

THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

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LET'S GO ROLLER SKATING!

LOIS (FIELD) WHITE

I hurried through the front door of the Peacham Community House, up the stairs and into the large dusty gymnasium to roller skate, and an exciting evening began.

There were metal skates stacked in boxes near the entry, and the tune *Roll Out The Barrel* blared from the record player. Skaters swooped around the hall, their skates clattering as they rolled over the big iron register set in the floor. Gilmore Somers was floor manager, and occasionally he blew his whistle. I paid my 25 cents and was fitted with skates. I had them clamped to my shoes, and I joined the other skaters.

Young beginners were tottering around the center of the floor. Grownups who had never skated

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Forty-Six Years as Sutton's Town Clerk - Dorreen Devenger



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Dorreen Devenger will stand for her 47th town meeting as Sutton town clerk this year on the first Tuesday in March. Since 1962 she hasn't missed a single meeting of the board of selectmen. She is also treasurer for the town, the school and the village's water system. The state records were not able to confirm the extent of Devenger's seniority among other town clerks, but we are sure that there aren't many stories she hasn't heard before.

VIRGINIA DOWNS

With town meeting just around the corner, I had a yen to see how Sutton, home of my forebears, was facing its future. Nine years ago, at my children's insistence that I research my family history, I visited Sutton Town Clerk Dorreen Devenger in her office. With great pride, she led me into the archives and helped me track down the multitude of Campbell names. I knew she was still there, and I telephoned her recently and asked if we could chat again about Sutton town affairs. The next day was fine for her.

As I walked into the town clerk's office in Sutton, I was greeted by a familiar sight – two short-haired collies bouncing up and down beyond the locked half-door, waiting for friendly pats. With a broad grin, Devenger joined them, introducing the dogs as "Mischief and Chewy, our official greeters. I have two more at home," she said, "Kibby and Shelby, keeping my three cats company. The dogs are in rotation, so the others will be in tomorrow."

Devenger led me to the main office window overlooking the sprawling town school. "Having the school right here makes a nice center-of-town meeting place for town government. It's perfect for town meetings, and the school board and selectmen meet there, too." In nearly 46 years as town clerk she hasn't missed a single meeting of the selectmen. She is also treasurer for the town, the school and the village's water system.

Devenger is known in Sutton for looking after the town's money as if it were her own. Asked to comment on that, her droll answer was, "That's what I've been accused of. People will tell me, 'It's not your money – you can spend it.' But I love to have big balances.

"Town insurance is a big item," she says. "They offered to pay mine, but I declined. I have my own health and accident insurance, which is good, and I prefer to spare the voters of Sutton."

Devenger became town clerk in 1962, after being urged to take the office by several people. She laughs as she recalls the description of

the job. "They told me there was nothing to it. 'All you do is sit up on the stage at meetings and try to look important. And you go to the post office and pick up all these checks.' Well," she said with chuckle, "They left out a few things." Devenger replaced Thelma Lanpher, who followed two previous women town clerks, Gladys Green and Sadie Wark.

I wondered if there had been any nominations to replace her as town clerk in those 45-years. "Yes," she said. "One year a man nominated his wife for town clerk. There were no seconds."

Knowing Devenger as a fellow octogenarian, a widow now, I asked if she had any thoughts about retiring. "Not at the moment," was the observation of this slender, energetic woman. "These days I'm out shoveling and chopping ice. That helps to keep me healthy." A native of Lyndon Corner, Dorreen Sanderson was born the year after the devastating flood of 1927. Two years after graduating from Lyndon Institute in 1944, she married a Sutton boy, Willard Devenger.

When Dorreen first became town clerk, the office was temporarily housed in a Pelletier Potato Farm building on the Brook Road in Sutton, because of a fire in the town clerk's office in December 1961.

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THE North Star MONTHLY

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

Downtowns Need Community, Continuity and Commitment

In January the St. Johnsbury Selectboard had two discussions about a proposal to convert the second and third floor of the so-called 1867 building on Railroad Street to an emergency shelter and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence. The Board met with representatives of Gilman Housing Trust, the nonprofit developer of the property, and Umbrella, the nonprofit organization proposing to manage the program.

Let me say without pause that Gilman Housing and Umbrella have long records of well executed projects. Both are highly capable in their property- and program-development. Further, I have no doubt that there is a need for emergency shelters and apartments for transitional housing for victims of domestic violence. But Railroad Street is not the place.

St. Johnsbury's Railroad Street neighborhood needs to favor residential development - of a permanent kind, not short term or transitional. To be successful, and at the same time safe and desirable, downtowns like St. Johnsbury's need to have residents who have a sense of belonging, that is they share in community, continuity and commitment. A successful downtown needs to have residents who call it their own and are likely to stay for more than emergency shelter or temporary housing.

Last year I had a chance to get to know the neighborhood known widely as Boston's North End. With roots in the days of Paul Revere, the North End was the traditional first stop for immigrants in Boston from Europe. Today it is a diverse neighborhood populated by Italian immigrants and young professionals. The North End has busy shops and restaurants, neighborhood groceries and residents in evidence who watch what goes on and care for it as their own. I met one building owner, a landlord who is the fifth generation of his family to own his four-story building on Hanover Street, a busy street through the heart of the North End. His mother lives on the ground floor.

I am a fan of Jane Jacobs, whose 1961 *Death and Life of Great American Cities* describes an antidote to America's suburbs and regional malls. Jacobs favors diverse downtowns with residential development as well, and she describes the importance of the familiarity between people and their place. Those of us who live beside the village green in places like Danville take that for granted, but we shouldn't take it for granted in places like St. Johnsbury.

Neighborhoods like Railroad Street will not fare well if they are populated by businesses and people in transition. They need people who are committed, people who care and people who opt to stay.

I will long remember getting a note from Janet Egizi, the wife of the butcher at R&J Meats, when a member of my family was in the hospital. That's the kind of familiarity I'm talking about. I am a huge admirer of Diane and Mark LaRose who last year sold their home on the fringe of St. Johnsbury, bought the Pythian Block on upper Eastern Avenue and moved into the top floor. That's commitment.

I'd like to see more people like the LaRoses join the downtown St. Johnsbury community and stake their claim in its future. I'd like to see more apartments, maybe even condominiums, where people can live, in part anyway, without driving a car for most of their daily needs. I'd like to see it become a neighborhood where people stay and watch what goes on and care for it as their own.

Community economic development should begin with planning driven by the people who live and who work there. If those people agree, the solutions will be popular, the scarce public resources will be well spent, and private money will follow.

Terry Hoffer

Low Value Screenings

It is satisfying to purchase a service and discover the experience to be well worth the expense. Whether it is attending a concert or theatrical performance, getting a hair cut, eating out, having a massage or going to the movies, we all have some personal balance that weighs the value of the experience against the cost. If perceived as sufficiently pleasant, the experience is deemed worthwhile. The opposite is equally true. I suspect that all of us have left a theater, restaurant, gallery or sporting venue admonishing ourselves with "That was a waste of money!" However, the value of a service, or lack thereof, is sometime unclear.

Now and again bulletins and mailings appear advertising that screening tests for various forms of vascular disease, "hardening of the arteries," will be available in the community. These screening assessments use proven, painless technology to test for narrowing of the arteries to the brain (called carotid artery stenosis), the legs (peripheral arterial disease) and for widening of the main artery in the abdomen (abdominal aortic aneurysm), which might foretell the fatal rupture of this blood vessel. Payment is due at the time of service. Those providing the screening will not bill insurance, perhaps because most, if not all health insurance does not pay for these services. A recent advertisement that I saw listed a charge of about \$130 for all the screening tests (an additional test for osteoporosis — thinning of the bones — is included in the package) or about \$50 for each individual test.

How valuable are these screening tests? A key part of the answer to this question is the word "screening." Screening implies that the person undergoing the examination has no signs or symptoms of the problem being screened for. (When signs or symptoms are present, testing is then for diagnostic purposes, not screening. The probability of finding a problem is higher when testing is done for diagnostic, rather than screening, purposes.)

The benefits and harms of screening tests are evaluated by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). This national committee of experts in the fields of prevention, evidence-based medicine and primary care rigorously review the scientific evidence on the effectiveness of various preventive services and screening tests. They then issue recommendations for or against the screening test or, if the evidence is insufficient or equivocal, report that further research on the preventive service under review is needed and that currently no recommendation can be made for or against the service or test.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force advocates performing those screening tests that identify conditions for which initiating treatment before symptoms develop will lead to a better outcome — ideally, longer and healthier lives — than waiting for symptoms to develop before starting treatment. The USPSTF advises against performing a screening test when the harms of screening out weigh the benefits. The harms from a screening test usually are not due to the actual performance of the test, but rather what follows from the results.

As good as they are, medical tests are not 100% accurate. Normal test results can be found in people who have disease (a false negative result) and abnormal results found in people without disease (a false positive result). When a disease or health condition is not particularly common, a screening test for the disease has to be very good to avoid falsely positive or negative results. And that is where the harm of screening tests comes in.

(Please See *Low Value* on Page 4)

THE North Star MONTHLY

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

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

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

DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to publication.

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Rubber Factory Makes Four Thousand Pairs of Boots and Shoes a Day Authorities Fear for Safety and Ban Coasting on Village Streets



THE NORTH STAR

February 2, 1877

The State of Maine pays five dollars bounty for every bear killed within its limits. Last year five hundred and forty nine were killed costing the State 2,745 dollars.

The recent announcement that Governor Fairbanks, by advice of physicians, had determined to spend the remaining months of winter South, was incorrect. No necessity exists for such a departure, his health being so much improved that his speedy and complete restoration seems assured.

Another Failure - Miles Hovey of Waterford has failed with large liabilities and assets sufficient to pay only a small per cent on the dollar. He has been known as a large farmer with big barns, etc. and was considered very prosperous. His creditors are quite numerous.

Sickness - Rev. Dr. W. H. Lord

of Bethany Church, Montpelier is seriously ill of inflammation of the kidneys and bladder making it necessary to keep him under the influence of chloroform a part of the time. James T. Thurston, president of the Vermont Mutual, is also incapacitated from attending to business because of nervous prostration.

February 9, 1877

The principal of a Des Moines, Iowa school raised a false alarm of fire as an experiment, just to see how quickly the children could get out of the building. The panic was a striking success, and several children were slightly hurt.

The ice in the pond at Paddock village settled down upon the main pipe of the village water works of St. Johnsbury last week Monday evening, breaking the pipe that supplies Paddock village and the east and stopping all flow of water through the village for about thirty hours.

Hayden, who is now confined at Windsor for the murder of his wife at Derby Line last summer, will be tried this month at Irasburg. He is to have John L. Edwards and Gen. W. W. Grout, two of the ablest lawyers in this part of the State to defend him. The only possible line of defense will be that of insanity caused by excessive dissipation.

The overseer of the poor in Montpelier has taken care of some three hundred tramps during the past year.

February 16, 1877

Patent Right Notes - The New York legislature has passed a law to protect its rural population against the wiles of patent right vendors who perambulate the country, selling rights and taking promissory notes for bogus patents. The words "given for a patent right" must be written or printed across the face of the note, and any person who takes or sells a note without this endorsement is to be guilty of a misdemeanor. After all the exposures of this kind of frauds, which have been made in the newspapers, it would seem that any man who would now allow himself to be cheated into giving his note for a bogus patent would deserve to lose his money. He must be either lacking in common sense or must have failed to take a newspaper in which case he deserves no sympathy. Still the state is under obligation to take care of its feeble minded citizens in some way, and the law above referred to is a good one.

The proprietor of the Rubber Works at Rochester, NY, Mr. J.T. Stewart, is the only manufacturer of rubber boots in New York, and there are only seven or eight factories in the United States. The gum is imported from Africa, South America and Central America. The raw white gum is ground several times between iron rollers and then passes through the composition room in a secret process. When it comes from the composition process the gum has the black appearance of common rubber.

The next process is that of passing the rubber between chilled iron cylinders of many tons weight. A part of the rubber intended for the "upper" is spread upon, and fastened to, long sheets of cloth. The rubber cloth is carried to the cutter's room where it is cut and sent to the boot makers. One man will make twelve or fourteen pairs of boots every day and receives twenty cents per pair. After the boots are made they are placed in an oven, where for twelve hours they are subjected to a temperature of three hundred degrees. They are then ready for boxing and shipping. At this factory about four thousand pairs of boots, shoes and overshoes are turned out daily.

