor shower-one of the most reliable." I also consulted my star gazer and saw that Gemini was directly above where I'd been looking. Of course I had originally been on the lookout for Northern Lights but was content to have discovered the Geminid meteor showers instead.

Dec. 15, 2007

It looks like the minus sign is still working on our digital thermometer with -0.2° this morning. Fortunately we have a bit of sun shining through a thin layer of clouds. That solar warmth goes a long way in this house. It's just a brief lull between storms. Chickadees are busier than usual at the feeder, no doubt sensing the big storm that's brewing. The snow blower is getting a good workout and so is Jeff. I'm keeping in shape clearing the walk and stairs. It was a multilayer shoveling to get down to the previously cleared level yesterday. Meanwhile we're off to the

Continued on Page 34



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TUES.2

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FRI.5

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SAT.6

VERMONT FIDDLE ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY CONCERT at The Barre Opera House. Tickets are \$15 / \$12 Seniors and Students / Under 16 admitted free. Susannah Clifford Blachly will be the guest soloist performing her own compositions. For more information call 1-877-343-3531 or visit www.vtfiddleorchestra.org.

SUN.7

VERMONT PHILHARMONIC - HANDEL'S MESSIAH is an oratorio by George Frideric Handel based on a libretto by Charles Jennens. Composed in the summer of 1741 and premiered in Dublin on the 13 April 1742, Messiah is Handel's most famous creation and is among the most popular works in Western choral literature. The very well known chorus, Hallelujah, is part of Handel's Messiah and the work is associated with the December holiday season and played around the world during that time of the year. The Barre Opera House. Call (802) 476-8188 for details.

TUES.9

"STAND UP, SIT DOWN, AND LAUGH." The 15th installment of the Flynn's smash comedy series Stand Up, Sit Down, and Laugh features side-splitting performances by series veterans and regional favorites including Carole Vasta Folly, MaryAnne Gatos, Oliver Barkley, and Josie Leavitt.

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FRI.12

VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT. There will be no choice but to rejoice at the wonderful collection of holiday fare in store on this program! The Barre Opera House. Call (802) 476-8188 for details.

SAT.13

NEIL YOUNG is playing at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Visit www.ticketmaster.com for details.

SUN.14

GREEN MOUNTAIN YOUTH SYMPHONY HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Green Mountain Youth Symphony creates a community of nearly 100 young musicians from more than 25 towns throughout Central and Northern Vermont. Comprised of students ages 6-18, GMYS offers musical instruction at the highest level and encourages music making in an engaging, challenging, and non-competitive environment. The Barre Opera House. Call (802) 476-8188 for details.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Nebraska Theatre Caravan's beautifully staged musical adaption of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol features a 30-member cast, live orchestra, elegant costumes, lively dancing, and show-stopping special effects. This beloved

TUES.16

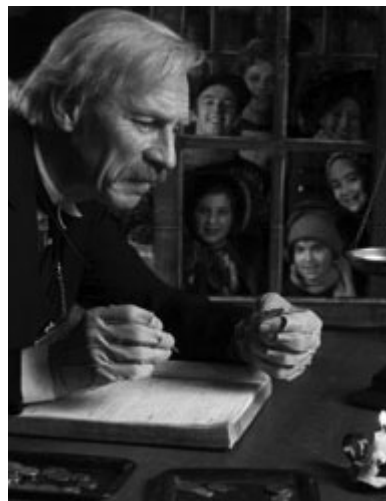
EILEEN IVERS & IMMIGRANT SOUL. Nine-time All-Ireland fiddle champion Eileen Ivers transforms perceptions of the violin. One of the great innovators and pioneers in the Celtic and world music genres, Ivers returns to the Flynn MainStage for a foot-stomping, joyful, Gaelic holiday celebration. Performing original tunes and traditional favorites like The Holly Tree, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, The Wexford Carol, and Do You Hear What I Hear, Ivers captures the spirit and magic of the season. Visit www.flynntickets.org for tickets.

SAT.20

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR. South Africa's magnificent 26-strong choir bursts with earthy rhythms, rich harmonies, a capella numbers, and accompaniment by an exciting four-piece band and percussion section. Add energetic dancing and vibrant, colorful costumes, and the mix is awe-inspiring. This young, dynamic, multiple Grammy Award-winning choir performs traditional and contemporary music, adding its own unique feel and interpretation to both. The choir performs in six of South Africa's 11 official languages, and has appeared alongside Robert Plant, Bono, Diana Ross, Jimmy Cliff, and Peter Gabriel. Visit www.flynntickets.org for tickets.

SUN.28

GRACE POTTER & THE NOCTURNALS at Higher Ground in South Burlington. Grace Potter and the Nocturnals' timeless, organic brand of American rock & roll uniquely blends funky blues, soul, and rock from decades past. The band's stirring mix of talent and hard work has earned them a loyal and rapidly expanding audience throughout the country. The quartet is led by 24-year-old phenomenon Grace Potter, whose vocal chops have drawn comparisons to legends like Aretha Franklin, Bonnie Raitt and Janis Joplin, while her scintillating work behind the B-3 conjures up visions of Steve Winwood, Garth Hudson and Billy Preston. Call 1-888-512-SHOW for more information.



TUES.30

MIKE GORDON AND HIS BAND

at Higher Ground in South Burlington. An eclectic album boasting Gordon's skillful assimilation of free-form rock & roll, calypso, pop and funk that showcases a unexpected side to Gordon's songwriting. Call 1-888-512-SHOW for more information.

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North Danville Brainerd Library

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2-4 p.m.

Wednesdays
2-4 p.m.
6-8 p.m.

Swing, Swing

Slant Six Swing Band to make rare appearance

You've probably heard they're hot! You may even already own their new CD "Swingdom in the Kingdom," but you may not have been lucky enough to see them live, since most of their recent appearances have been at private affairs. Well, here's your chance as Slant Six Swing Band takes the stage for an evening of dancing and merriment at the Lyndonville VFW Hall on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008 beginning at 7:30 p.m. And if you have already seen them, you know how good they are, so come again and bring friends.

Hailing from near and far, the six band members have combined their decades of musical magic to take Northern Vermont by sizzling storm.

Among the many parties and occasions they have played, wedding receptions have rapidly become one of their specialties. Their wide variety of dance music and crowd pleasing collective persona continue to "bring on" the party, and "Let the Good Times Roll." During their seven years as a working band, the repertoire has evolved to reflect many styles of music including swing, western swing, zydeco, rhythm and blues and country, as well as some standards. It's a seamless fusion of music and atmosphere to create a unique ambiance for their audience's listening and dancing pleasure. Perfect to warm up a cold night.

Tickets are \$15 and can be



purchased in advance at Porter and Craig, 397 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-5369 or at the door beginning at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6. The VFW Hall is located at 156 Hill Street, Lyndonville (across from the

Packing House and one block from the Outing Club). For more information, please call (802) 633-4152 and speak with Pete. For all things Slant Six and to sample their music, visit www.slantsixswingband.com.

Also at their site, you can look at their "Song Listings" page and be prepared to request a favorite.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit The Ryegate Commons Ltd. Farm and Cohousing Project.



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Miss Tess and the Bon Ton Parade bring their unique sound to St. Johnsbury as one of First Night 2008's headliners. A young, Boston-based songwriter, Miss Tess' "modern vintage" sound bridges eras and genres.

First Night 2008

Downtown St. Johnsbury hosts New Year gala

New Year's Eve marks the 16th annual First Night celebration of the arts in St. Johnsbury. Anyone sporting this year's bright green First Night button can enjoy all kinds of entertainment. The thousands who have been celebrating together every New Year's Eve since First Night St. Johnsbury was born in 1993, hear music from many traditions, including folk, pop, rock, blues, bluegrass, Broadway, sacred, silly, contemporary and classical piano. They can see

revelers can buy food and beverage at several churches and other venues. And the free late night pancake supper is always popular.

What's New?

Miss Tess and the Bon Ton Parade bring their unique sound to St. Johnsbury. A young, Boston-based songwriter, Miss Tess' "modern vintage" sound bridges eras and genres. Her Bon Ton Parade is a dynamic, solo-swapping combo, comprised of sax and clarinet, upright bass, brushes on drums, and backing harmonies. Tess' vocals can soar or caress as she strums and picks her way through an array of styles, from ragtime, to blues; country, to swing. She writes songs with the folk sensibilities of a troubadour that engage roots-devotees and newcomers alike. A small career breakthrough came for Tess when she performed on a music cruise with



The Wood's Tea Company

ballet dancers, puppets, a magician, a hypnotist and comedy shows. They can dance the night away to Big Band swing or hot rock. The kids can also work off some energy with the giant inflated obstacle course and moon walk and enjoy craft activities at the Family Fun Fare.

These forty-plus different acts and activities in over eighty separate performances at twenty venues on and just off Main Street, start at 4 p.m. and continue on through to the midnight fireworks finale. When not enjoying entertainment,

headliners Emmylou Harris and Lyle Lovett.

Phenomenal baritone Geoff Penar will sing in St. Johnsbury for the first time since graduating from the Academy. Now a vocal performance major at Eastman School of Music, Penar still has people talking about his portrayal of Jean Valjean in the Academy's the production of Les Miserables. Public Radio listeners may have heard Geoffrey sing on "From the Top," a weekly program featuring outstanding young classical musicians from across the country.

The Wood's Tea Company has welcomed Patty Casey to their group and First Night welcomes them back. "Vermont's



The No Strings Marionette Company

hardest working folk group" has been featured at Lincoln Center, and on National Public Radio performing bluegrass, Celtic tunes, sea chanties, and folk songs employing as many as a dozen different instruments from banjos, bezoukis and bodhrans, guitars and tin whistles.

Casey will also offer a solo set in her persona as one of Vermont's best known singer-songwriters.

Since the 1970s, Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys have consistently delivered some of the finest, most dynamic and most original bluegrass music ever heard in this corner of the country. With countless performances under their belts and an extensive catalog of acclaimed recordings, the Plowboys have earned a reputation as top-notch entertainers built on soulful lead singing, spot-on harmonies, fiery picking and a stage show full of energy, variety, and humor.

The No Strings Marionette Company comes to First Night with this year their version of

Continued on Page 35

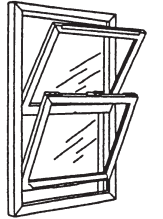
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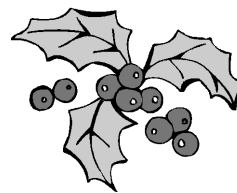
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Jim, Chris, Julie, Mike & Tim

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Woody on Words

Dropping the R

BY WOODY STARKWEATHER

People always say that we Vermonters “drop our r’s”. It’s a funny sound, *r*, and it gets changed in a lot of dialects – New Yorkers and Southerners change their r’s too. Not the way we do, but they change them. What we don’t do is “drop” them.

Some of our r’s are completely intact. The r’s in *travel* or *road rage* are right there.

Even the snobbiest tourist could hear them.

But when *r* follows a vowel our New England accent shows up. Our r’s, however, aren’t dropped; they just change the preceding vowel a little. Compare the words *fee* and *fear* as they’re pronounced here in the Northeast Kingdom. They’re very different. There’s a little “uh” sound, sort of the way English people say it, at the end of *fear*. Well, this is New

England, after all. Or, compare *hat* and *heart*. These two words sound similar, but they’re not the same. The vowel in *heart* is longer than the one in *hat*. And that’s what we do; we lengthen the preceding vowel to indicate the *r*. We don’t drop it. And that’s the haht of the mattuh. It’s not the same as the “hat of the martyr.”

Looking at the larger picture, it seems we make an awful, totally unnecessary, fuss about pronunciation. And that “we” in the first sentence refers to all of us legumes from Arizona (Yuman beans), as my very punny father used to say.

What’s all the fuss about? If a person pronounces words well enough so that we get the gist, who cares? Well, we all seem

to. People all over the world care extravagantly about how their language is spoken. The French are positively weird about it. But we’re not far behind.

Making fun of foreign or regional accents, or speech disorders, is a comic’s sure laugh. Mel Blanc made a good living doing this, stuttering in Porky Pig, lisping in Sylvester, and then there was Tweety Bird and Yosemite Sam. He was good at it, but he could have used a little more imagination, I think. I used to work with people who stutter, and I can tell you that the people who are seriously afflicted with this disorder don’t think Porky Pig is funny at all.

So why do we make fun of people who talk differently. Does their speech make us nerv-

ous? Do we feel superior if we pronounce correctly?

There is some kind of extra sensitivity about speech, some sense of an alarming otherness in the speech disordered, the foreign speaker, the Southern belle, the Apalachian rube. Occasionally, a foreign accent is found “interesting” or charming. The French accent and some Italian accents are seen this way, as are the Australian and British versions of English, but not the German, not the Indian, not the Chinese, not the Arab. The latter groups are brutish, or silly, or sinister. But always there is a strong reaction.

And we want our own pronunciation to be just right. Should we pronounce the “r” in often? Is there a sounded “l” in *balm*? What’s the big deal? If a person can be understood, isn’t that enough? What’s the point of communication any-way?

That’s a deep question. We don’t talk just to communicate information; we also try to make social and emotional contact. And for that purpose, we want our conversational partners to be as much like us as possible. The similarity facilitates contact. Half the time the information transmitted is secondary. Often there’s none at all. “How ya doin’ George?” “How about them Phillie’s?” “It’s gotten kinda cold, hasn’t it?” “Yup, must be we’re in Vermont.” After a series of these informationless salvos, some actual message may be sent and received, but usually the connection part of communicating comes first. It’s really the most important part.

E.O. Wilson, the great expert on ants, used to say that we were a little like the ants he studied so thoroughly – constantly touching, feeling, exchanging, sharing ideas. A group of humans was like an anthill, he said. We talk as much as we do because we’re constantly engaged in the act of being human, connecting with other humans, building society. Society – an enormous pile of shared thoughts, creations, attitudes, beliefs, and practices – is our particular anthill.

So, of course, when someone comes along who talks differently we react. We don’t attack them physically, the way an ant would, but our laughter at them, or our suspicion or fear, is similar, a kind of pushing away: “You’re not one of us.” Maybe it’s an atavism, a genetic leftover from when we lived in little tribes and needed to protect our hunting ground from intruders.

But, as our newly elected President has said, we have more in common than we have differences. Today, we don’t live in little tribes, and it would be better if we forgot about trivia like speech differences and tried harder to make contact, bring the other in, build social bridges. Come on over here by the fire. Have some roasted mastodon. And how about them Phillie’s?

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St. Johnsbury Academy Winter 2008-2009 Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game

December		
4	North Country (H)	5:00
6	Brattleboro SAT (A)	1:00
9	So. Burlington (A)	5:00
11	Mt. Mansfield (H)	5:00
16	Essex (A)	5:30
20	Rice (H)	1:00
23	Champlain Valley (H)	5:00
30	Colchester (H)	4:00
January		
3	Rutland (A)	1:00
8	Champlain Valley (A)	5:00
10	Spaulding (A)	1:00
15	Burlington (H)	5:00
20	North Country (A)	5:00
23	Essex (H)	5:00
29	So. Burlington (H)	5:00
31	Brattleboro (H)	1:00
February		
2	Colchester (A)	5:00
5	Rice (A)	5:00
9	Mt. Mansfield (A)	5:00
12	Spaulding (H)	5:00

Girls Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game

December		
5	Mt. Mansfield (H)	5:00
8	So. Burlington (A)	5:00
12	Essex (A)	5:00
15	Mt. Mansfield (A)	5:00
18	Brattleboro (H)	5:00
23	BFA St. Albans (A)	5:00
January		
3	Rutland (H)	1:00
9	Brattleboro (A)	5:00
6	Rice (A)	5:00
13	Champlain Valley (H)	5:00
16	Burlington (H)	5:00
21	North Country (H)	5:00
27	Spaulding (H)	5:00
30	BFA St. Albans (H)	5:00
February		
3	Essex (H)	5:00
6	Rice (H)	5:00
10	Champlain Valley (A)	5:00
13	Spaulding (A)	5:00
17	North Country (A)	5:00
20	Burlington (A)	5:00

Girls & Boys Basketball Freshmen

December		
4	North Country (A)	5/6:30
6	CVU (H)	12/1:30
9	Spaulding (A)	6/6
11	Mt. Mansfield (A)	6/7:30
17	Burlington (A)	5/6:30
22	Essex (H)	5/6:30
January		
5	Mt. Mansfield (H)	5/6:30
8	Lyndonville (H)	5/6:30
10	Burlington (H)	1/2:30
12	CVU (A)	5/6:30
14	Hartford (A)	4/5:30
17	Spaulding (H)	12/1:30
19	Lyndonville (A)	5:30/7
22	North Country (H)	5/6:30
24	Rutland (H)	12/1:30
February		
31	Essex (A)	1/2:30
2	Hartford (H)	5/6:30
7	Rutland (A)	12/1:30

Nordic Skiing

December	
13	Lamoille(A) 10:00
16	Peoples Academy(A) 3:00
20	Harwood(A) 10:00
27	North Country(A) 10:30
3	U-32(A) 10:00
9	Stowe(A) 3:00
17	S. Burlington(A) 10:00
January	
23	Mt. Mansfield(A) 4:00
28	Peoples Academy(A) 4:00
30	Lyndon(A) 1:30
7	U-32(A) 10:00
17	North Country(A) 4:30
19	Montpelier(A) 4:00
25	BFA-Fairfax(A) 12:00
February	
2	S. Burlington(A) 10:30
FS State Meet	
5	Randolph(A) 10:30
CL State Meet	

Alpine Skiing

December	
17	North Country (A)
5	Lyndon (H)
8	Harwood (A)
13	Mt. Mansfield (A)
January	
16	Burr & Burton (A)
21	North Country (A)
26	Burlington (A)
30	Winter Carnival (H)
February	
6	Essex Invitational (H)
7	Essex Invitational (H)
12	Stowe (A)
17	Girls NVAC (A)
20	Boys NVAC (A)
March	
2	South Burlington (A)
4	Boys State Meet (A)