The liabilities of Miles Hovey will reach about \$24,000. Among the heaviest sufferers being his hired man, who had lent Mr. H his earnings amounting to about \$2,000. The hired man was expecting to soon buy a farm. Hovey's property is said to be mortgaged for nearly its value. About all of his neighbors in Waterford and Barnet are losers in sums from a hundred to a thousand dollars.

February 23, 1877

Farm laborers in California receive from twenty-five to fifty dollars per month with board.

The asylum for worn out railroad workers, provided for in Commodore Vanderbilt's will is to be erected on his farm at Low Point, about twelve miles below

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Dr. R. D. Hitchbrook says of Palestine that of the six hundred towns mentioned in the Bible, three hundred and fifty have been discovered, and the site of the rest pretty well determined.

A company of mounted robbers dashed into Eagle Pass, Texas and shot all the horses, cows and dogs in the place in revenge for the hanging of their companions.

Eight of the students at St. Johnsbury Academy were publicly reprimanded by the principal recently for hazing one of their fellow students.

Blue Light Treatment - The last Brattleboro Reformer says several invalids in Brattleboro are undergoing the blue light treatment and it is said with excellent success. Alternate panes of blue and clear glass are set in the window, and the patient is exposed to the sunlight streaming through them. It is said that spinal meningitis, neuralgia and various other nervous and spinal diseases have been cured by this remarkable treatment.

Coasting - Our town authorities have prohibited the children from coasting in our village or on the streets that lead out of it. The Burlington Free Press mentions that casualties in Winooski for one day were one boy with leg badly broken, one with gash cut fourteen inches long on one leg, another with his head split open and a fourth with mouth increased an inch or two in width, with two wards yet to hear from.

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Low Value Screenings

(Continued from Page 2)

When a less-than-perfect screening test is used to check apparently healthy people for a problem that most do not have, a sizable proportion of the abnormal test results will be false positives. An abnormal result on a screening test most often leads to confirmatory testing. The more definitive, confirmatory test may sometimes cause harm, especially if the confirmatory test involves injecting x-ray contrast or obtaining a piece of tissue for microscopic analysis, often extends the anxiety related to not knowing if there is or is not a problem, and always adds cost.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has issued recommendations relating to screening for carotid artery stenosis, peripheral arterial disease, abdominal aortic aneurysms and osteoporosis. Finding that the harms of screening exceed the benefits, the USPSTF advises against general screening for carotid artery stenosis and peripheral arterial disease, against screening women for abdominal aortic aneurysms, and against screening men for osteoporosis. The USPSTF recommends screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms only among men between the ages of 65 and 75 who are current or former smokers, and screening for osteoporosis only among women 65 and over (with some equivocation about possibly starting such screening at age 60, rather than 65).

The recommendations of the USPSTF (and concurring advisories from the equivalent Canadian committee) apply to the general population. In light of these recommendations, what is the value to an individual to attend one of the advertised screening clinics? Unless the individual falls within one of the above categories for which screening has been shown to be beneficial, or is consumed with worry that might be allayed by normal results (assuming no false negatives), I think such screening is not a good value. Better to spend the \$130 on a pair of comfortable walking shoes or a membership at the health club.

Tim Tanner

Reducing Nuclear Weapons to Zero

In 2006 Barack Obama published "The Audacity of Hope," which set forth his "Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream." The thoughtful title was borrowed from a sermon by the popular black minister of a large church in South Chicago. It is an uplifting statement of a fundamental belief that encourages many of us to grapple with difficult problems.

Obama has been praised for insisting that radical changes are needed in our society. People of different political persuasions agree that this may be the overriding issue of the 2008 presidential election. Some believe that without comprehensive changes, our country may lose out in its struggle to maintain a place of economic prominence and security.

Increasingly, however, people want to hear from Obama about the changes needed for America, and how he would bring us from "here to there." I am recommending one change that is dear to my heart, so to speak. There has been a desperate need for the past 63 years – ever since the first atomic weapons devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki – for a new paradigm to reduce and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

Some Democratic candidates have alluded in passing to this need; none has had the temerity to urge their total abolition. That position is understandable, for the political and military problems that would be involved appear to be insurmountable, at least for the moment.

By 1965 the United States had 36,000 weapons. Fortunately, since then, it has reduced its total to about 10,000. By 1985 the Soviet Union had 39,000 weapons, but has reduced the total to about 16,000 today. Together the two countries have 97% of the 27,000 existing weapons. Many are still targeted on military and civilian installations. Nine countries possess nuclear weapons — China, France, Great Britain, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia and the United States.

Amazingly, in all the years since the massive damage was inflicted on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their people, no country has used a weapon against another country. More importantly, perhaps, no country possessing such a weapon has been attacked by another country. Clearly, the lesson learned over the years is that a nuclear weapon is a country's best defense against invasion; North Korea was spared an attack because it has at least one weapon. Would it be surprising if Iran ultimately attempts to build a weapon, considering that Israel, its nuclear-weapon-armed enemy and neighbor, is nearby? If I were an Iranian, I would insist that my country do so.

So why such a fuss about the existence of these weapons, and why should Barack Obama or any other presidential candidate, for that matter, stick his or her neck out and take on what could well be an unpopular cause that makes little sense militarily, at least at present? The cause of reducing "nukes" would make sense, but abolishing all of them? The politicians would say "Never!"

There is another aspect of the nuclear arms situation, however, that must not be overlooked. As long ago as the 1970s, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said, "The greater danger of [nuclear] war seems to me not to be in the deliberate actions of wicked men, but in the [lack of] ability of harassed men to manage events that have run away with them."

During the 80's and 90's I participated in annual conferences with Soviet professionals in Washington and Moscow to consider nuclear weapons problems. Later I wrote "Negotiating With the Russians on Nuclear Arms," which described those memorable meetings. At one of our meetings Ralph Earle, a former State Department official, stated that from 1977 to 1984 there were 20,784 false indications of a missile attack on the United States. On five per cent of those occasions – approximately 1,000 times – our bombers and intercontinental missile crews were placed on alert.

Earle emphasized that doubtless the Soviets had similar hair-raising experiences that demanded cautious, prudent analyses and responses. Contemplating these statistics is terrifying enough by itself, but for how long will this incredible record be maintained, now that nine countries possess the weapons, with many of them targeted on cities with concentrations of soldiers and civilians? The possibility for such a nuclear holocaust continues to this day.

Now a new ingredient has been added to the volatile mix – something not even considered a few years ago. Terrorists around the world present an unacceptable risk of massive destruction if they succeed in their quest for deliverable nuclear weapons, and the materials with which to build them. A radical change is desperately needed to meet this unavoidable threat.

Fortunately, four nationally-known statesmen with credentials, stature and knowledge, are preparing a long-term radical plan – the Hoover Plan – to eliminate nuclear weapons. This group is based at the Hoover Institute on the Stanford University campus and is chaired by George Shultz, Secretary of State under President Reagan. He is joined by Henry Kissinger, former long-time Georgia Senator Sam Nunn, and Dr. William Perry who was Secretary of Defense under President Clinton.

Their apprehensions about terrorists and the terrorists' quest for nuclear weapons, and the materials with which to build them, make it increasingly urgent that their Hoover Plan be completed before next fall's election. Perhaps, at that time, there will be a courageous candidate willing to make this plan part of his or her program, and be willing to fight for it. The four statesmen believe that only the ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons will save the world.

John Downs



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Farms, Food and Symbolism

The text of an early Advent children's sermon at a St. Johnsbury church was "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares..." (Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.) The children were asked, "What is a plowshare?" No response. "OK, what is a plow?" After some thought a child responded, "It's the thing you hitch on the front of your truck to move snow." True enough, especially as it happened to be snowing that morning, but the wider use of plows seemed lost on this audience, and I found that disturbing.

Vermont is a farm state. If we don't know what a farm plow is and how it is used, how can we understand how our food is grown, and in a wider context, how can we understand the imagery from farming and nature that appears in literature and daily conversation? How can we understand the symbolism of a simple text, in the context of war, like that which was quoted above?

It is becoming clear that many of us have lost touch with the source of our food supply. Because of this we fail to understand the importance of subjects like the immigration issues that confront Congress. We do not realize the considerable negative impact from Congress failing to pass a farm bill in a timely manner, on state food banks, community food shelves and school meal programs — not to mention the impact on the family farmers.

It is so easy to go to the store and purchase any variety of produce at any season of the year. Although we know that much of the produce we buy in winter here in Vermont is grown elsewhere — Florida, California, Mexico, South America and even China — we fail to realize the huge gap in knowledge that separates us consumers from how this food is produced and processed.

In an article in the magazine section of the Dec 16, 2007, *New York Times*, author Michael Pollan, shows how the intensive way hogs are raised in United States relates to the rise in the occurrence of antibiotic resistant strains of Staphylococcus bacteria that kill 19,000 people each year in the U.S. Raising hogs or poultry intensively requires the addition of antibiotics to their feed to prevent infections that would surely occur with so many animals crowded together. Antibiotic residues remain in the meat and are passed along the food chain to humans. When disease-causing bacteria, always lurking in our bodies, are exposed frequently to antibiotics their rapid rate of reproduction allows mutant or new strains to develop that are resistant to many commonly used antibiotics. This creates a problem in treating human disease. How many of us enjoying a pork roast ever think of that? What a price to pay for our cheap food.

We don't even have to know how to prepare much of the food we buy, all we need do is read the instructions on the package. We may not even recognize foods in their natural form. For example many people think that potatoes, those most basic of staples, are found only in a box in processed form - just add water and heat - et voila - mashed potatoes; others have never known the delight of fresh peas right out of the pod.

During the last St. Johnsbury OSHER lecture series, where "Food" was the major theme, the issue of food preparation was discussed. Encouraging people to buy fresh local produce, or to have a community garden, is a great idea but it is also important to teach people how to prepare what they buy or grow. Cooking is a skill that used to be taught at home or in school, but with today's busy life styles, there is little time for cooking, or learning how to prepare fresh food.

The lack of a basic understanding of farming has led to unpredictable government policies towards illegal immigrants. In Vermont, as in many other states, large farms rely on immigrant labor. Milking several hundred cows twice a day is labor intensive and physically demanding. The consequences can be disastrous to a large dairy operation where there is a sudden, large-scale removal of a labor force that results when government officials raid a farm employing illegal immigrant workers. The labor requirements of farmers must be understood before fair immigration policies can be enacted. When I saw the presidential candidates stumping in the farm state of Iowa, talking about foreign policy or health care, I wondered how many of them were aware of the lives and work of the people whose votes they courted.

So as we gradually move away from our connection to the land, our understanding of the expression, "...beating swords into plowshares..." becomes as vague as our comprehension of the realities of war when it is waged far from our own land. I remember clearly my first visit to the United Nations building in New York City. Having lived and worked in Geneva, Switzerland, the European "home" of the United Nations, this was very meaningful for me.

In front of the building is an impressive bronze statue by the Russian sculptor, Evgeny Vuchetich. The symbolic origin of the statue alone is significant. It was presented to the UN in 1959 during the Cold War. It represents a man with hammer in hand, fashioning the blade of a plow from a large sword. It symbolizes the human desire to put an end to all wars by turning weapons into tools to benefit humanity. This is still a worthy, though elusive, goal made more difficult by the way we have chosen to separate our lives from the sustaining forces of nature, and from the earth from which we derive our nourishment.

Isobel P. Swartz

Conversation While Shopping for a Valentine

"Hey! Imagine meeting you here. How are you?"
 "I'm OK. How about yourself?"
 "I'm doing well for 71-years."
 "You're just a kid, compared to me."
 "Well we're both kids if we keep a good attitude."
 "Did you notice we've met in the cosmetics section?"
 "I've come to watch pretty young women put on make-up."
 "No, you didn't. Real reason?"
 "I thought of buying my wife perfume for Valentine's. You?"
 "This is the shortest path from hardware to lingerie."
 "They don't have a store like this in East St. Johnsbury."
 "They don't have a store like this in Vermont."
 "Say, while we're here, lets see if these men's colognes work."
 "Work? How?"
 "We'll both try one, and see which attracts a pretty woman."
 "I didn't win the Megabucks either, but let's do it."
 "Here's one called Man. What do you think?"
 "I showered this morning and don't need to put man smell back on."
 "How about Euphoria or Obsession?"
 "Too feminine sounding. I wouldn't risk it."
 "Here's one: Diesel, that sounds masculine."
 "I got enough petroleum smells working in my father's garage."
 "We're experimenting so let's try Explorer."
 "OK."
 "I think you put it on a little heavy. You smell like Evening in Paris."
 "I smell like 10:30 on Saint Catherine Street. Whew!"
 "But look, that pretty young lady putting on mascara is looking at us."
 "She's winking and smiling."
 "I think she's grimacing and blinking the cosmetics out of her eye."
 "Oh, well. Back to the Mennen and Aqua Velva."
 "Stop by when you're out walking the dog tonight. We'll have a beer."
 "And laugh at ourselves."