Hockey

December		
6	Northfield (A)	4:30
10	Lyndon (L)(H)	6:00
17	U-32 (A)	8:00
20	Montpelier (L) (H)	6:00
27	Stowe (A)	6:30
30	North Country (A)	4:00
January		
2	N. Country Tourna (A)	5:30
3	N. Country Tourna (A)	5:30/7:30
7	Mt. Mansfield (A)	6:45
10	Missisquoi (L) (H)	6:00
14	Hartford (L)(H)	8:00
17	Woodstock(A)	8:10
21	Brattleboro (L)(H)	6:00
23	Woodstock Tourna(A)	8:10
24	Woodstock Tourna(A)	6:00/8:00
31	North Country (L)(H)	7:00
4	U-32 (L)(H)	6:00
February		
7	Montpelier(A)	8:00
11	Lyndon (L)(A)	6:00
14	Northfield (L)(H)	5:00

Wrestling

December	
6	North/South Duals (A) 11:00
10	Spaulding (A) 6:30
13	Early Bird Tour. (H) 9:30
16	Randolph (A) 6:00
Milton vs Randolph (A)	
30	Midd.Hubie Wagner (A) 2:00
Inv. Tournament	
January	
9	Harwood (A) 6:00
MMU vs St. J (A)	
20	Vergennes (H) 6:00
23	Essex Classic (A) 3:30
24	Essex Classic (A) 10:30
28	Mt. Abraham (A) 7:00
Essex vs St. J (A)	
31	Colchester Inv. 10:00
February	
2	Champlain Valley (A) 5:30
4	Enosburg (H) 6:00
Midd. vs Enosburg	
11	Middlebury (A) 5:30
18	Colchester (H) 6:00
21	JV States (A) 10:00
27	State Championships (A) 6:00
28	State Championships (A) 10:00
March	
6	N.E. Championships TBA
7	N.E. Championships TBA

Gymnastics

December	
12	Middlebury (A) 6:00
17	U-32 (H) 6:00
20	Holiday Invite (A) 12:00
S. Burlington	
27	Randolph (H) 1:00
January	
2	S. Burlington (A) 6:00
7	Essex (A) 7:00
17	Harwood (H) 3:00
23	S. Burlington (A) 6:00
30	Milton (A) 6:00
February	
7	Champlain Valley (H) 1:00



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DANVILLE SCHOOL 2008-2009 Schedule

Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

Boys High School Basketball

December		
4	Thursday	UCA @ Danville 7:00
6	Saturday	Cabot @ Danville 6:00/7:30
9	Tuesday	Danville @ Concord 6:00/7:30
11	Thursday	Danville @ Blue Mountain Union 6:00/7:30
16	Tuesday	Richford @ Danville 5:30/7:30
18	Thursday	Concord @ Danville 6:00/7:30
20	Saturday	Williamstown @ Danville 1:00/2:30
23	Tuesday	Blue Mtn. @ Danville 6:00/7:30
January		
3	Saturday	Danville @ Hazen 1:00/2:30
7	Wednesday	Danville @ Williamstown 6:00/7:30
9	Friday	Stowe @ Danville 6:00/7:30
16	Friday	Danville @ Northfield 6:00/7:30
21	Wednesday	Winooski @ Danville 5:30/7:00
23	Friday	Danville @ Richford 5:30/7:00
28	Wednesday	Lake Region @ Danville 6:00/7:30
30	Friday	Danville @ BFA 5:30/7:00
February		
4	Wednesday	Danville @ Peoples 6:00/7:30
6	Friday	Hazen @ Danville 6:00/7:30
11	Wednesday	Danville @ Stowe 6:00/7:30
13	Friday	Northfield @ Danville 6:00/7:30

Girls High School Basketball

December		
5	Friday	Danville @ Thetford 5:30/7:00
12	Friday	Danville @ Enosburg 5:30/7:00
17	Wednesday	Blue Mountain @ Danville 6:00/7:30
19	Friday	Danville @ Richford 5:30/7:00
22	Monday	Danville @ Blue Mountain 6:00/7:30
30	Tuesday	Williamstown @ Danville 6:00/7:30
January		
8	Thursday	Danville @ BFA 5:30/7:00
10	Saturday	Winooski @ Danville 1:00/2:30
17	Saturday	Richford @ Danville 1:00/2:30
22	Thursday	Danville @ Stowe 6:00/7:30
24	Saturday	Danville @ Williamstown 1:00/2:30
27	Tuesday	Enosburg @ Danville 5:30/7:00
29	Thursday	Danville @ Peoples 6:00/7:30
February		
3	Tuesday	Danville @ Hazen 6:00/7:30
5	Thursday	Northfield @ Danville 6:00/7:30
7	Saturday	Concord @ Danville 1:00/2:30
10	Tuesday	Lake Region @ Danville 6:00/7:30
12	Thursday	Danville @ Northfield 6:00/7:30
17	Tuesday	Stowe @ Danville 6:00/7:30
19	Thursday	Hazen @ Danville 6:00/7:30

The FilmScene



DAYS AND CLOUDS

(2007, Italy/Switzerland) 115 min. (NR).
 Director: Silvio Soldini (BREAD AND TULIPS).
 Cast: Margherita Buy, Antonio Albanese, Alba Rohrwacher, Giuseppe Battiston.

A well-to-do, sophisticated couple Elsa (Margherita Buy) and Michele (Antonio Albanese) have a 20-year-old daughter, Alice (Alba Rohrwacher), and are wealthy enough for Elsa to leave her job and fulfill an old dream of studying art history. After she graduates, however, their lives suddenly change. Michele confesses he hasn't worked in two months and was fired by the company he founded years ago. Elsa overcomes her initial shock by pouring extra energy into facing the crisis while Michele, exhausted by an unsuccessful job hunt, lets himself go, alternating between vivacity and apathy. The stress of a severe change in lifestyle puts a strain on their relationship, and they realize they risk losing their most precious possession: the love that binds them. Outstanding directing and acting give this powerful film remarkable subtlety and heart. "Sensitive and astute, it sympathetically details the devastation of economic insecurity and the regeneration of a dissolving marriage." ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY.

Dec. 5 - 11
 Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury. Call (802) 748-2600 for show-times.



A SECRET

(2007, France) 105 min.
 Director: Claude Miller
 Cast: Cécile De France, Patrick Bruel, Ludivine Sagnier, Julie Depardieu, Mathieu Amalric, Nathalie Boutefeu, Yves Verhoeven.

With France under occupation by the Nazis, Maxima (Patrick Bruel) decides that there will be no wearing of yellow

stars in his family. The Grimbergs, a Jewish family, will become the Gilberts and young François (Quentin Dubuis) will be baptized Catholic. The Gilberts flee Paris for the bucolic safety of the rural South of France, which is under Vichy control and hopefully will provide them a place to start new lives with new identities. By 1955, they are a secure, bourgeois once-again Parisian family. But they never refer to the occupation. Hannah (Cecile De France) is a stunning blond, a terrific swimmer and diver, and Max is a handsome, macho gymnast, ever disappointed that his son François is no athlete like him. When François flirts with a Jewish girl at the swimming pool, his parents exchange a disquieted glance: Could this budding romance threaten to expose their secret? As the story unfolds Director Miller will lift the veil on the past, hop scotching back and forth in time from the mid-1980s, when adult François (Mathieu Amalric) must finally confront his father about that traumatic era and its devastating impact on his family. "Intelligent and compelling, a gripping story, extremely well acted and far superior to Truffaut's THE LAST METRO." Philip French, THE GUARDIAN.

Dec. 5 - 11
 Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury. Call (802) 748-2600 for show-times.



ASHES OF TIME REDUX

(1994/2008, Hong Kong) 93 min. (R).
 Director: Wong Kar Wai (IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE, CHUNKING EXPRESS).
 Cast: Leslie Cheung, Brigitte Lin, Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Maggie Cheung.

"The best way to approach ASHES OF TIME REDUX — Wong Kar Wai's ravishing swirl of an ancient Chinese martial-arts saga, restored and expanded from his original 1994 production — is to prepare to lose oneself. I mean literally, to be thrown without compass into a thicket of undeniably gorgeous imagery and characters as interchangeable as they are operational-ly grand, with their big loves and crazy style. The late Chinese matinee idol Leslie Cheung plays a broken-hearted swordsman, rejected by the woman he loves, who becomes a hired hitman; Tony Leung Chiu Wai from IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE plays one of his blades for hire. When it was first released, with a handsome cast that included Brigitte Lin, Carina Lau, and Maggie Cheung, ASHES marked Wong (in his only martial-arts

pic) as a master of moodily avant-garde, pop-inflected visualization. This new version has been opulently restored, rescored, and reedited, with digital colorization that intensifies the lurching beauty of Christopher Doyle's inimitable cinematography. For the love of all things sensual and mysterious, see this one on a big screen." Schwartzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY.

Dec. 19-23
 Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury. Call (802) 748-2600 for show-times.



THE GROCER'S SON

(2007, France) 96 min. (NR).
 Director: Director: Eric Guirado (COMOEDIA).
 Cast: Nicolas Cazalé, Clotilde Hesme, Daniel Duval, Jeanne Goupil, Stéphan Guerin-Tillie, Liliane Rovère.

"Captivating... intoxicating. This valentine to country life is that proverbial gem that any film lover will want to discover and savor." FILM JOURNAL. It is summer and ten years since thirty-year-old Antoine (Nicolas Cazalé) left home promising himself never to return to the small village and his parents' grocery store. But with his father disabled from a heart attack, he finds he must leave Paris and help his family back in Provence. So Antoine must assume the lifestyle he thought he had grown beyond — driving the family grocery van from hamlet to hamlet, delivering supplies to the areas few remaining inhabitants. Claire (Clotilde Hesme), a friend from Paris whom he has a secret crush on, comes to visit, but Antoine is not the model of friendliness. He curtly advises one old-time customer to pay his tab and curtly rejects his father's long-standing arrangement to barter with another for eggs. But will Antoine gradually warm to his new/old life and his encounters with the villagers, who initially seem stubborn and gruff, ultimately prove to be funny and deeply endearing. This surprise French box-office hit soon becomes the delightful experience of a self-centered man re-discovering life and love in the world of his youth. "Like taking a vacation in the French countryside and meeting people whom you grow extraordinarily fond of, THE GROCER'S SON is an unalloyed pleasure, start to finish. Triumphant! A gem of a film." NY TIMES.

Dec. 26-30
 Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury. Call (802) 748-2600 for show-times.

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Lyndon Institute Athletic Events

Winter 2008-2009

Athletic Director: Paul E. Wheeler (802) 626-9164

<p>BOYS BASKETBALL (JV/V)</p> <p>December</p> <p>8 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6/7:30 13 Varsity at SF Tourney, TBA 16 Varsity at SF Tourney, TBA 18 MVU @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 20 Lyndon @ Vergennes, 1/2:30 23 Oxbow @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 26 Lyndon @ Hazen, 6/7:30</p> <p>January</p> <p>5 Lyndon @ Spaulding, 5:30/7 7 Randolph @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 9 Montpelier @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 12 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30/7 16 Lyndon @ MVU, 6/7:30 21 Lyndon @ U-32, 5:30/7 23 Lyndon @ Oxbow, 6/7:30 28 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 30 Lyndon @ Randolph, 6/7:30</p> <p>February</p> <p>4 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 6/7:30 6 Harwood @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 11 Hazen @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 13 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:30/7</p> <p>FROSH BASKETBALL Boys</p> <p>December</p> <p>4 Lyndon @ Lake Region, 6:00 108 U-32 @ Lyndon, 7:00 12 Lyndon @ Harwood, 6:00 15 MMU @ Lyndon, 7:00 20 Randolph @ Lyndon, 12:30 23 Lyndon @ North Country, 6:30 29 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6:30 6 Harwood @ Lyndon, 5:30</p> <p>January</p> <p>8 Lyndon @ St Johnsbury, 6:30 12 Lyndon @ MMU, 7:00 16 Lyndon @ U-32, 7:00 19 St. Johnsbury @ Lyndon, 7:00 24 Lyndon @ Randolph, 2:30 26 North Country @ Lyndon, 7:00 29 Lake Region @ Lyndon, 7:00</p> <p>February</p> <p>4 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 7:00</p> <p>ICE HOCKEY</p> <p>November</p> <p>3 Northfield @ Lyndon, 6:00 6 Hartford @ Lyndon, 6:00 10 Lyndon @ SJA, 6:00 13 Montpelier @ Lyndon, 6:00 17 Lyndon @ Northfield Tourney, 8:00 vs. Northfield 19 Lyndon @ Northfield Tourney TBA 27 Lyndon @ North Country, 4:00 30 Lyndon @ U-32, 3:00</p> <p>December</p> <p>2 Lyndon @ NC Tourney vs. SJA, 5:30 3 Lyndon @ NC Tourney, TBA 7 vs. MSJ at Rutland, 5:00 10 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:00 14 Middlebury @ Lyndon, 6:00 17 Lyndon @ Peoples, 5:00 28 Milton @ Lyndon, 6:00 31 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:00</p> <p>January</p> <p>4 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 8:00 7 Lyndon @ Northfield, 11:00 11 St Johnsbury @ Lyndon, 6:00 14 North Country @ Lyndon, 7:00</p>	<p>GIRLS BASKETBALL (JV/V)</p> <p>December</p> <p>5 Hazen @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 9 Lake Region @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 138 Hartford @ Lyndon, 1/2:30 17 Lyndon @ Hazen, 6/7:30 19 Lyndon @ Hartford, 6/7:30 27 Holiday Tourney vs. North Country, 3:00 30 Holiday Tourney Consol @ 5:30 / Champ @ 7:30</p> <p>January</p> <p>3 Lyndon @ Lake Region, 1/2:30 6 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30/7 8 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 10 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 1/2:30 15 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6/7:30 20 Oxbow @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 27 Randolph @ Lyndon, 5:30/7</p> <p>February</p> <p>3 Harwood @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 5 Lyndon @ U-32, 5:30/7 10 Montpelier @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 12 Lyndon @ Oxbow, 6/7:30 17 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30/7 19 Lyndon @ Randolph, 6/7:30</p> <p>FROSH BASKETBALL Girls</p> <p>December</p> <p>4 Lyndon @ Lake Region, 4:30 10 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:30 15 MMU @ Lyndon, 5:30 20 Randolph @ Lyndon, 11:00 23 Lyndon @ North Country, 5:00 29 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 5:00</p> <p>January</p> <p>8 Lyndon @ St Johnsbury, 5:00 12 Lyndon @ MMU, 5:30 16 Lyndon @ U-32, 5:30 19 St. Johnsbury @ Lyndon, 5:30 24 Lyndon @ Randolph, 1:00 26 North Country @ Lyndon, 5:30 29 Lake Region @ Lyndon, 5:30</p> <p>February</p> <p>4 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30</p> <p>NORDIC SKIING</p> <p>December</p> <p>13 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 10:00 16 Lyndon @ Peoples, 3:00 20 Lyndon @ Harwood, 10:00 27 Lyndon @ Mt. Hor, 10:30</p> <p>January</p> <p>3 Lyndon @ U-32, 10:00 6 Lyndon @ Montpelier Relays, 4:00 9 Lyndon @ Trapp's, 3:00 13 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 3:00 17 Lyndon @ S. Burlington, 10:00 23 Lyndon @ Underhill, 4:00 28 Lyndon @ Peoples, 4:00 30 Burke Trails @ Lyndon, 1:30</p> <p>February</p> <p>5 Lyndon @ Colchester, 5:00 11 Lyndon @ Crosse Br., 2:30 17 Lyndon @ N. Country, 4:30 19 Lyndon @ Morris Fm., 4:00 25 Lyndon @ Sleepy Holl., 10:00</p> <p>ALPINE SKIING</p> <p>December</p> <p>8 Lyndon @ Burke Mtn., 10:00 19 Lyndon @ Bolton Valley, 4:00</p> <p>January</p> <p>5 Lyndon @ Burke Mtn., 10:00 10 Lyndon @ Sugarbush, 10:00 13 Lyndon @ Smugg's, 10:00 16 Lyndon @ Bromley, 10:00 21 Lyndon @ Jay Peak, 10:00 30 Lyndon @ Burke Mtn., 10:00</p> <p>February</p> <p>6 Lyndon @ Smugg's (Essex), 10:00 7 Lyndon @ Smugg's (Essex), 10:00 12 Lyndon @ Stowe, 10:00 17 Lyndon @ Sugarbush, 9:30 20 Lyndon @ Smugg's, 9:30</p> <p>March</p> <p>2 Lyndon @ Stowe, 9:30 4 TBA, 9:30</p>
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GO VIKINGS!

What's happening at town hall

Barnet

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

November 10, 2008

Budget Presentation - Asst. Judge Roy Vance appeared to present the proposed County budget for 2009-2010 to the Board. The proposed spending for the year will total \$389,956 which includes \$127,556 for the Sheriff's Department. This is compared to a total budget of \$383,604 last year. Roy went through the line items explaining the changes. The Towns in Caledonia County paid \$283,725 in taxes to the County last year. This year's figure is expected to be slightly higher. Once the County receives the State report of estimated fair market values in each town as of Dec. 31, 2008, they will notify each town of the assessed tax for the 2009 town budget.

Town Garage - Barnet residents Lawrence and Cynthia Ruggles appeared to express their concerns about the construction of the new garage. They stated that several town residents have approached Larry with questions about the construction. Larry has offered, both in writing and verbally, to help the Selectmen with oversight of the construction work. He restated his offer to do this work for the remainder of the project for no charge. He felt that if the Board does not wish to take him up on his offer, then several issues need to be aired in public. Stan Robinson stated he is very interested in having Larry help out. Ted Faris asked him to talk about his list of concerns. Larry stated that his concerns deal with:

- construction details and design;
- budget and whether town will build it for the \$280,000 estimate given out;
- presented pictures taken today and he is concerned about the quality of the work;
- concerned that one of anchor

bolts has a large crack in it. The board accepted Ruggles offer to consult on the project.

Snowmobile Travel - Ross Page appeared to request use of a portion of Somerhill Road in West Barnet for snowmobile travel this coming winter. The portion of the road needed would run from Richard Price's land to the property of Lenton and travel would be on the side of the road. Road Foreman Tim Gibbs was present and he is fine with this but did feel that Ross should talk with the Lenton's about this as they will be most affected by the noise. The Board approved the request.