Bruce Hoyt

80th Birthday: Carleton Crane February 9



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Dorreen Devenger Was First Elected Sutton's Town Clerk in 1962

(Continued from Page 1)

The Devengers converted their woodshed to the clerk's office, and there it was for 26 years. She recalls more than one selectmen's meeting in her home when a baby lamb might wander in. "I raised sheep on my mother-in-law's farm in Sutton for several years. Sometimes we'd have lambs that the mother couldn't take care of, so I bottle-fed them."

**Someone said,
"All you do is sit up
on the stage at
meetings and try
to look important."

Sutton Town Clerk
Dorreen Devenger**

The Devengers' oldest child, April, had a military career from which she retired recently. April is living in Missouri. Their son Chip, after several years as teaching principal in East Haven, has a new position in the man-

agement of Silver Bay Resort in New York. He is back and forth from his Sutton home, the farm that belonged to Dorreen's mother-in-law. Their daughter Laurel is a secretary at the Sutton School. Son Jesse is employed in a fast food store in Florida.

Noticing the computer in Devenger's office, I asked if it was helpful in keeping her accounts. She gave it a glum look. "I don't like computers," she said, nodding toward her granddaughter Jennifer, working part time in the office. "Jennifer doesn't mind them, and I have to admit I have one at home. I like it for playing solitaire." She confided that she doesn't completely trust computers and prints out such records as the dog list, to be on the safe side. "We have 300 dogs now. If someone finds Fluffy on the weekend and calls me about the owner, I can look it up, if Fluffy is wearing a tag, that is."

Devenger chuckled as she recalled how she worked on the budget long before the computer years. "I had an adding machine that you cranked," she laughs. "That machine could add and subtract, but it couldn't multiply or divide. It wasn't big enough to



Photo By: North Star Monthly
Sutton Town Clerk Dorreen Devenger is rarely far from her four dogs. On this day she had short haired collies, Chewy and Mischief, with her in the town office. Kibby and Shelby were at home.

add up my cash book past October, so we'd total it up in October and do the rest of the year by hand, then add the numbers together." Fortunately young Chip Devenger was a math whiz in school. "When it came time to add up tax bills, he'd sit at the oak table we used in the office, and I'd sit at my desk. We'd figure them out separately, and when we both got the same answer, that was the tax bill. If not, somebody was wrong, and we did it over."

The day I visited, I met Jessie Nygren who was working on reappraisals. She is a town lister along with Robin Boitle. The Sutton selectmen are Tim Simpson, Dave McCue and Jeffrey Solinsky. Town auditors are Elaine Bandy and Janice Solinsky, responsible for getting the annual report ready. Devenger is pleased with Sutton's current and unique town reports with an historical picture on the covers and many photos inside along with the articles. She showed me the report from

last year with a picture of two men standing in front of a building with a sign saying "Sutton Store." Devenger said she didn't think anybody had identified it yet.

"We used to have a field-day and parade here in town. I had a picture of Chip as Little Red Riding Hood, and I'm walking down the street with Laurel by the hand. That picture was in a town report."

I asked if there were any pressing issues that might come up at this year's town meeting on the first Tuesday in March, perhaps wind towers, for one.

"Well," Devenger said, "the lawyer on the wind towers has been paid off. The way the land is, though, the turbines elsewhere might be viewed here anyway. I haven't seen the results of the school budget yet, but they put a new roof on the school addition last fall. As far as this building is concerned, we may have to replace the roof over the garage. Our last heavy windstorm blew a lot of shingles onto the driveway.

The Grange Hall where the fire station is located is on a bad corner. We want to build a new fire station for our volunteer fire department. We have in mind a piece of property the Vermont Land Trust owns.

"You wouldn't say that the job situation in this area is great. With some of the mortgages that come through you have to wonder how a young couple manages to pay them. There is talk about a wood chip plant here. That would mean jobs. The likely place would be the former Burke Lumber property, 100 acres in the town of Sutton. We have all the buildings and all the land, and Burke would get the driveway." She paused and grinned mischievously. "I'd like to mention that to my cousin over there in Burke. He's Selectman Sam Sanderson."

Devenger thinks for a moment, then adds another concern facing this town. "There's the town budget. The listers are doing another reappraisal. The state is sure that our land is worth a lot more than what we have it listed for. That kind of keeps you on your toes, doesn't it." ✦

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Remembrance: Jack Williams

John Alfred Williams of Mirror Lake, NH died on December 28, 2007. Jack was born in Hartford, CT on February 1, 1919 to Alfred and Ethel Williams.

Education was important to Jack as a life-long learner and life-long teacher. Beginning with Hall High School in West Hartford, Jack continued his own education at the New York State School of Applied Agriculture at Farmingdale, Hobart and Trinity Colleges and the Universities of Bucknell, Glasgow and Rhode Island earning a Diploma in Horticulture (1938), a Bachelor of Arts in History (Magna Cum Laude in 1949), Master of Arts in History (1954), a Fellowship in Asian Studies (1961) and a Master of Library Science (1969).

During World War II, Jack served with the Army in the 172nd Field Artillery Battalion, European Theater, as an operations clerk, battery clerk and clerk of battalion information and education school. During the European occupation, he directed two soldier musicals for Special Services. Jack was released from active duty in 1946 in the grade of machine gun corporal.

He mentored and counseled high school students and taught science, history, Asian culture, library science and horticulture at high schools, colleges and in the community since the 1990's. Jack was a member of the faculty at Mt. Hermon, Pomfret, Oregon Episcopal, Cranbrook and Williston-Northampton schools from 1950 to his retirement in 1984. Jack served as a librarian consultant on the Association of Independent Schools Library Committee, Quinebaug Valley Community College Planning Committee and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Evaluation Teams.

Jack met Mary Alden Covey in 1948 during their studies at

Hobart and William Smith Colleges. They were married in Big Moose, NY the following year. Jack and Mary lived on the campuses of independent boarding schools from 1949 to 1984. Jack spent summers teaching, studying, mountaineering and building a house in New Hampshire. In 1984, Jack and Mary retired to the home they had owned for 30 years on the shore of Mirror Lake.

While teaching was his profession, gardening was his personal passion. Jack created gardens everywhere he lived and could often be found digging in the soil of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Oregon and Michigan when not teaching, working in the library or with his students. His children's gardens in Vermont and New Jersey and his friends' gardens throughout New England are still home to some of his favorite cuttings and divisions.



Jack Williams (right) died in Ossipee, NH on December 28, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Mary Covey Williams, of Mirror Lake, NH; his daughter, Kathy Hoffer, of Danville, and his son, Peter Iris-Williams of Haddonfield, NJ. His children's gardens in Vermont and New Jersey and his friends' gardens throughout New England are still home to some of his favorite cuttings and divisions from his perennials.

Jack was predeceased by his parents and by his son Jonathan Alden Williams. He is survived by his wife, Mary Covey Williams, of Mirror Lake, his brother, Mark Williams, and wife, Nancy Williams, of Tallahassee, FL; his daughter Katherine Williams Hoffer and husband, Terry Hoffer, of Danville, VT and his son Peter Iris-Williams and wife, Korie Iris-Williams, of Haddonfield, NJ. He is also survived by his grandchildren Emily Hoffer of Portland, OR; Helon Hoffer of Danville and Robbi and Jeremy Iris-Williams of Haddonfield.

During their 58-year marriage, Jack and Mary traveled extensively, including a summer study program in Japan and a year-long sabbatical in Italy, Portugal and England. Much of their travel included visiting family, friends and former students and seeing the places that he discovered during his lifetime of learning.

Peter Iris-Williams

Shameless

She held the precious chocolate bar
its silver wrapper opened
with all the square sections displayed
she vowed
to save a piece for later
and although she felt
a suffering pull
she folded the other half
to put aside
then
set about dissolving
that last rapturous
bite
and when her mouth
could barely recall
the sweetness
it had known
she found her mind wandering
back to the memory
and what remained
then realized
self-deprivation
had tainted
satisfaction
with longing
a bitter-sweet
sentencing
it was then
her liberation
unfolded
had never tasted so fine
as the silver wrapper
fell away
empty
and she was glad.

Paula LaRochelle

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Come to the Table

Denise Brown



Italian women do not wear sensible shoes.

Nowhere during our summer tour of Italy was this more evident than Florence. This should have come as no surprise, perhaps, given that city's rich and fashionable history. Yet I was unprepared. As an American on a budget, traveling with teenage daughters, who strangely were not on a budget, I found the contents of my sensibly packed suitcase highly unsuitable. Comfortable shoes ready to take on miles of cobbled streets, wash-and-wear separates in mix and match neutrals, the least valuable jewels I own to ornament ears and a single wrist - my outfits screamed "tourist."

How did I confuse a visit to a cosmopolitan, all-about-consumption city with volunteering for Green Up Day?

Armed with credit cards, and with the majority of my wardrobe sins hidden beneath linen table cloths, I held my own in the outdoor seating of the city's excellent restaurants. Firenze repasts could perhaps be considered the stiletto heels of Italian cuisine.

Florence and the surrounding hillsides of Tuscany are the birth-

place of the Renaissance, the stomping grounds of the de'Medicis, the source of some of the world's finest olive oil and wine, and one of the earliest European provinces to use the fork. If not the cradle of civilization itself, it has been a festively simmering cauldron since the Etruscans cultivated pomegranates and roasted shoulders of pork with rosemary perhaps 30 centuries ago. The foodstuffs that have evolved reflect both the beauty of the Tuscan landscape and the inventive, artistic culture nourished by life in that fair city.

While there might be a bit of a gulf between the "cucina altoborghese" of the very rich and the "cucina povera" of the lesser-haves, noted cookbook author and later day deMedici Lorenza suggests that both strive for a certain simplicity and elegance. Meals are born of the countryside's best and freshest produce and meats; preparations largely eschew the imported, unnecessarily laborious, or tarted up.

Like Marilyn Monroe looking into a mirror before facing an audience and removing the first gemstone or shock of makeup that dis-

tracted the eye, the Tuscan chef brings to the table a subtle feast without sensual gaudiness or gratuitous ornamentation.

Understated or not, Chianti isn't khaki, and fava beans aren't beige; beneath the radiant Tuscan sun, the most unpretentious meals are never dull.

Think you know meat loaf? Tired of Tuesday night pasta fazole? Step out of the ordinary with these frugal mainstays interpreted for maximum flavor.

Bean and Hearts of Lettuce Soup

Inspired by a recipe from Lorenza deMedici's lavishly illustrated *The Renaissance of Italian Cooking*, I prefer the more delicate navy bean over the authentic cannellini, and opt for canned rather than dried when time is short. Serves 6 as a first course.

- 3 10 ounce cans white navy beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 4 ounces ham or pancetta, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup water, if needed
- 2 to 3 lettuce hearts
- 2 ounces fettuccine, broken
- Butter and olive oil
- Rosemary, thyme, salt, pepper

In a heavy bottomed soup pot over medium heat, sauté the onion in a little butter and oil until translucent. Add the chopped ham or pancetta and the garlic, cook for a few minutes, then add the chicken broth. Mash 1 can of the rinsed beans and stir into the broth. Add the remaining beans, and season with rosemary or thyme - several

sprigs of rosemary or the tender leaves from a handful of thyme if fresh, or a teaspoon or so of each if dried. Sprinkle on some cracked pepper and stir well. While the soup comes to a boil, heat some butter and oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Slice the lettuce hearts into quarters or sixths; do not separate the leaves. Sauté the hearts, seasoned with salt and pepper, until just tender and well coated. Transfer to the pot. Add a bit more oil and butter to the skillet. When bubbling, break the fettuccine into thirds and sauté the pieces, stirring constantly, until they begin to turn golden. Remove from heat. When the soup reaches a gentle boil, add the pasta and cook until tender. Check the seasonings. Remove the rosemary sprig if desired. If soup seems too concentrated or thick, add one cup of water and heat through.

Tuscan Meat Roll

A saucier version of Marcella Hazen's classic recipe that employs Porcini mushrooms and either pancetta or prosciutto, not one of which I regularly have on hand. Serves 6.

- 1½ pounds ground beef
- 1 slice bread, crust removed
- 1 egg
- 1 small onion, minced
- ½ cup parmesan, grated
- 2 teaspoons garlic, chopped, divided
- Water or milk
- Salt, cracked black pepper
- Bread crumbs
- Butter and olive oil
- 1 pound button mushrooms, sliced
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 28-ounce can diced tomatoes

Place the beef in a large mixing bowl. Soften the bread with a little water or milk and add to the meat. Beat the egg and add to the meat along with the onion, cheese and 1 teaspoon each, or to taste, salt, pepper and garlic. Add a few tablespoons water or milk to moisten. Mix well and form into a ball, then roll the ball into a sausage shape, about 2½ inches thick. Sprinkle your choice of unseasoned bread crumbs onto a flat platter. Place the meat roll into the crumbs and turn it, pressing the crumbs firmly into the surface to cover well and keep the meat roll compact.

How did I confuse a visit to a cosmopolitan, all-about-consumption city with volunteering for Green Up Day?

In the bottom of a heavy skillet, heat a little butter and olive oil over medium heat. Place the meat roll into the skillet. Brown on all sides, carefully turning with two spatulas. Meanwhile, place some butter and oil in the bottom of a heavy Dutch oven set over medium heat. Sauté the mushroom slices, seasoned with salt and pepper, until tender and golden brown. Add the remaining garlic, the wine and the can of tomatoes with their juices. Season with additional salt and pepper if desired.

When the contents of the Dutch oven come to a boil, carefully add the browned meat roll. Turn down the heat to medium-low, just enough to keep the sauce at a simmer. Cover and cook for 30 minutes, turning and basting occasionally and checking to be sure the meat is not sticking or burning. Uncover slightly and simmer another 30 minutes.

Remove the meat roll to a platter and allow to gather for 4 or 5 minutes. If the sauce is too thin, raise the heat a bit and boil until thickened to desired consistency, stirring as necessary. Slice the roll and arrange attractively on the platter. Spoon some of the sauce on top and pour the remainder into a serving bowl to pass at table.

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Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

“The Raj Revisited”

Ford Motor Company recently announced the planned sale of Jaguar to Tata Motors of India. It is expected that Ford will be selling at a loss.

When the Jaguar was conceived in 1922 by William Lyons, designer of motorcycle sidecars for the Swallow Sidecar Company, the British Empire ruled over almost one quarter of the earth's land mass and population. Since launching its policies of colonization at the end of the 16th century, Britain had colonized lands and peoples on every continent, including both North America and India, the “jewel in the crown” of its empire.

The economic idea of colonization was that the colony would supply commodities – natural resources and raw materials – to the empire, which could then add value through manufacture and marketing and, of course, profit at every step along the way. For the British, the colonies offered actual as well as economic space for a growing population, providing opportunities that were becoming scarce in an increasingly industrialized, stratified and crowded Britain.

British colonization started in the private sector, with early venture capitalists forming early corporations to explore and establish trade. In North America, charters were granted for the establishment of trading and settlement corporations protected by the British military. In India, the British East India Company, a private corporation, actually had its own military,

and expanded rule as it expanded trade – in spices, cotton and opium - throughout the subcontinent. Eventually, as it became obvious that colonies required government protections to insure the cooperation of indigenous populations or to protect foreign policy initiatives, colonies became public goods and strategic matters.

By the time the first Jaguar was introduced in 1935, the sun was setting on the British Empire. It was more and more difficult, financially and politically, for Britain to sustain its imperial role; after the Second World War, that role was formally relinquished (in most places).

Britain was the first major economic power to industrialize, to exploit the efficiencies of mechanization and scale that technologies provided, supported by its empire of commodity-growing colonies and financed by its wealth from trade. By the time the Jaguar was created, that manufacturing edge and subsequent national wealth had become America's.

Ford Motor Company, along with General Motors, had dominated world auto markets since the 1920s by building simple, affordable cars for the common man. By contrast, the original Jaguar was designed as a sports car, not to compete with the workhorse Model T or with General Motors' family sedans,

but to appeal to more of a niche market. Innovation and image were inspired by LeMans competition rather than mass appeal.

In 1990, Jaguar was sold to Ford, which could provide the capital for much-needed modernization and the marketing and distribution muscle to keep Jaguar competitive, although never profitable. Now Ford, with its own problems with competitiveness and capitalization, is selling the company to Tata Motors.

A generation from now, perhaps Tata will pass Jaguar on to yet another emerging economy.

Tata Motors was founded in 1945, two years before Indian independence, to manufacture locomotives, the railroads being a legacy of British rule. In 1954, it began automobile production as a joint venture with Daimler Benz. Tata is now a global presence, with joint ventures from Brazil to South Korea, as well as the largest automaker in India. Tata recently announced its own “model T” – a \$2,500 bare bones car designed for India's mass market.

So it would seem that Jaguar's journey reflects the history of manufacturing domi-

nance, from Britain to America to India. The former colony has replaced the former colony that replaced the empire as a manufacturing power. But manufacturing prowess, once the goal of a developing economy, is now seen as but a step toward economic maturity for less developed economies such as India.

Britain and the U.S. continue to multiply national productivity and wealth, now relying on the service and financial sectors. Both are vying to be the center of the world's capital markets, to be the world's financiers. India's economy will evolve; it is already investing more heavily in its service and technology sectors, as we have. It is also becoming an ever-larger consumer, with the relief from poverty that its new productivity and wealth have brought. A generation from now, perhaps Tata will pass Jaguar on to yet another emerging economy, or

perhaps the sun will finally set on the legacy of manufacturing might protected by economic colonialism.

*“Take up the White Man's burden...
An hundred times made plain,
To seek another's profit
And work another's gain.”*

- Rudyard Kipling

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.

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Everyone went roller-skating, it seemed.

(Continued from Page 1)

before were trying to remain upright and move on. Occasionally some lost their balance and fell. More accomplished skaters glided by gracefully in a counter-clockwise direction mov-

ing in time with the music. They slid past the struggling newcomers.

This was a familiar social scene in the 1930's, 40's and 50's in rural Vermont. Jimmy Bissino came up from down-country in the

mid 30's and purchased an assortment of rudimentary metal clamp-on roller skates that cost him probably less than \$1 a pair. He had a portable phonograph and popular 78 rpm records, and he launched a thriving entertainment business for the area. He rented halls and set up his equipment once a week in each village.

Bissino began his roller-skating venture at the Maple Ballroom in West Groton in 1936. Gilmore Somers of the South Part in Peacham had just graduated from Peacham Academy, and he came to skate. Somers learned quickly. Bissino noticed his skill and agility and offered him a new pair of skates in return for help on skating evenings.

Thus Somers became Jimmy's "floor manager," helping beginners learn to skate, keeping order on the floor and signaling changes in the order of skating.

Families flocked to learn to roller-skate and the means to a delightful evening. They skated at that Maple Ballroom and later at Dutton's Pineland near Wells River, the Barnet Town Hall, the Community House (gym) in Peacham, the Danville Town Hall, the Baptist Church Hall on Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury, Landry's Pavilion on Harvey's Lake in West Barnet, the Blue Moon Ballroom on Route 5 between St. Johnsbury and Lyndon, Boomer's in St. Johnsbury, the Cannonball Hall near Bethlehem, NH and the International Club in Island Pond. The most recent area rink and the last to be open was located on Portland Street in the early 1980's. By then shoe skates were available to rent, and for the last generation of roller-skaters it was a great place to skate.

Omer and Madeline Matte and their family moved to St. Johnsbury from Colchester in the early 1950's. Omer had operated a ballroom and skating rink, called "Bayside" on Mallett's Bay, and he accepted a job managing the Blue Moon Ballroom and Skating Rink on Route 5 between Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury.

The newly-built hall was open weeknights for roller-skating and



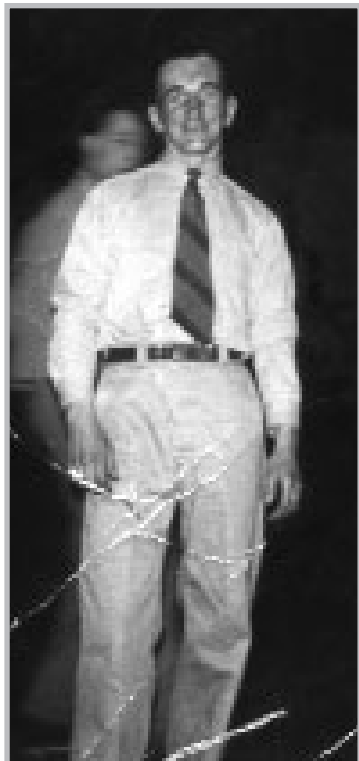
Matte Family Photo

The Blue Moon restaurant, ballroom and roller-skating rink was a busy place beside Route 5 near the town line between Lyndon and St. Johnsbury. The ballroom and roller-skating space was destroyed by fire in November 1953 and later the business was replaced by the Blue Moon Drive-In.



Field Family Photo

Author Lois (Field) White was ready to go roller-skating on her 7th birthday in 1938. Her faithful dog Laddy was likely to stay home.



Matte Family Photo

Omer Matte moved with his family from Colchester in the early 1950's to become manager of the Blue Moon ballroom and roller-skating facility.

on weekends for ballroom dancing with big bands, including such nationally known swing bands as the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Until the Blue Moon ballroom and skating rink burned in November 1953 that was Omer's full-time job.

My Dad and I first began skating at Peacham and Barnet when I was quite small. Later my step-

mother, Eleanor, joined us. Dad had skated on the frozen, undammed Connecticut River during his younger years in McIndoe Falls, so the transition to roller skates was not difficult.

I, however, staggered and fell in the center of the halls as Dad swooped smoothly around the outside with other skaters.

(Concluded on Next Page)

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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.

Young Writers Conference at Champlain College

Champlain College invites high school students from around Vermont to apply for the Young Vermont Writers' Conference (YVWC). Held from May 30 - June 1, the workshop is a chance for dedicated young writers to meet others who share the same passion for telling the stories of their lives. Writers study the craft

with some of New England's most celebrated authors and teachers. On Champlain's hillside campus in Burlington, students will participate in intensive workshops in fiction, songwriting, creative nonfiction or poetry. They'll exchange and critique manuscripts, share work with the YVWC community and hear

readings from faculty members. Among the activities, students will have an opportunity to read their own work to classic jazz with The Vermont Poetry-Jazz Ensemble, slam with The Breathing Poetry Project, kick up their heels at the Spectacular YVWC Contra Dance and present their own writing at open mike

sessions. They will hear from keynote speaker, Pulitzer Prize nominee Sydney Lea, founding editor of *The New England Review*, and publisher of one novel, two works of nonfiction and eight collections of poetry.

To be considered applications must be postmarked by April 1,

2008. The all-inclusive fee for the 2008 Young Vermont Writers' Conference is \$250. Ten merit scholarships will be chosen from the applications. Application forms, including specific requirements for writing sample submissions, are available from English teachers and librarians at Vermont high schools or by contacting YVWC Coordinator Karen Hendy at (802) 865-6451.

Dad swooped smoothly with other skaters.

(Continued from Page 10)

Those skates with rubber wheels clamped to the soles of shoes (they never would attach to sneakers) with a metal key, which was inserted into a shaft on the outside of the skates. The key tightened the clamps gripping the soles of the shoes. I found it to be similar to winding an alarm clock.

sometimes received a box of chocolates as a prize. Soft drinks were always available at the halls.

Gilmore and Delmar Petrie, both tall young men, sometimes skated with my short father. My father crouched down and skated forward and back between their legs. This was great fun to watch, and they all enjoyed showing off.

Good skaters learned to skate backwards, and they could skate and dance as couples waltzing in imitation of ice-skating competitions.

Teenagers flirted and scheduled their dates. No doubt many romances began at those roller-skating evenings. In fact I was first

"walked home" from roller-skating by a boy who became my first boyfriend. (He was a summer boy from the city who came to work on a farm in the 1940's).

We had a lot of fun that summer, swimming at Harvey's Lake, going to the fairs and dances in the area and roller-skating. We got rides with one of the few boys who could borrow his parents' car.

Sadly when television arrived in the 1950's, people began to stay home to watch the snowy screen rather than go out for an evening. Gradually but surely roller-skating declined in popularity and finally disappeared, another victim of television. ★



Champlain College Photograph

Young writers explore their creativity while writing on Champlain College's campus.