Fire Committee - Barnet Fire District Prudential Committee member Gail Warnaar appeared to inform the Selectmen that one of their trustees (Garry Dunbar) has resigned. Gail is asking the Board to appoint Joshua Puffer to fill this vacancy until their annual meeting in January. They do need an immediate appointment as they are dealing with issues involving the possible purchase of the water system. The board approved the appointment.

Town Garage - Construction costs as of Nov. 7, 2008 are \$189,243 plus \$70,000 for the land acquisition.

Danville

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

November 6, 2008

Road Agent - Kevin Gadapee reported that the Highway Department has completed the installation of the box culvert on Calkins Camp Road, has the asphalt base coat applied to the Joes Brook Road project, has completed hauling the 7730 yards of winter sand, is grading roads and cleaning culverts. The work camp crew has

also been cutting brush along road sides for the past week. In preparation for winter they will be whipping culverts and marking roadside hazards for plowing, they will be installing plow frames and sanders on the trucks and doing other scheduled maintenance. The garage door in the old garage was broken due to a broken cable and rotten door frame and will be replaced next week. In the off and on discussion about the school road, Marvin asked if it would be of any advantage to the town if they were to take over the school road and make it a town road. After some discussion, the general consensus was that there probably wouldn't be any advantage to making the school road a town road, possibly a detriment as other property owners could then use the road to access their properties as well, which would increase the traffic on the road. They agreed that a memo of understanding about the road dealing with town maintenance should be drawn up.

FEMA - Merton Leonard contacted Ruggles Engineering about reviewing the FEMA cost estimate of repairing Wightman Road. Tim measured the culvert to do the job at 110 feet as opposed to FEMA's estimate of 80 feet, but thought that the remainder of the estimate to be doable at the costs they used. FEMA accepted the 110 feet culvert and refigured the allowable cost of repair at \$275,535. The amount paid for reimbursement would be the actual cost of the construction less 10% the town would have to pay which could be up to \$27,535 or more. If the town decided to return the area to a stream and manicure the stream banks and block the road off, they would receive 90 percent of 75 percent of the repair price not including mitigation which would be \$120,150. Tim estimated \$80,000 would cover that work and the remaining \$40,000 would belong to the town for other projects. FEMA assessment of other road damage is continuing. The board discussed both

sides of the issue and decided that a public meeting would be held on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. at the town hall to give everyone in town an opportunity to give their opinion on the future of the road on a motion by

Lyndon

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

October 13, 2008

Highway Report - The Board reviewed the highway report as of the week ended. At 77 percent through the year, payroll is 78 percent expended and the entire budget is 75 percent expended.

New Road Name - A road that now has three residences needed a name for 911 purposes. Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Kevin Calkins, to name the private road Bishop Lane at the request of the residents. Motion carried 3-0.

Liquor License - The Board approved the second-class liquor license request from Carmen's Ice Cream, Inc., dba Lyndon Freighthouse Restaurant with the standard conditions.

Pedestrian Bridge Letter - The Zoning Administrator has sent a letter to the Select Board informing them of the status of the temporary permit issued for the pedestrian bridge. Martha Feltus has drafted a response letter, which was amended. The Board approved sending the letter.

Skateboard Park Discussion - The Board would like a group of community members (youth and parents) to form a committee to determine how the proposed skate park will be managed, organize the operation of the skate park, and to fundraise for the project.

October 27, 2008

Quarterly Budget Review - The Board reviewed the actual to budget reports of the General Fund, Highway Fund, Wastewater Fund, and Sanitation Fund.

Proposed Cuts - Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Kevin Calkins, to approve and sign the resolution prepared by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns in response to proposed cuts in state funding for local highway aid programs. Motion carried. Kevin Calkins signed on behalf of the Board. Plowing Request - Larry Simpson of Vermont Drive has requested that the Town plow the South Wheelock Road end of Vermont Drive, which is a Class 4 road. The Town does not maintain Class 4 roads and does not have funding in the budget to add mileage of roads to be maintained. Highway Access - The board approved an access permit of Lyndon Institute for access onto College Road from the new baseball field with the conditions as stated on the permit.

November 10, 2008

Skatepark Board - Tom Noble of Who Skates, the company currently building the new skate park in St. Johnsbury, introduced his company and described plans for the proposed skate park in Lyndon. The price would be approximately \$9 to \$13 per square foot. Many of the young people in attendance voiced approval of the proposed plans.

Fire Department Staffing - Fire Chief Greg Hopkins discussed the position of Fire Chief. He no longer has the time available to perform the duties of the part-time chief. He suggested hiring a full-time chief, replace him, or delegate some of his duties to other members of the department. He spends 20 hours per week on fire chief duties.

Roof Repairs Discussion - The Board accepted the proposal of Palmieri Roofing to replace the roof of the lobby area of the municipal office building and to take the money from the generator savings account and to look at new ways to fund the generator. The cost to replace the roof is estimated at \$9,500, while the cost to temporarily repair is estimated at \$1,500.

Peacham

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

November 5, 2008

Memorial - Allen Thresher, Sr. announced that the Veterans Memorial will not be in place by Veterans Day as hoped. The following items were discussed: deposit of funds donated for the Veterans Memorial donations and the present list of Town war veterans and possible additions to the veterans list based on yet to be developed eligibility criteria. The bench near the entrance ramp to the Town Hall and the related snow plowing issues were discussed.

Resignation - A letter of resignation, dated Oct. 20, 2008, was received from Peacham Town Auditor, Don Davis, effective immediately. The Select Board accepted his resignation with regret and expressed their appreciation for the excellent work that Mr. Davis provided to the Town.

Health Officer - The Board approved the State document appointing Sharon McDonnell as Town Health Officer.

St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch

Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier

Selectboard: Bryon Quatrini, Gary Reis, Daniel Kimbell, Jim Rust, and Jean Hall Wheeler.

November 7, 2008

Three Rivers - Kevin and Ande Deforge (VTRANS) will be attending this meeting to provide the Board with an update on the Transportation Path project. The Board had directed previously that Kevin provide a bimonthly update.

Community Center - Mark Wheeler, EH Danson, and Jeff Tirey, Tirey & Associates, will attend the Board meeting to discuss their preliminary findings relative to the Community Center. I have enclosed a copy of Jeff's structural report. Jeff and Mark can discuss their recommendations in terms of snow load and heating the building this winter.

Three Rivers Update - Kevin Russell reviewed the progress made on the Transportation Path. Kevin updated his projection for completion of preliminary permitting and property valuation process before actual construction could commence. If the review of forms goes smoothly and filing can be completed with the Town and State, Kevin projected property appraisals could start the end of November 2008. The appraisals will be conducted by a private firm. Appraisals could be completed by May 2009 and Kevin hopes to have negotiations with property owners completed by August 2009, with a projected date of March 2010 to put the job out to bid. Ande Deforge said the Town would need a valid environmental documentation and Right of Way (ROW) clearance from all land owners. Ande said the money for the project has been budgeted for 2010 but not obligated. Jim Rust asked if the Town decided to scrap the Transportation Path now, would they be obligated to reimburse the State all monies the State has already spent? Ande Deforge answered that, even though that is the wording of the agreement, historically the State has not required towns to reimburse, but

it would be up to the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. It could go either way, but the Town may look into the possibility. Joe Fox asked about the environmental concerns along the river bank. Kevin Russell indicated that the riverbank area will become a buffer zone to be used by people for relaxing and walking. All has been reviewed by the Agency of Natural Resources concerning setbacks and wetlands. There is a mitigation plan in place for keeping wetlands and enhancing habitat.

Community Center - Jeff Tirey is a structural engineer hired to examine the Community Center (former Armory) on Main Street. Jeff said after reviewing the building he found it to be in surprisingly good shape. It has combination steel and wood framing, and the exterior brick is generally in very good visual shape, as is the interior of the building. Some areas of the roof have a more limited load bearing capacity, and he feels that having the heat on the building has kept the snow melted off (from lack of insulation) so the roof has been saved extra stress. Overall he sees this building as a definite salvage, but has not had the opportunity to examine the mechanicals or any hazardous material that may be present. He said they also need to look at the historical value and significance of the building. Jeff recommended the Town continue to heat the building to avoid part of the roof collapsing. He indicated he has no figures to present to the Board for cost of upgrades, but that, once a project is started on the building they will probably have to rehab the entire building and bring everything up to code. That will include electrical, heating system, asbestos removal, shoring up the frame and replacing areas that need it and insulation. Also sprinkler system and handicap access, minimum.

Community Justice Center - Dinah Yessne addressed the Board about the needs of the Community Justice Center. As the different boards and mediators provide services, Dinah felt that they need at least three separate and private areas to work from, so the one large Boardroom at the Welcome Center would not work for the Justice Center. Dinah also indicated they have seen an increase in mediations recently, possibly because of the economy, and they are offering a legal clinic once a month. Dinah suggested they look at some other properties in town which have been mentioned to her- including the basement of the Colonial Apartments on Main Street, and some space that may be available at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Cherry Street.