The Blue Moon ballroom and skating rink burned in November 1953

Leather straps buckled around the ankle to secure the skates. Some high school boys bought their own keys (2 for a nickel), and they could attach and remove their own skates and those of the girls. Those young men seemed so sophisticated and were much admired by the girls. Lesser teenagers waited for Bissino or his helper, a young hired fellow, to attach and remove their skates.

An evening of skating would last two hours or more. It consisted of varying configurations of skating. There were singles, men and boys only, women and girls only, couples, ladies' choices, changing partners (the floor manager whistled the signal to change, with the males advancing to the next females), reverse direction and musical chairs. The winner of the musical chairs competition



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|------------------------------|--|
| Dec. 31, 2007 | Official merger date. |
| Jan. 2-March 23, 2008 | Customers should bank at their pre-merger institution (CNB or LyndonBank). |
| March 24, 2008 | Customers can bank at any branch location. |

On December 31, LyndonBank and Community National Bank merged to form one of Vermont's most vibrant and competitive community banks.

Although the merger is now official, the two banks' computer systems will NOT be combined until March 24, 2008. Until then, please continue banking at the CNB or former LyndonBank office you had been using *prior to the merger*. Beginning March 24, you'll be able to bank at any CNB office—including former LyndonBank offices.

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No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

My culinary heart always beats to rich and sinful Valentine's Day chocolate extravaganzas in February. But, this February with heating oil at an all time high and snow piling up out the window, I am thinking SOUP!

Prepare a nice hearty bowl of soup to share with the ones you love. It sounds so very Vermont romantic.

On this Valentine's Day have a big bowl of soup and when it's gone - snuggle to keep warm. It works every time.

Roasted Eggplant Soup

This vegetarian soup has such a great depth of flavor it will satisfy even the most dedicated carnivore's palate. It is rich enough to serve as a meal with a salad and good bread.

- 1-2 garlic cloves – chopped
- 2 large onions – chopped
- 1 bunch scallions – chopped
- 1 28 oz. can of whole peeled

- tomatoes (in their own juice)
- 1 quart vegetable stock (the boxed variety is fine)
- ½ cup parsley – chopped
- 2 tablespoons basil – chopped (dried is fine)
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 eggplants – peeled and cubed
- ¼ cup olive oil

Preheat the oven to 400°. Put the cubed eggplant in a medium size mixing bowl and toss with the oil, sugar and salt. Put the mix on a flat tray so that the eggplant is in one layer (not piled up.) Roast the eggplant in the oven until it is soft and begins to brown. Take out of the oven and set aside.

In a large soup pot sauté the garlic, onions and scallions in olive oil until they are soft. Crush the tomatoes and add them along with the vegetable stock to the pot. Let simmer for about 10 minutes and add the parsley,

basil, oregano and vinegar. Let simmer a few more minutes.

Mash the eggplant together and add to the soup pot. Simmer for about 10 or 15 more minutes and salt and pepper to taste. Add a dash of hot sauce if you like.

Beef Stifado

This soup has its roots in a fragrant Greek stew called Stifado, usually made with rabbit. I think the flavors compliment beef and have adapted it to be used this way.

- 2 quarts beef stock
- 4-6 shanks of beef (chuck or brisket of beef can be used)
- 3 cloves garlic – chopped
- 3 onions – chopped
- 4-5 carrots – peeled and sliced on the bias
- 1 28 oz. can whole peeled tomatoes (in their own juice)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ cup parsley – chopped
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1-2 teaspoons hot sauce
- 1 cup hearty red wine

Place the beef shanks in large sauce pan, and cover them with the broth and water if you need it. Put one onion, one carrot and

Soupe du jour

1 clove of garlic in the pot – no need to peel these items at this point – they are just for flavor. Simmer for about 2 hours or until tender. You can use a crockpot for this stage, although I prefer the top of the stove.

Meanwhile in a large soup pot, sauté the remaining garlic, onions and carrots (all chopped) until soft. Crush the tomatoes and add to the softened vegetables. Cook for 10 minutes and let sit until the beef is ready.

When the beef is tender, strain the broth into the soup pot. Remove the beef from the strainer and discard the vegetables used to cook the beef. Set the beef aside to cool.

Add the sugar, cinnamon, parsley, oregano, hot sauce and wine to the pot and cook for about 30 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

When the beef has cooled, cut it into cubes discarding the tougher gristle and tendon portions.

About 15 minutes before service add the beef to the soup and heat it thoroughly.

Serve with bruschetta or oven fries and a salad to create a more than satisfying meal.

tion of the supermarket and contains mostly cilantro. I like to use store-bought Recaito, but you can just add a lot of chopped cilantro to the soup instead and make it truly homemade.

- 4 cloves garlic – chopped
- 2 onions – chopped
- 4-5 ribs of celery – finely diced
- 1 bunch scallions – chopped
- 1 red pepper – finely chopped
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup parsley – chopped
- 2 quarts chicken stock (can use boxed)
- 4-6 oz. Recaito (or ½ cup cilantro – finely chopped)
- 2 12 oz. cans of small red beans including the juice
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne powder
- 1½ cups homemade bread crumbs
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a soup pot, sauté the garlic, onions, celery, scallions and pepper in the olive oil until they are very soft. Try not to brown them too much. Add the chicken stock and Recaito or cilantro and the cayenne. Simmer for about 20 minutes and add the small red beans. Simmer for about 10 minutes. Add the bread crumbs and simmer for another 10 minutes. Be careful at this stage because the bread crumbs have a tendency to stick to the bottom of the pot and burn. When the bread crumbs have thickened the soup it is ready to serve.

You can add cooked chicken, shrimp or fish to this soup to make it more of a stew. They are all complimented by the flavors of this soup. Add them just before service.

Cuban Bean Soup

I do a lot of cooking when we vacation in Florida and came up with this soup in the sunny south. And, even though it does have those Caribbean and Latino flavors it functions well as a hearty soup in the Northeast Kingdom. I use a popular flavoring in this soup called Recaito. It can be purchased in the Hispanic sec-



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The Cork & Bottle

Gerd Hirschmann

Bad wine or bad bottle?

When experimenting with wine and drinking different wines more often, one inevitably comes across wines that surprise with a particularly good taste, something a bit more unusual. And every so often one is confronted with just a bad wine.

What makes wine bad? Of course there is the bad bottle. That is, wine that is perfectly fine in general, but somehow the bottle got ruined. It could be "corked," in other words exposed to a micro-organism that thrives on natural cork and sometimes gets past the best efforts to keep it out. The wine smells like a wet basement or dirty socks forgotten and better thrown out than washed. Moldy, nasty, it's nothing you would even try to put in your mouth. The smell says it all, and even though it might have the look of wine, keep it out of your system or you will pay with a wicked headache. The taste is astringent, lacking in fruit, with a raspy finish. Sometimes you may even notice a quality of paint-thinner.

Wine could also be oxidized. Oxygen is wine's invisible enemy, and when a wine gets exposed to air, it becomes "oxidized." While this may be welcomed for the short term in a glass, it's bad when it happened in the bottle. The result is flat, lifeless wine that loses its pretty, vibrant fruit scents, and it might well remind you of vinegar. The experienced wine drinker will likely notice a certain dullness in the color. In whites, it can be light to dark yellow or even brownish, but it is much less obvious in red wines.

Heat is another destructive

force exerted on wine, usually as a result of bad storage. When one says a wine is "maderized," it has literally been baked (this may happen in the holds of cargo ships as they cross the oceans in the summer). It actually tastes like Madeira and is reminiscent of almonds and candied fruits, good qualities in dessert wines or Madeira, but not called for in dry wines. A telltale sign in the unopened bottle shows the cork pushed partly out of the neck (due to pressure and expansion within).

Fine wine is a living thing, the product of controlled fermentation. Occasionally, some residual, dormant yeast will wake up, and a wine will undergo a second fermentation after it is released and shipped. This shows itself in effervescence, or fizziness, on the tongue. Of course, this is desirable in champagne, which is purposely refermented in the bottle to create the bubbles, but rarely in fine still wine.

Vinho Verde from Portugal is another exception to this, and some Chardonnays (especially from Burgundy) have extra oxygen pumped into them as a stabilizer. The extra oxygen dissipates soon after the bottle is opened, but otherwise, and especially in red wine, it is an unwelcome sign.

It's difficult to learn to identify these flaws by reading about them. Only experience and time will give you the education you need to spot every defect.

Then there is just plain bad wine. Most of the same signs that are evident in a bad bottle are in every bottle of a particular wine. In my experience more often than not, the label enticed you to the purchase. It promised raspberry, oak or soft tannins,

but might taste simple, sweetish with no smell or aroma. It might be flabby with no acidic, sweet and more reminiscent of watery grape juice than wine. Or it might smell and taste skunky, kind of like drinkable grape-flavored children's Tylenol.

Just as there are extraordinary and wonderful wines among all others, there are those

that get by and are simply subpar. That happens, but don't despair. There is surely another bottle with magnificent aroma and superior taste waiting to be uncorked and poured into your glass.

Gerd Hirschmann is a wine distributor of the VT Wine Merchants Co.



Photo By: North Star Monthly

A recent field trip from Peacham School brought a group of journalists and editors to the office of The North Star in Danville. During a pause in the conversation the current issue of the paper became all consuming. Seated (L-R) Allison Peck, Rachel Szendery, James Heroux, Olivia Kaplan. Standing: Jackie White, Theresa White, Josie Gombas and Teacher Nene Riley.

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All reservations must be made by Monday, February 4.

John Long, Artist in Wood, Returns to the Northeast Kingdom

The Northeast Kingdom Backroom Gallery welcomes the return of John Long, "artist in wood" with an exhibition of his wall sculptures.

Long, a Burke resident in the 1970's and 80's, creates distinctive three-dimensional wall sculptures by cleverly implementing the grain and natural colors of old, weathered wood. Most of the wood he uses is from barns and buildings that have fallen into such disrepair

it is impossible to renovate them. For Long, a history buff, preservation of historic structures, whenever possible, is important.

"If I am asked to tear down an old barn and I know the building is repairable, I always strongly encourage the owners to try to preserve the historic structure," Long says. "In this way, I am doing what I can to help save a part of our history."

"The weathered wood used in

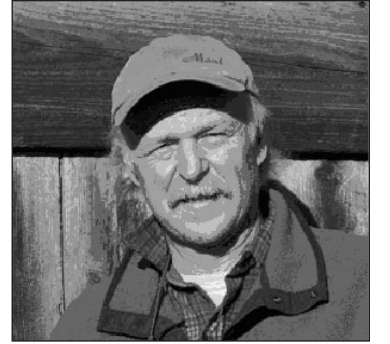
my work is from early American barns, many of which are in excess of 100 years old. I start with a sketch on paper and then transfer this design to pieces of the wood that have varying colors and textures. Every piece is cut free-hand on a band-saw. Using the grain and different colors of the wood, each scene is meticulously fit together forming what appears to be a three dimensional interpretation.

"It is very satisfying to use that material to create art that portrays a small piece of the diminishing landscape of rural America," Long says. Also satisfying for Long is the fact he is recycling material that might otherwise be destroyed.

John currently lives in Newfane with his wife, Emily, and two children. There he enjoys renovating their 1812 home, building cabinetry and furniture, gardening, hiking and snowshoeing in the great outdoors.

There will be an artist's reception at the Backroom Gallery at 430 Railroad Street in St.

Johnsbury, Saturday, February 23 from 3-5 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. The "Artist in Wood" show will run from February 21 to April 2.



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the ARTS around

- ### February
- 1-7 *Gone Baby Gone* (2007 U.S.) [R] Director: Ben Affleck. Boston seems like the most forbidding city in crime movies. Private Detective Patrick Kenzie has lived on the same block his whole life and shares a modest apartment with his professional and romantic partner. When the police prove unable to make progress in solving a kidnapping Kenzie and his partner uncover a world of ambiguity and unclear motives and a truth that proves easier to find than to figure out what to do with it. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
 - 1 Ani DiFranco, Flynn Theater, Burlington.
 - 1 Arlo Guthrie, Chandler Music Hall, Randolph.
 - 2 Dartmouth College Glee Club with Titans of the 18th Century, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 2 Arlo Guthrie, Flynn Center, Burlington.
 - 2 Ronnie Milsap, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
 - 3 Vermont Philharmonic Winter Concert, Opera House, Barre.
 - 5 Teddy Roosevelt, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
 - 6 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
 - 7&8 Teo Castellanos/D Projects with "Scratch and Burn," Flynn Center, Burlington.
 - 8-14 *Control* (2007 England) [R] Director: Anton Corbijn. Joy Division was a revered band from Manchester, England that made only two albums before the death of its lead musician, Ian Curtis. The film is a tribute to the life of the rising arc of pop stardom which begins to erode any hope for a conventional life. Catamount Arts.
 - 9 BeauSoliel avec Michael Doucet and The Subdues, Flynn Center, Burlington.
 - 9 Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 10 Broadway National Tour: "Chicago," Flynn Center, Burlington.
 - 12 Hirsch-Pinkas Piano Duo with Craig McNutt and Robert Schulz, percussion, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 14 Punch Brothers Featuring Chris Thile, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
 - 15 ALTAN, Opera House, Barre.
 - 15 Lyle Lovitt & John Hyatt, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.
 - 15 Dartmouth Wind Symphony with There's No Place Like Home, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 15-21 *I'm Not There* (2007 U.S.) [R] Director: Todd Haynes. Ambitious and extraordinary dream-world meditation on the multifaceted idea of pop legend, Bob Dylan. Haynes' multiple Dylans are played by Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Richard Gere and Marcus Carl Franklin. But Cate Blanchett, as the Royal Albert Hall-era Dylan, is the most hypnotic, capturing the spirit of Dylan. Catamount Arts.
 - 20 Extreme Sports/Hip-Hop Extravaganza, Flynn Center, Burlington.
 - 21-March 1 Dartmouth Theater presents Julius Caesar, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 22-28 *The Kite Runner* (2007 Canada/Australia) [PG-13] Director: Marc Forster. Based on the much-loved novel *The Kite Runner* brings human faces and a historical context to the tragic setting of the war in Afghanistan. Catamount Arts.
 - 22 Dartmouth Chamber Singers present Passion, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 23 Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 25 Broadway National Tour: "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," Flynn Center, Burlington.
 - 29 How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
 - 29 World Music Percussion Ensemble with American Roots, Hopkins Center, Hanover, NH.
 - 29-March 6 *Starting Out in the Evening* (2007 U.S.) [PG-13] Director: Andrew Wagner. Leonard Schiller hasn't been the same man since his wife died, and even less so since he suffered a heart attack. His four novels are out of print, and his fifth has been sitting in his typewriter for a decade. One day a graduate student shows up to interview Schiller for her master's thesis and says she plans to reintroduce his work to the world. Catamount Arts.

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Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



Once in a Blue Moon

Last December I drove to Lyndonville to do some Christmas shopping. It was one of those many-stops-for-little-things trips that seem to be part of living in this Brave New World. I thought of Maw and her shopping. When Maw shopped in St. Johnsbury, if she couldn't find what she wanted at the five-and-ten-cent store on one side of Railroad Street, she could cross the street and search in McClellans or Grants. Maw didn't drive, and she had to make the most of her opportunity on our rare trips "to town."

On one hand, being able to drive gives me freedom to shop when I choose. On the other, with the coming of the big box stores and the malls, I have to spend more time to get where there are stores. Once there, try to find just what you want on the overcrowded shelves. If you are looking for something a thousand others don't want, forget it. Whether you're trying to shop locally (I refuse to say, shop local) or have spent an hour on the road, your search is hopeless.

I remember that poor man, stretched to his limit, trying to prevent another accident, dealing with traffic, and along came a dumb so-and-so who was driving with her lights off.

I was grouching to myself as I drove south toward the mall between Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury. I drove past the place where the Blue Moon drive-in theater used to be. Before the drive-in, there were the Blue Moon dance hall and roller-skating rink. Suddenly I remembered a time, years ago, and an extremely upset state trooper yelling at me.

The year was 1952. Dick, who was serving his second hitch in the Navy, was home on leave. We decided to spend the evening roller skating at the Blue Moon.

I've never thought much about being "liberated." I don't think a girl who grows up working on the farm gives the matter much thought. I did, however, think I should contribute my share of dating expenses. I said we'd used my car (that was my fifty-five-dollar lemon) and we'd go dutch. So we left Dick's old pick-up truck in the yard in South Part.

We went up Route 5 to St. Johnsbury. Somewhere along the way, a wire short-circuited and blew a fuse. The headlights went out. Dick was able to wrap foil from a cigarette package around the fuse (it was one of those long thin thing-a-ma-gummies) and get the lights going again. No trouble, I thought. (I'm not much of a mechanic. Then, too, I was more optimistic in those days.)

When we came to the corner near the St. Johnsbury Country Club, there'd been an accident. There was glass all over the pavement, cars were backed up, the

State police were there, lights flashing. One of the troopers was trying to get traffic moving. And when I drove by him, the lights shorted out again.

"Get your lights on!" the frantic man bellowed. "What in blankety-blank do you think you're doing?"

Fortunately Dick managed to get the fuse working again. We crept slowly by the line of traffic. Somehow we managed to get into the parking lot before the motor cut out. My less-than-faithful steed had died and left us stranded. How on earth would we get back to Peacham? At least we made it to the Blue Moon. We decided to go in and see if we could find somebody who could give us a lift home.

You can imagine my relief when I saw the young man who drove truck for the Luce Manufacturing Company. He took loads of Krispy Kans and Dri-nobs to Glens Falls, NY for shipment to wholesalers. He came into the office regularly to get his paycheck. He lived in Groton, and I knew he'd go through Peacham on his way home. He was agreeable. We could ride with him. And we wouldn't be "putting him out."

With our return journey provided for, we proceeded to enjoy the evening—at least I did. We rented roller skates and skated around the outside of the room

with other beginners. Music played. In the center, more experienced skaters did fancy steps, skated backwards hand in hand and showed off their skill. I was lucky just to stand up and was glad I wore slacks to cushion the impact when I fell down.

My old account book shows I bought a sandwich. It also shows several payments to the West Barnet Garage for towing and repair work. How fortunate I was to deal with Ed and Ralph, who let me spread the cost of repairs over several months.

The old car has long since gone to the happy hunting ground. So, too, have the Blue Moon and our years for roller skating. But occasionally, as I drive down Route 5, around the sharp turn, I

remember that poor man, stretched to his limit, trying to prevent another accident, dealing with traffic, and along came a dumb so-and-so who was driving with her lights off.

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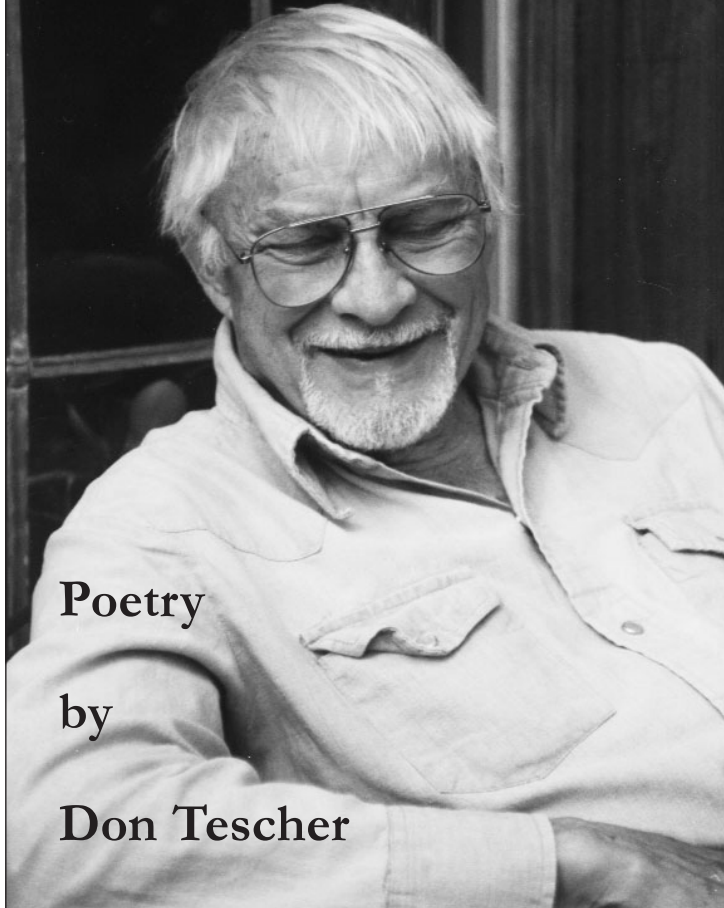
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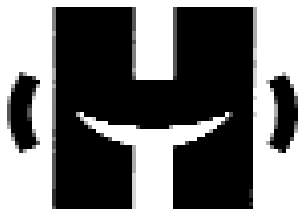
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Don Tescher's popular collection of poetry will warm your heart and tickle your funny bone. Don writes with a passion for villages and small towns. In his tenth decade his work continues to put bright light where before there was patchy fog.

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Reprinted and available again, *Without Further Ado* is available at the Pope Library in Danville, the Brainerd Library in North Danville, the Cobleigh Library in Lyndonville and the Athenaeum in St. Johnsbury.



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We Learned to Count Every Penny

- Arlene (Ailes) Hubbard



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Arlene (Ailes) Hubbard moved with her family to a North Danville farm in 1920. In 1933 she married Clarence Hubbard, and they farmed in the North Danville village until 1978.

TERRY HOFFER

Arlene (Ailes) Hubbard left a career as a teacher and chose instead to join her new husband on the family farm. One might imagine her looking back, at the tender age of 96, and wondering how things might have been different. But Hubbard has no regrets, and, ever a lady, she speaks with reverence for her husband of 50 years and a way of life that centered on the village of North Danville.

“It was a nice life. We always ate dinner together, and we were safe. You never locked the door, and everyone knew everyone else. People were always helping each other, and on the whole life was about family and the farm. We were always doing things together. It wasn’t just about birthdays and Christmas. We got together a lot.”

Hubbard was born on a North Kirby hill farm in 1911, the only daughter of Carl and Maude Ailes. She remembers her father tending the family cows and her mother driving a horse to St. Johnsbury to peddle their butter, milk and eggs.

In 1916 the family moved to St. Johnsbury. It was a small house on Ely Street with a rented barn on the south side of Portland Street. They basked in the conveniences of running water, a bathroom and electricity, and Hubbard says, “It was like going to heaven.”

As the deadly flu swept the

globe it found the Ailes family, and Hubbard recalls, “It was quite a serious thing. We all had the flu, and we all stayed in one room. My father was sick for the only time in his life.” Thankfully the Ailes family recovered, but Hubbard tells about other scrapes with potentially fatal illness. “I had the whooping cough and the chicken pox all at the same time, and I was not very good company for a couple of weeks.”

In 1920 the Ailes moved again to a modest farm just outside of North Danville Village on the road toward “the prairie,” that windswept open area in the direction of Danville Green.

It was back to Earth again with no electricity, with water to wash drawn from the brook and drinking water from a spring hauled by the pailful. “We had kerosene lamps and lanterns,” she says, “and I was always scared to death that we might have a fire. There was no phone, and there would be no help unless someone happened to see the smoke or the flames. We were always washing the lamps when the chimneys got blackened up, but lamps were few and the light was dim especially through long nights in the winter.

“We had three stoves - one in the parlor, one in the dining room and the cookstove, of course, in the kitchen. In the winter all three were going. There was a reservoir on the kitchen stove where we heated water for washing clothes and a weekly bath. My mother had a scrub board in a washtub and eventually a hand cranked washer. I remember turning that crank. It seemed like an awful long time. It’s funny what you remember isn’t it? I’m sure our clothes weren’t as clean as we have them now. I’d wear the same dress to school all week, but I’d change as soon as I got home.

“When it came to ironing we had a flat iron on the stove. There were two of them, and you’d use one until it cooled off and then switch to the other one. We dried clothes outside or by the stove and then ironed them. Some people would iron everything, even their underwear and their socks.

“The community was very church-oriented. The rules were

there, and every year there was a Sunday School picnic by the Old North Church. In December we’d have a Christmas tree at the church, and for some it seemed that Christmas was something that belonged only at church. I don’t think it was about money, because for all of us, Christmas was a much simpler time. My family had a tree at home, but for some, I just think the tree at church was the only Christmas they had.”

“We walked to school every day no matter what the weather or how deep the snow. If the snow was really deep we’d wait for the horse-drawn roller to go by before we started out. We’d always look to see if it was one or two teams pulling the roller.”