Outdoor Adventures

Early Season ice fishing and how to pass the time

BY TONY SMITH

Early-season ice can be very productive for a variety of species. It can also be very dangerous to walk on. One must take extra precaution in newly formed ice as it is the most unpredictable. I usually get on the ice mid to late December, depending on the year. Since trout season in Vermont doesn't officially start until the third Saturday in January, I like to focus on yellow perch, walleye, pickerel, pike and rainbow smelt. You must check the regulations before heading out to make sure the body of water you choose is allowed to be fished for these species before the start of trout season. Many lakes are closed to fishing of any kind before the third Saturday in January, even if they have those species mentioned above.

Great early season places include Lake Memphremagog, Island Pond, Joes Pond, and a few others. Each body of water has their own unique secret spots and special techniques that may differ from other bodies of water. Yellow Perch and Walleye can be found in very similar locations as they are closely related. While jigging for these species with a small fish pole (jig stick) can be most productive, fishing with tip-ups and live bait can be equally productive. I like to fish in 10 to 15 feet of water with a small minnow set about a foot off the bottom. For rainbow smelt I like to be in a little shallower (8 to 12 feet) and use only a jig stick with a baited hook.

If you don't have the patience or just plain don't like the cold, maybe hiking, snowshoeing or cross country skiing is your winter hobby of choice. There are thousands of acres of state land right in your backyard. Groton, Willoughby, and Victory State Forest and Wildlife Management Area are just a few of the closer parcels that come to mind. Some of these parcels offer excellent panoramic views and wildlife viewing of all kinds.

Victory is a great place to look for rare birds like the

recently introduced spruce grouse, the gray jay and boreal chickadee. The bog trail at Damon's crossing is probably your best bet to see some of these species. It is also very wet so bring your rubber boots from spring to fall, but in the winter the trail should be frozen enough to travel on.

Willoughby State Forest offers some of the best views in the state. There are many trails that meander their way through the woods to the tops of mountains with spectacular views of Willoughby Lake and the surrounding northeast kingdom. The Pisgah trail is perhaps the most famous trail with, in my opinion, the best reward for the climb.

Groton is the largest of state forests in our district and offers many hiking trails and camp sites for all levels of hikers and campers. The following maps provided give detailed locations of the various activities permitted on each tract of land. If you would like a personal copy that is easier to read, send me an email of the parcel you want. If you would like more details such as trail conditions or updates then you need to email Jeremy Goetz at jeremy.goetz@state.vt.us

When things are slow

My story this week as you may have guessed happened on the ice. You must keep in mind that while ice fishing, they are only two rules that one must follow.

1) make sure that you have plenty of refreshments of the adult variety as the fishing can occasionally be slow.

2) Unless fishing alone, never fall asleep on the ice!

Last year, I was out with some friends and relatives on Willoughby Lake. It was a slow fishing day, but the company was good and the food was better. One of my relatives made the mistake of falling asleep in his truck. While he was sleeping, we went over to one of his tip-ups, which happened to be one he had caught a large lake trout on earlier, and pulled it out

of the water. I had an empty spool that I switched with his full spool, and then we put it back into the hole. We set the flag up and went back to the vehicles making sure we walked back in our tracks so that we didn't give ourselves away. Now my uncle, I mean "relative" was still sound asleep when we got back so we of course woke him up and told him he had a flag up.

We all decided to go with him while he checked it, and of course, we were making comments the whole way out like: "Rick, (I mean "uncle") this has been up for awhile, I hope you don't run out of line." Or, "Rick, you know big ones bite in the afternoon like this."

We finally get to the hole and Rick looked down and expressed his surprise colorfully. "Where is all my line?" he said, pulling out his tip-up and just staring at it for several seconds. We are all looking at one another trying not to laugh, but also giving Rick a hard time about his knot, or line strength, etc. He just grabbed the tip-up and headed back to the truck swearing the whole way. The rest of the day we gave him grief about his knot. "Guys," he said. "I know that knot was good. That's never happened to me before."

After he decided to sooth himself with the help of Rule #1, I switched the spool back with his line on it and put it back into his bucket. After awhile I said, "Rick, why don't you pull that tip-up out and look at it to see what exactly went wrong." He did, and the look on his face was just as surprising as when he looked in that hole and saw all his line gone! It had now mysteriously come back. We all laughed for hours after we dodged empty cans for the next several seconds.

Next month is up in the air as far as topics, so I hope to get some emails. I will talk about the start of trout season and some winter tracking techniques. Have a great month and try to keep warm.



RESTAURANT
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HISTORY CORNER

Danville Fair ca. 1938



QUESTION: Can anyone identify the children in this photo? The above photo was taken during the Danville Fair around 1938. Give the North Star Monthly a call at (802) 684-1056. Don't forget to dig out your old photos and submit them to the North Star!



FROM LAST MONTH: Lucille Jones Oaks was able to identify the faces in this photo from the Center School in the 1940s. Back row, from left to right, Alice McDonald Hafner, Archie Hughes, Billy Carr Perkins, Daniel Jones, Betty Carr Calkins, Erma Gadapee Baker, Dorothy Page. Front row, from left to right, Charles Pillsbury, Esther Gadapee Stevenson, Charlotte Pillsbury Smith, Maybelle Pillsbury Barnett, Neil Hughes, Robert Moore, Ellen Gadapee Remick, Lucille Jones Oaks, Virginia Hughes and Elizabeth Steady (teacher).

Then & Now

Local Depression

EDITOR'S NOTE: This past winter, local author Reeve Lindbergh held a 10-week writing workshop at the Good Living Senior Center in the St. Johnsbury House. Susan Shaw, director of the senior center programs, and Lisa von Kann, library director at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, were interested in various writing workshop ideas. The workshop, dubbed "Then & Now," met every week for an hour and a half at the senior center. Rosalie Vear, author of 'Local Depression' was a participant in the workshop. During the time of this story, Vear was living on a dirt road called Meadow Street in Littleton, N.H. Her family moved from Littleton to St. Johnsbury in 1939 after father took St. Johnsbury Trucking job. In her youth, she often walked to the St. Rose of Lima Catholic School (now Daisy Bronson Middle School).

BY ROSALIE VEAR

Being poor in the 1930s was different than being poor now. The Great Depression was part of our lives and we were all in it together. Everyone wore clothes that were tattered or mended, though I was usually lucky enough to have a new dress to start each

school year with thanks to my mother's creative sewing skills. She could turn an old hand-me-down into something special and she often made us dresses from the printed cotton bags that flour used to come in. Sooner or later, we all wore shoes with a piece of cardboard cut to fit inside, covering a hole in the sole. Then there was the hard rubber soles, sold with a small

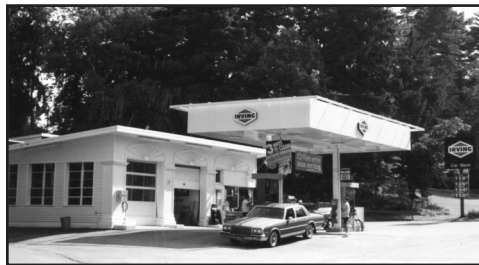
tube of rubber cement, that were glued to the bottom of our shoes to make them last longer. These invariably came loose after a while but some of us enjoyed wearing floppy soles, which made an interesting sound, especially when we ran.

There was a girl in our class who wore pretty, new clothes and was even driven to school occasionally, by her mother, in a shiny car. We didn't hold it against her, as her family owned the local shoe factory and it certainly wasn't her fault. Some people were different and we accepted that. In our class of 22, we had Teedy, the rich girl, Agnes, the mentally challenged girl, Rita, the pretty girl, Charlie, the boy who had been held back a year, and Earl, the spoiled only child, who had a penny for candy every single day. We all co-existed. I do admit, however, that I resented that boy who never shared his sweets with anyone.

Charlie, the boy who had been held back, humiliated me once in the second grade when he could read a word that I had mispro-

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nounced. I prided myself on my reading ability and I still chafe when I see the word 'island' in print. Charlie must have known how much he caused me to suffer because, later in the year, he proposed to me. I really didn't like him very much but he offered me a beautiful flowered silky handkerchief if I would marry him. I coveted that silky piece of cloth so I walked across the schoolyard with him during lunch hour to see the priest, a kindly old man who advised us to wait a while. I never saw the handkerchief again and assume that it must have belonged to his mother. When Charlie grew up, he became a missionary priest and I would like to think that it was because I broke his heart in the second grade.

Our family didn't have much but we were never hungry. We always had vegetables and berries, either fresh or canned. We always had milk, baked goods and bread, but not much protein. I knew people who didn't fare as well. Our neighbors had been plagued with health issues and were struggling with hospital and doctor bills in a time before health insurance.

Two or three times a week I walked to the grocery store with my friend to buy a pound of baloney, sliced very thin. As we walked home we always stopped behind the same wall, where she carefully untied the string,

unwrapped the brown butcher paper and removed one very thin slice of baloney which she quickly ate, before neatly rewrapping the package and tying the string. Was she stealing?

I never thought she was.

This was to be supper for a family of seven and there might not be enough to go around. My friend was hungry in the true sense of the word, and she was hungry every day. Many people were.

The Depression was caused in large part by the crash of the stock market on 'Black Thursday,' Oct. 24, 1929, but I recently did a little research and found that there were several other contributing factors, such as years of erosion and drought in the Midwest causing farmers to lose their farms. There were no social programs in place at that time. Herbert Hoover had been elected president in 1928 largely by denouncing help for the poor and needy. In 1932, 25,000 World War I veterans marched to the White House to request early payment of promised bonuses and Hoover's response was to tear gas them.

By 1933, unemployment had risen from 3 percent to 25 percent and support swelled for Franklin D. Roosevelt with his promise of a "new deal." As president, he transformed the role of government forever by creating 42 new agencies, including Social Security and the Federal Deposit Insurance

Corporation.

In 1936, he established the Works Progress Association (WPA), which employed millions of people building roads and bridges, but the extent of the depression was so great that unemployment remained in the double digits until 1941 when World War II created defense jobs

Like the rest of the country, our family was hard hit and going farther and farther into debt. My father was an automobile mechanic at a time when people could no longer afford to have cars. He found odd jobs wherever he could. One cold wintry day after a snowstorm, as I walked home from school, I saw him shoveling the streets with some other unemployed men. I remember feeling a sense of pride and a sense of great sadness. Even then I knew that

something had to change.

And change it did.

In 1939, my father was hired by St. Johnsbury Trucking Co. and would be earning a regular salary. I should have been jubilant but instead I was devastated. St. Johnsbury was less than 20 miles away but it might as well have been across the ocean. People didn't travel. I would be leaving behind my

friends and my beloved cousins. I would be leaving behind the classmates I had started school with eight years earlier. I was the smartest girl in my class, and I was popular with everybody. Even Earl was sharing his penny candy with me.

I knew that my life would never be the same.

And it never was.

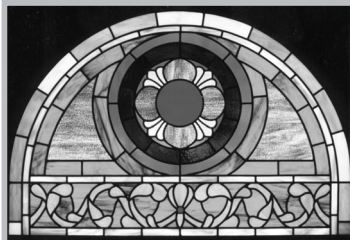
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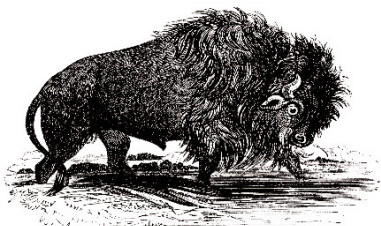
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Continued from Page 34
 Christmas Revels in Hanover for an early solstice celebration. It'll be a treat to be in the audience for a change as we experience a lull between our storm of local holiday performances.

Dec. 17, 2007

Our promised nor'easter blew in all day yesterday, dumping at least another foot of snow. Fortunately it was a light, fluffy 12 inches. The wind continued throughout today which made our second chore of clearing more difficult to accomplish. A coating of ice had added

some weight to the snow, making it harder to move as well. The over zealous snowplow had left a thick, compacted wall of sand, ice and snow across both drives. I guess the town's new fangled plow doesn't allow the driver to lift the blade at the driveway the way he used to. Oh well, at least the roads are well maintained. In deference to the storm, our Pumpkin Hill concert was rescheduled for today. Yesterday was no day to be out. We'll see how we fare tonight. Single digit temps make it harder to remain outdoors for long, especially with



gusting winds.

Dec. 20, 2007

More snow today after a 2 day hiatus from shoveling and snow blowing. We got our exercise just opening our snowshoe loop through the back woods. The straight end of my ski pole measured down 25 inches

through the snow but the snowshoes packed down at more like 9 or 10 inches. Jeff and I took turns breaking trail. Next time we'll venture across the brook and reopen the path to the logging road. Meanwhile we'll need to circle through the woods a few more times to keep that path open.

Dec. 22, 2007

Winter officially arrived in the wee hours this morning. We've passed the shortest day and are creeping towards increased daylight. A nearly full moon, reflecting off the snow kept the longest night from being too dimly dark. Trees are still heavily laden with thick, fluffy snow. A bit of frost coating is keeping the wind from stripping the branches. Osier shrubs and apple trees are adorned with small clumps of white snow blossoms. We took a drive after recycling to give Jeff a chance to capture a bit of this winter beauty on camera.

Dec. 24, 2007

We had a brief visit from the sun this morning and hopefully will see more on and off as the day progresses. It's a seasonable 25° after a high of 46° at 10:46 last night. Heavy rain and gusting winds melted off at least a foot of snow and did an excellent job of freeing up the snow laden bushes. It also loosened up the roof snow and brought that roaring down, effectively damming up the garage door. We chopped and chiseled and pushed the snow thrower whirring and whining through the mini-glacier until the drive was once again cleared. We have a new visitor at the bird feeder. A chunky little mole is feasting on the suet and seeds dropped by the birds. He seems awfully exposed, being dark gray against the white but evidently the food is worth the risk of being sited by some hungry predator. A fresh powder covers the ground. I'm not sure how iced up it is underneath but hopefully it won't be too bad.

Dec. 31, 2007

We're ending 2007 with snow, snow and more snow; record snowfall for the month of December. Winter sports enthusiasts are in heaven. We're getting plenty of exercise behind the snow blower and shovel with a break in between cleanups for an energetic walk on the snowshoes. It's a constant battle trying to keep the trails packed down and visible. Several times we've left home with a cleared driveway and returned to one blocked by a solid mound of roof snow. Winter has definitely arrived. Along with the wintery weather, a flock of 50 or so redpolls have swarmed down to the feeder, swooping and diving in a beautifully choreographed and surprisingly well-synchronized aerial ballet. Our small feeder doesn't even begin to offer sufficient perches so most of the birds wait on the ground as the perched ones drop seeds in their feeding frenzy. All 3 trees near the feeder plus the electrical wires are covered in redpolls. One more performance at "First Night" and then we're done for 2007. Happy New Year!

(To view an extended version of this month's Journal with additional photos, go to www.jeffgoldgraphics.com and click on "The View from Vermont")

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Continued from Page 27

“The Hobbit.” This fantasy adventure story, first published in 1937 by British author J.R.R. Tolkien, introduces the Middle Earth characters that later take part in The Lord of The Rings trilogy. Two years in the making, this adaptation of the Hobbit is puppeteers Dan Baginski and Barbara Paulson’s most ambitious production to date. A wandering wizard, accompanied by a band of dwarves, draws hobbit Bilbo Baggins into a quest for treasure where faces grave dangers, both known and mysterious.

Randolph-based No Strings Marionette Company have been touring nationally for twelve years, dazzling children and adults with their marionette magic – a seamless blend of music, movement, and masterful marionette manipulation. The puppets range in style from marionettes to body beings to interactive scenic pieces, which audiences see how the puppets are brought to life, since the puppeteers do not hide themselves.

Many favorites of former First Nights are also scheduled to appear. Bands of various genres include rock-a-billy with Mike Fortier and the Burke Mountain Bandits, traditional music by Not the Best, blues by the Nobby Reed Project, jazz by Ben Schwendener, the Academy Jazz Band, and the Maple Leaf 7, swing by Big Band 2008, rock by Cobalt Blue and Catamaran. On solo instruments are pianists Pina Antonelli (classical) and Cody Michaels (contemporary) and harpist Bill Tobin. Singer-songwriters and cover artists expanding the range of musical offerings include Bobbi and Me, Josh Huntsberry, James Bentley, Masceo, Zach Ummer, Windrose, Academy Hilltones, the Bob Amos Band, the

Donahue Family Singers, and the Moore Family. Shows by Kingdom County Comic Theater, Ted Lawrence’s Mini-Circus, Marko the Magician and Master Hypnotist, and the Fairbanks Museum’s Planetarium fill the evening until poi fire artists entertain the crowd before the fireworks

finale.

The complete schedule for First Night St. Johnsbury is posted on the web at www.first-nightstj.com.

A First Night button gets people into any and all shows. The pre-New Year’s Eve price is \$10, which, organizers note; one could expect to pay for any

single show. The price for adults jumps to \$15 on December 31, but the student price remains at \$10. And preschoolers never need a button.

First Night 2009 buttons are on sale in Danville at Marty’s 1st Stop. Most area bank branches throughout the Northeast Kingdom and a num-

ber of St. Johnsbury businesses also sell them. Special blinking sponsor buttons are available for \$28 at 748-4734.

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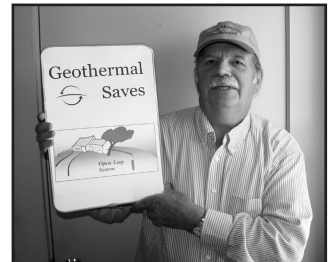


Happy Holidays and best wishes for a prosperous New Year to all my customers and readers of The North Star. If you are considering selling your home soon after the holidays and are wondering if it makes sense to sell in the middle of winter or wait until the spring please give me a call. I can review the pros and cons of selling your home during the winter to help you make an informed decision. If you decide to put your home on the market I can share with you a strategy for winter selling that will help secure that one, ready, willing, and able buyer.