Hubbard describes her life on the family farm as simple but far from impoverished. “My father had ten or twelve cows. He milked them by hand and sold the cream to the creamery in North Danville. He worked in the woods, and our needs were simple. He made payments on the house, and we bought kerosene and things like flour and sugar at the store in the village. My mother worked all the time in the house and outside in the field if she had to. Her mother lived with us, and my mother cared for her. There were even relatives who came from Boston to visit. My mother waited on everyone, and I often wondered how she did it. We didn’t travel much, and actually we’d only go to St. Johnsbury once a month - if that. We got by.

“As I got older we had a telephone. It was an eight-party line. And at some point we had electricity with lights in the barn and bulbs hanging from the ceiling in the house. At about the same time we got a furnace in the basement. It was a wood furnace, but it sure was an improvement over all those woodstoves.”

After finishing the ten grades at the old school in North Danville Hubbard graduated from Phillips Academy, now Danville High School, in 1929. As valedictorian she was offered a scholarship at the Lyndon Normal School, but she decided to work for a year doing housekeeping to have enough to make college a practical possibility. “It was a teachers college. Classes were at Lyndon Institute. We boarded there for the week and went home on weekends. We were just ‘farmers’ kids,’ but school was easy for me. You didn’t go to college for something to do. You went to college as a means to support yourself.”

Hubbard graduated in 1932, and the next fall she was appointed teacher in the one room school in Tampico, the North Danville area near the four corners where Tampico Road crosses the Wheelock Road. Hubbard is a thoughtful and articulate woman to this day and one who undoubtedly asked a great deal of her students. She must have been a good teacher, but Clarence Hubbard caught her eye, and they were married the next summer.

The Hubbard family maintained one of two farms in the North Danville Village, located one on either side of the North Danville Store.

Arlene and Clarence Hubbard were married in August 1933 during the Great Depression. Immediately after the wedding, she says, they changed their clothes and set off in Clarence’s father’s Pontiac with Arlene’s brother and his wife on a double date honeymoon. (It was a way to share the expenses of a trip in a borrowed motorcar.) The four stayed with relatives down through New Hampshire to Boston and then went to Old Orchard Beach on the coast of Maine. “We had three flat tires along the way. Clarence and my brother patched the tires and we went on finally getting to Old Orchard Beach on Labor Day. We couldn’t find a place to stay so we all slept in the car. Even then you had to have reservations. The next day we found a vacant cabin, and eventually we came home.

“We lived in an apartment across from the farm. We furnished the place with stuff from auctions. The only new thing we had was a kitchen stove. We bought it on time from Montgomery Ward. There was water in the kitchen from a spring, and it was fine, but there was only enough pressure to feed a faucet down near the floor.”

Clarence Hubbard’s parents bought their farm in 1898. Clarence’s mother, Lottie Willie, was from Greensboro and, according to family legend, she agreed to be married only, only, if she could live in the village. In 1898 she bought the old house beside the North Danville Store and Clarence’s father bought the ‘back farm,’ open pasture land two miles away up toward the Old North Church. They built a new barn beside the house in 1901 and a new house was finished in 1920.

Clarence and Arlene Hubbard lived in their apartment until 1936 and then moved in with his family.

“We were having children, and so I stopped teaching. I always knew that Clarence wanted to go on to school, but his parents needed him on the farm, and he never went beyond eighth grade. He was a farmer and a jack



Hubbard Family Photos

In 1898 Lottie Willie from Greensboro agreed to marry Rufus Hubbard of North Danville only if they would live in the village. She bought this house, and Rufus bought the back farm, pastureland on the road to the Old North Church. In 1901 they built a new barn behind the house, and the family here in about 1916 includes (L-R) Walter, Lottie, Carl, Rufus, William, Maurice and Clarence (Johnny).



Lottie and Clarence Hubbard at their 1901 barn raising with the help from the entire North Danville neighborhood.



The Hubbard farm was one of two in North Danville, just east of the North Danville store known variously as Weeks and later Ides.

of all trades. When we were married he was paid six dollars a week.”

In 1942 Clarence and Arlene acquired the family farm, and there they raised three children: Sylvia born in 1936; Carol in 1942 and Gloria in 1949.

Every summer the cows went to the back farm where they grazed on the open pasture. There was no electricity there so twice every day they were milked with gasoline powered milking machines and the fresh milk was carried in cans back to the barn in the Village. The milk went to the creamery in St. Johnsbury and later to the creamery in Cabot.

“My husband was quite modern in his thinking, and he insisted that I get my drivers license. When I got it in 1936 there were not a lot of women who drove, but I drove into St. Johnsbury for parts all the time. He encouraged me to join the Ladies Aid for the church, the North Danville Community Club, the Home Demonstration Group and I became a 4H leader.

“The first tractor we had was a converted Model A Ford. It drew the hay wagon for us. Over time tractors became bigger and more powerful, and the plowing became much easier. When we started we lifted loose hay up into the hay mow with a horse drawn fork on a pulley. Later there was an elevator and bailed hay. The work got easier and faster, but there was always something to do and always things to repair.

“Life wasn’t easy, but we raised three children with the values of farming, and we were happy. We didn’t smoke or drink, and Clarence’s one treat was to go to see a Saturday night movie in St. Johnsbury. He loved the westerns.

“It was a nice life. We always ate dinner together, and we were safe. You never locked the door, and everyone knew everyone else. People were always helping each other, and on the whole life was about family and the farm. We were always doing things together. It wasn’t just about birthdays and Christmas. We got together a lot.

“My husband always went out of his way for us. He had high expectations and high hopes for us. All three of our children went on to school after high school.”

The Hubbards stopped farming in 1978. Clarence died in 1983. Today Sylvia lives in Lyndon, Carol lives in Belchertown, MA and Gloria lives in Peacham. There are eight grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Arlene sold the North Danville place in 1995. The barn built, in 1901, was demolished in 1997. Arlene lives in an apartment in Danville Village. On her own decision she stopped driving her car last year after 70 years behind the wheel.

Arlene Hubbard has no regrets whatsoever. “Farming was the most fortunate thing for us,” she says. “We learned to count every penny. We didn’t think of it as such at the time, but as the value of the land grew we were saving every day. I love children, but teaching just wasn’t my calling. I was very lucky, and I count my blessings every day.” ★



Clarence Hubbard worked on the North Danville family farm in about 1930. In 1942, he and his wife, Arlene, bought the family farm and there they raised three daughters. They stopped farming in 1978.



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He Discovered On His Mountain Bike Something Most People Never Find

TERRY HOFFER

“There’s nothing special about me,” says Marty St. George of St. Johnsbury. “I’m just a guy who likes to ride a bike.”

St. George laughs with hearty enthusiasm as he says that, and it is tempting to believe that he is clear in the irony of the understatement. But St. George is 28-years old, and maybe, maybe, he doesn’t really think he is anything special. Maybe he doesn’t understand the enormous number of people who spend their careers, their whole lives, looking for themselves and just how many of them never find what it is they are looking for.

In the spring of 2006, St. George was recently married. He

was tipping the scales at 247 pounds and smoking Camel cigarettes. “My wife never liked the smoking,” he says, “but she never nagged me about it. Then I found myself reading about people with obesity and diabetes, and I got scared about high cholesterol and a heart attack. We want to have kids, and I want to do stuff with them. I was 26, and I didn’t want to find myself dying early.”

St. George quit smoking cold turkey. “I realized that if I was going to succeed in that I had to stay busy. I went to the Old Mill Fitness Center, and I said I wanted two hours of cardiovascular workout every day and that I wanted to race a mountain bike the next summer.

“I changed my whole diet,



Photos By Krysten St. George

Marty St. George was dismayed by his 247 pounds and cigarette smoking when he turned his attention to aerobic exercise and a mountain bike. A year later and nearly 80 pounds lighter he rode his bike in 13 races, including (above) Pat’s Peak in Henniker, NH, the 24 hours at Great Glen beside Mount Washington, the Clifford Park Assault at Biddeford, ME, the Horror at Harding Hill at Sunapee, NH, and what he describes as the *creme de la creme* of mountain bike races: The Ice Man Cometh. In the Ice Man riders are timed over a 27 mile course between Kalkaska and Traverse City, MI near the icy shore of Lake Michigan. It is the largest single day mountain bike race in North America. For the November 2007 Ice Man there were 2,900 riders.

and I bought a Kona King Kickapoo Mountain Bike at the High Intensity Mountain Bike Shop in Haverhill, New Hampshire. I couldn’t believe how fun much I was having. I was driven, and I remember saying ‘This is too much fun,’ - and I was healed.”

St. George joined a group of other devoted young riders, and every Saturday they rode 15 to 16 miles over hills and along the paths under power lines and on open county land in Haverhill. “I couldn’t wait for the next Saturday,” he says, “and in April I joined Kingdom Trails.” Kingdom Trails is a 110-mile network of multi-use trails that crisscross the hillsides around East Burke including Burke Mountain. Bikers from all over North America rave about the Trails especially singletrack enthusiasts - those are the mountain bikers.

Mountain Bike magazine calls Kingdom Trails one of the

best 50 trails in America. The International Mountain Biking Association named Kingdom Trails one of its 32 “epic rides,” and a writer in Dirt Rag magazine said the “rolling, rocking, ripping singletrack” around East Burke is the “best mountain biking in the country.”

By the start of the summer of 2006, St. George was in his element. Working as a CNC (computer numeric control) milling machine operator at Vermont Mold & Tool in West Barnet he was out of work at 3:30 in the afternoon and heading to East Burke every day.

St. George admits that he turned to his wife and asked if she were as enthusiastic about his avocation as he was. He describes her as his biggest supporter, his number one fan, and quotes her as saying, “You’re not smoking; you’re healthy, you’re not in a bar drinking; and you’re happy - that’s a pretty good combination.”

St. George entered his first race in June. “I’d lost 50 pounds, and I came in fourth,” he says with sparkling eyes.

“Any ride is a good one. Whether it’s 10 minutes or six hours - you find a sweet spot - you’re in your game and everything is working like a fine machine.”

- Marty St. George

“Every other weekend there were races, and each time I finished better.” Perhaps the ultimate in that first summer for St. George was what he calls the “race from hell,” a six-hour solo race at Pat’s Peak in Henniker, NH. At Pat’s Peak there is a four mile loop, and the race requires that you cover the circuit as many times as you can during six hours. “I finished five laps,” he says, “I was near the back, and I had a terrible sore throat, but I finished and I was happy.”

In August a team of passionate mountain bikers from Littleton was training for the grueling 24-hours at Great Glen on the northeast shoulder of Mount

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DANVILLE SCHOOL

2008 Schedule

Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

Boys High School Basketball

February

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Friday | Peoples @ Danville | 6:00/7:30 |
| 6 | Wednesday | Danville @ Hazen | 6:00/7:30 |
| 8 | Monday | Stowe @ Danville | 6:00/7:30 |
| 11 | Monday | Danville @ Northfield | 6:00/7:30 |

Girls High School Basketball

February

| | | | |
|----|----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 2 | Saturday | Danville @ Blue Mountain NL | 1:00/2:30 |
| 5 | Tuesday | Hazen @ Danville NL | 6:00/7:30 |
| 7 | Thursday | Danville @ Northfield NL | 6:00/7:30 |
| 9 | Saturday | Danville @ Concord NL | 1:00/2:30 |
| 12 | Tuesday | Danville @ Lake Region | 6:00/7:30 |
| 14 | Thursday | Northfield @ Danville | 6:00/7:30 |
| 16 | Saturday | Danville @ Stowe | 1:00/2:30 |
| 19 | Tuesday | Danville @ Hazen | 6:00/7:30 |

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Lyndon Institute Athletic Events Winter 2008

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

BOYS BASKETBALL (JV/V)

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| February | |
| 1 | Montpelier @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 |
| 6 | Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30/7:00 |
| 8 | Lyndon @ Hazen, 5:30/7:00 |
| 12 | Lyndon @ U32, 5:30/7:00 |

FROSH BASKETBALL Boys

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| February | |
| 1 | Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30 |
| 4 | Enosburg @ Lyndon, 7:00 |
| 9 | Randolph @ Lyndon, 12:30 |

ALPINE SKIING

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| February | |
| 8 | @ Smugglers (Essex Invite), Noon |
| 9 | @ Smugglers (Essex Invite), 10:00 |
| 12 | @ Burke Mt (SJA), 10:00 |
| 19 | @ Middlebury (Midd) Girls District |
| 21 | @ Smugglers (BFA) Boys District |

| | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| March | |
| 3 | @ Burke Mt. (LJ) Boys State |
| 5 | @ Bromley (B&B) Girls State |

GIRLS BASKETBALL (JV/V)

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| February | |
| 5 | U32 @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 |
| 7 | Lyndon @ Montpelier, 6:00/7:30 |
| 12 | Oxbow @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 |
| 14 | Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6:00/7:30 |
| 19 | Randolph @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 |

FROSH BASKETBALL Girls

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| February | |
| 4 | Enosburg @ Lyndon, 5:30 |
| 9 | Randolph @ Lyndon, 11:00 |

NORDIC SKIING

| | |
|----------|--|
| February | |
| 2 | @ MISTF (NCU), 10:00 |
| 6 | @ North Country Relays, 5:00 |
| 9 | @ U32, 10:30 |
| 16 | @ Rickert Tour Ctr (Midd), 10:30 State Classical |
| 21 | @ Mountain Top (Rutland), 10:30 State Freestyle |

ICE HOCKEY

| | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| February | |
| 2 | Lyndon @ Northfield, 8:00 |
| 6 | Lyndon @ St Johnsbury, 6:00 |
| 9 | Lyndon @ North Country, 5:00 |

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Marty St. George defines enthusiastic. At 10 o'clock at night during the 2007 Valentine's Day blizzard he was riding his mountain bike down the steep steps of his home and down Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury.