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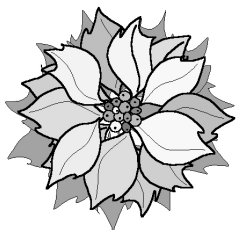


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Get your snowmobiles ready and bring the whole gang to this cozy retreat near the VAST Trail! Open floor plan, 2 bedrooms on the first floor and a 2nd floor loft can sleep 7+ people. Interior is pine board walls, Rennai heater, 1/2 bath up and shower in the full walk-out basement. Outside is cedar shakes, a porch and a stone BBQ. Road is maintained year round. Close to State Forest. MLS#2749832

\$96,000

ML#2721475 Three season cottage on private treed lot with access to Joes Pond. There are 2 bedrooms with water view, large living room with woodstove, sundeck, and enclosed porch. Also a new eat-in kitchen, a library, 3/4 bath, and a new drilled well. Shared right of way to the water. Partially furnished.



\$200,000

ML#2727767 Small ranch on 1.3 acre lot with frontage on Sleepers River. Spacious rooms, eat-in kitchen with glass doors to sun deck. Large level lot with plenty of garden space.



\$89,000



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Snowmobile Safety Course scheduled for December 6

The Caledonia County Trails Club is sponsoring a snowmobile safety course on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Waterford Snowmobile Clubhouse on the Duck Pond Road, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This six-hour course is required for persons born after July 1, 1983, who are 12 years of age or older (must be 12 years old by the end of the snowmobiling season, April 15, 2009), and who plan to operate a snowmobile on Vermont's statewide Snowmobile Trail System. Successful completion of this course will entitle you to a safety certificate that you are required by law to carry with you when operating on Vermont trails. Adults are welcome. There is no charge for the course, which is provided on behalf of the Vermont Department of Public Safety, Vermont State Police Recreational Enforcement and Education Unit (REEU) and the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST). The course will provide you with the basic knowledge to operate safely on Vermont's trails, provide an overview of the sport, Vermont and regulations, getting acquainted with the snowmobile, pre-ride preparation, riding skills, and trail emergencies.

Free pizza and soda will be provided by the Caledonia County Trails Snowmobile Club at lunchtime.

Pre-registration is required and class sizes are limited. To register, you may call instructors Dexter and Lucille Willson at (802) 748-3333.

Potatoes

Continued from Page 19
mix to the side.

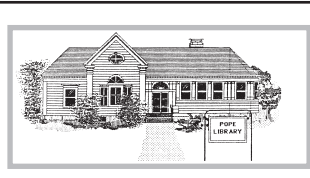
Prepare the mushroom sauce:

In the same frying pan you cooked the sliced mushrooms add 2-3 tablespoons of butter until browned. Remove the mushrooms and set aside.

Melt 4-5 tablespoons butter in the same pan and add the flour to form a roux. Cook the roux for a minute or two. Add the half & half and chicken stock to the roux and cook until thickened. If it is too thick add more liquid - if too thin you will have to add more roux. It should be the consistency of warm condensed cream of mushroom soup. Set aside.

Put the casserole together:

Lay the string beans in a large gratin pan (a rectangular baking dish will do). Pour the mushroom and stock mix into the beans. It should just cover the beans. Cover the top with the breadcrumb and onion mix. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and cook in a 375 degree oven for about 30 minutes or until golden brown and bubbling.



Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

We hope you will join us on Thursday, December 18, 5pm to 7pm for our annual Holiday on the Green. Stop by the Pope for some holiday cheer – good food and punch, continue on to Reid and Balivet for more goodies and then check out the new CCSU offices for more treats. The Pumpkin Hill Singers perform at the Danville Congregational Church at 7:30. This is always a wonderful evening, guaranteed to get everyone into the holiday spirit.

The library's annual appeal is going on now and the response from our patrons and community has been great. Please support YOUR library so that we can continue to supply Danville citizens of all ages the very best in library services.

Our latest book acquisitions are: The Lucky One (large print) by Sparks, The Catch by Mayor, The Keepsake by Gerritsen, The Other Queen by Gregory, Home by Robinson, American Wife by Sittenfeld and Fine Just the Way It Is: Wyoming Stories 3 by Proulx. Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How it Can Renew America by Friedman, An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination by McCracken and Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life by Schroeder.

We also have many new best-selling books on CD. Come in and check them out! From the Children's Room and YA Center Story hour continues to be well attended. We will have our last session for 2008 on December 15. We will resume mid January.

The YA program lives on! Eva Holden is our new coordinator and has lots of ideas to make the program interesting and fun. The YA afterschool program meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:30 – 5pm for students grade 6 and up.



COUNTRY PROPERTY - There's space for the horse and the dog and your whole family on this 19+ acre country property. Great views, too. Several acres open in lawn and fields. The remainder is wooded. The split level home has a finished walkout basement with a family room, bath and a bonus room. Upstairs you'll have two bedrooms another bath, a big sunroom and a BBQ deck. There's also an ornamental gas heater for your pleasure. New carpets and brand new 2 car garage. MLS#2716773

\$249,900



ON THE LAKE - Lake Willoughby is one of the most sought after lake locations in the Northeast Kingdom. This older seasonal cottage has hardwood floors, a fire place, a big sun porch over looking the lake and a basement for storage. Right down the road you'll enjoy your access to this pristine, sandy bottom beach, on your own 20X90 waterfront lot. You may put in a dock, have a gazebo or picnic area or pitch your tent. The extra lot is included with the cottage. MLS#2744677.

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ML2732112 - Affordable cozy home with an in law apartment or a great family room. Peaceful, country living with a babbling brook on the property. This home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and is very efficient with lots of natural light coming into the house. Just put in a brand new mound system. It's a great home at a great price.

\$107,000



BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

ML# 2728628 - Excellent location, privacy, and lots of living space. 4BR, 2-bath family home 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. 1st floor laundry, large family room in the walk-out basement, and open porch.

\$259,000

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BORDERS STATE FOREST

ML2736845 - Very charming camp with two outbuildings in a pretty setting with views, a pond, paths, borders Groton State Forest. Close to Martins Pond. The camp features 2 bedrooms, loft, 3/4 bath, drilled well, gravity fed spring, wired for generator. Gas appliances and lights. Sited on 10 acres.

\$145,000



HORSE LOVERS PARADISE

ML2741556 - Located in Burke w/awesome views of Burke Mountain, this 4BR, 2-bath log home is situated on 10+ acres of open farmland. There are two barns: 12+ horse stalls, hay storage and room for cows, pigs, chickens. The house is open and has good light, a huge living room with fireplace, 2 porches. If you like country and want a place for kids and their animals to romp and play, this should be your home.

\$325,000

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Around the Town

Community Calendar

ONGOING

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.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY: Drop-in quilting at 1 p.m. at the Cobleigh Public Library, (802) 626-5475.

WEDNESDAYS: Read 'n'

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

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

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

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

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

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.

DECEMBER

MON.1
NEK Audubon Informational and Planning Meeting 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the Fairbanks Museum. Open to all.

DEC.2
Kindermusik with Kristen Langlais, -"Family" at the Cobleigh Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Kindermusik is a community of families and educators passionately committed to bringing music to children's lives through developmentally appropriate curricula, CDs, books, instruments, and activities.

Holiday Eating and Sensible Snacking, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Cobleigh Public Library. Instructor Melody Morrison discusses the challenge of making wise food choices and healthy eating often seems overwhelming, especially during the holiday season. For more information or to register, call 748-5151.

FRI.5
North Country Chorus' upcoming performance of Handel's Messiah will be held in Littleton, N.H., on Saturday, Dec. 6 in Wells River, and on Sunday, Dec. 7 in Peacham. Tickets will go on sale soon for the North Country Chorus' 28th annual Madrigal Dinner series to be held in Monroe, NH, in January. Visit www.northcountrychorus.org for more information about the chorus and its programs.

Contra Dance at Danville Town Hall, 8 p.m. Chip Hedler, Prompter. Music by Hull's Union Victory String Band.

Friday Afternoon Tea Room at the North Danville Baptist Church for the 5th year offering fellowship and hospitality to all from 2 to 4 p.m. every Friday

through the end of March.

SAT.6
39th Annual Burklyn Arts Holiday Market will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lyndon State College. Over 60 juried Vermont artists and local seasonal entertainment. Admission is free.

Beth El Synagogue will be introducing Rabbi Kevin Hale to the St. Johnsbury area community at a welcoming reception at the synagogue at 5 p.m.

SUN.7
 December 7th, Sunday 1:30p.m. to 3:00p.m.
A Circle of Stories, Cobleigh Public Library and the Lyndon Historical Society are collaborating on a project to record and archive the stories of local resi-

dents. The project is modeled on the National Public Radio (NPR) Story Corp Project. Please join us from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. for an entertaining and engaging afternoon! Please contact Cindy for more information 626-5475.

SAT.13
NEK Audubon Field Trip to Lake Memphremagog and South Bay. We'll look for remaining waterfowl migrating south. Meet at the White's/Agway parking lot, exit 23 off I-91 in Lyndonville at 7 a.m.

SUN.14
Christmas at the Old North Church will hold its first Lamplight Service and Carol Sing at 7 p.m.. The service will be led by the Danville Ecumenical Community and their choirs.



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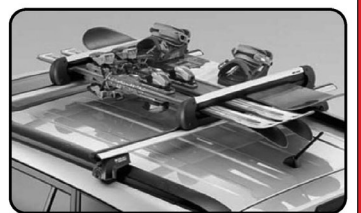
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