Washington. Great Glen is an 8 1/4 mile loop. The race lasts 24 hours. The winner completes more laps than any other team in its category. The Littleton team, including Dave Harkless of the Littleton Bike Shop with Joe Homer and Edwin Nason, was suddenly without a fourth for their "expert 4-man" team.

St. George volunteered, and with two weeks to the race, he was a member of the Harkless team, the Littleton Landsharks. The team finished seventh out of eight teams, but as Harkless still says, "The race kicked Marty's butt, but he was happy and enthusiastic even when dead tired. He has ridden with us since then and matured into a good rider. He will meet wherever and whenever for a ride. His motto is 'Life is good, I'm riding my bike.' He's always up for a laugh, and last summer he ran around the opening part of Great Glen in an inflatable shark suit."

The last race of the 2006 summer was in September at Reid State Park on the cold coast of Maine. "I finished first in the men's novice category, a group of 18. My dad was there. [That's St. Johnsbury businessman Willy St. George.] Dad's always been busy, and it was the first athletic event he's ever been able to attend for any of his kids. It was a powerful moment."

On Valentine's Day in 2007 there was a Nor'easter, a storm that left nearly two feet of snow and sub zero temperatures all over northern Vermont. Schools and the rest of St. Johnsbury were shut down. St. George rolled out his mountain bike with studded snow tires, and at 10 o'clock that night he was racing down Railroad Street. "I rode all over town," he says, "and there across from the Boxcar and

Caboose Bookshop I found a sheriff's car stuck in the snow. I pulled over, parked my bike in a snowbank, and I helped push the sheriff's deputy back onto the road. Expressions on the faces of people around us were priceless."

With an upgraded bike he road nearly every day through the winter often on snowmobile trails or back roads around town. "When it gets below 20 below," he says, "I think twice, but I usually go anyway."

Down to 170 pounds, St. George was back at Kingdom Trails in 2007. Over the summer there were 13 races, including Pat's Peak again (he completed 8 laps), 24 hours at Great Glen (missed fourth by a couple of minutes), the Clifford Park Assault at Biddeford, ME, the Horror at Harding Hill at Sunapee, NH, and what he describes as the creme de la creme of mountain bike races: The Ice Man Cometh.

The Ice Man is a point to point race in which riders are timed over a 27 mile course between Kalkaska and Traverse City, MI near the icy shore of upper Lake Michigan. It is the largest single day mountain bike race in North America. For the November 2007 Ice Man there were 2,900 riders.

"I wanted snow," St. George says, with his endearing good

humor. The temperature at the start was 16° and in the mid 30's at the finish. St. George completed the course in 2 hours, 22 minutes and 13 seconds, finishing 22nd out of 24 in his group. "It was wonderful," he says. "I can't wait until next year."

On this cold night in January, St. George says, "I'm counting the days until Kingdom Trails open again." He rides nearly every day no matter what the weather. No kidding. Last year he says there were 15 days that he didn't ride somewhere. "In 2006 I was driving my car to the East Burke trails. That's 15 miles each way. In 2007 I drove twice. All of the other days I rode, and last summer I rode the 15 miles to work in West Barnet every other day.

"I love it. For me it's euphoria. Any ride is a good one, but first thing in the morning is great. It's a time when you think of nothing but what's in front of you. Whether it's 10 minutes or six hours - you find a sweet spot - you're in your game and everything is working like a fine machine. It's awesome. There is nothing like coming home after a hard ride and squeezing your woman. Now that's a beautiful thing."

St. George's goals for 2008 are to ride his bike to work in West Barnet every other day through the summer and finish at

least second in every race he enters. He wants to get a trailer so he can leave his car behind when he goes grocery shopping and spend more time on the trails.

"Mountain bike riders love to ride," he says. "They are confident in their riding, and they all seem to get along. They love themselves in that they have great respect for each other.

There is a great sense of belonging. There is no way you can fake it. They are the kind of people I want to be associated with."

St. George looks down at his hands for a moment and then he says, "You know, free will is a beautiful thing. I am really lucky. I have a lifestyle, I have my health, I have a great wife and a job that I like. It's all very simple and that's what counts." ★



Snow-covered steps in St. Johnsbury were no obstacle during the 2007 Valentine's Day Nor'easter.

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St. Johnsbury Academy

Winter 2008 Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball ~ Varsity and Junior Varsity

Varsity Game follows JV Game

| February | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---|--------|--|
| 4 | Mt. Mansfield | H | 5-6:30 | |
| 7 | @ Essex | A | 5-6:30 | |
| 9 | Rutland | H | 1-2:30 | |
| 12 | @ North Country | A | 5-6:30 | |

Nordic Skiing

| February | | | |
|----------|--|--|-------|
| 2 | North Country @ Newport | | 10:00 |
| 6 | North Country Relays @ NCUHS | | 5:00 |
| 9 | U32 @ U32 HS | | 10:00 |
| 16 | State Meet - Classic | | 10:30 |
| | @ Middlebury, Breadloaf Touring Center | | |
| 21 | State Meet - Free Style | | 10:30 |
| | @ Rutland, Mt. Top Touring Center | | |

Alpine Skiing

| March | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|--|--|
| 3 | Boys State Meet | | |
| | Lyndon @ Burke Mt. | | |
| 5 | Girls State Meet | | |
| | Burr/Burton @ Bromley | | |
| | Host is Underlined | | |

Gymnastics

| February | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|------|
| 2 | Milton, U32 | H | 3:00 |
| 8 | @ Randolph | A | 7:00 |

Girls Basketball ~ Varsity and Junior Varsity

Varsity Game follows JV Game

| February | | | |
|----------|---------------|---|--------|
| 1 | Essex | H | 5-6:30 |
| 5 | @ Rice | A | 5-6:30 |
| 8 | CVU | H | 5-6:30 |
| 11 | Spaulding | H | 5-6:30 |
| 15 | North Country | H | 5-6:30 |
| 19 | Burlington | H | 5-6:30 |

Hockey

| February | | | |
|----------|--------------|---|------|
| 2 | Montpelier | H | 6:00 |
| 6 | Lyndon | H | 6:00 |
| 9 | @ Northfield | A | 5:30 |

Wrestling

| February | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|---|---------|
| 2 | Mt. Anthony Duals | A | 10:00 |
| 6 | Spaulding | H | 6:00 |
| 9 | NVAC Tournament | A | 10:00 |
| | @ Middlebury | | |
| 13 | Mt. Abe, Vergennes | H | 6:00 |
| 16 | JV States @ Spaulding | A | 10:00 |
| 23,24 | Varsity State Tournament | A | 6/10:00 |
| | @ Rutland | | |
| 29,1/1 | New England Tournament | A | TBA |

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String Worth Saving

Bill Christiansen

February 2, Groundhog Day, represents the midpoint of winter. When we were an agricultural society, the midpoint between seasons was important. The midpoint between spring and summer is May Day, and Halloween is the midpoint between fall and winter. The one that seems to be lost is the midpoint between summer and fall.

As the saying goes, half your wood and half your hay should be left on Groundhog Day. By this time in the colonial year, things could be getting a bit tough. Excess animals slaughtered in the fall were mostly eaten. The animals remaining were needed as breeding stock in the spring. Grains stored in the fall were being consumed, but seeds needed to be saved for adequate planting in the spring. Pumpkins and turnips were still available, but they were mostly used as animal feed. So, February was a time to look at resources remaining and make plans for the rest of the winter.

If you ever wondered why Groundhog Day predictions are so wrong, consider the follow-

ing. Groundhog Day was strictly a European holiday called Candlemas Day. This occurred 40 days after Christmas. The weather prediction part of this comes from an old Scottish couplet, "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

Animals associated with the prediction were bears or hedgehogs. Each has a long history of weather prediction, dating to the Middle Ages. The tradition for the midpoint celebration was brought to the United States by the Pennsylvania Germans. They used the badger as a barometer for spring. Since there were no badgers to be found, the Pennsylvania Germans settled on the woodchuck. The woodchuck is a North American animal with no experience in weather forecasting at all. As a matter of fact, most woodchucks don't know what winter is, having never actually seen winter. They go into their dens in the fall, well before the first snow, and there they stay, asleep, until the gentle breezes of spring awaken them.

No self-respecting wood-

chuck would ever wake early and try to come out of its burrow. The prediction, as we understand it, is that if the woodchuck sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he sees no shadow, there will be only 42 more days of winter. Is that clear?

All of this got me to thinking about what was "half your wood" in colonial times. In 1650 in Massachusetts, the average post and beam house with a hearth or fireplace, would burn about 15 cords of wood during the winter. This did not keep the house at 72°. It was more like 50° on a good day. In a village of 200 homes, it would take about 75 acres of woods every year to supply the needed wood. It is easy to see why most of the forests in New England were harvested by 1850. The deforesting of New England led to the introduction of coal as the primary heating fuel in the last half of the 19th century.

So, here we find ourselves in the dead of winter, temperature-wise.

While snow is an inconvenience, it is the "cold" that is the difficult part of winter. When the temperature hovers below zero for a few days, we hear about the "cold getting into the house." Snow can be moved, but cold is different. There is little anyone can do besides "hunkering down."

The coldest part of the winter is from mid-January to mid-February. After mid-February, the sun gets higher and the days get long enough to provide heat. During this time the weather pattern begins the change toward spring, and after mid-February there is a noticeable difference in the warmth of the sun. It is during midwinter that the discussion of who had the lowest tempera-

ture always takes place. This led me to wonder about temperature extremes for the whole planet.

We know the lowest temperature would be in Antarctica. That was -128° F. at the Russian station, Vostock II on July 21, 1983. That was that actual air temperature with no consideration for wind chill. This compares with the lowest temperature in Asia recorded at Verkhoyansk, Siberia. That reading was -93.6° F. on February 7, 1892. Siberia is where a really cold cell of air forms every winter, and small sections break off and come over the top of the world to give us problems. These outbreaks usually enter North America through the Canadian prairie provinces and swing east through the midwest and give us our coldest weather.

The coldest North American temperature was recorded at Snag, Canada, on February 3, 1947. That was a chilly -81.4° F. The coldest European record is -67° F at Ust-Shchugor, Russia. It looks as if Russia attracts cold air.

Records of the United States are milder. Prospect Creek, Alaska recorded -80° F. on January 23, 1971. Of the contiguous 48 states, the record is held by Rogers Pass, MT at -70° F. set on January 20, 1954. Vermont comes close at -50° F., on December 30, 1933 in Bloomfield. For the trivia buff, there is one state with a low temperature record higher than 0°. It's not Florida. Florida's record low is -2° F. set on February 13, 1899. That must have affected the price of oranges.

While we're at it, we might as well look at the other extreme, high temperatures. The world record is 135.9° F. set in Al'Azizyah, Libya, on September 13, 1922. The high-

est in North America was set in Death Valley, July 10, 1913 at 134° F. Vermont's record is a mere 105° F. in Vernon on July 4, 1911. Every state but one has a record high temperature over 100° F. Hawaii has a record high of just 100°. Its record low is a balmy 12° F.

As the saying goes, half your wood and half your hay should be left on Ground Hog Day.

How about rainfall. The highest AVERAGE annual rainfall is 460 inches recorder at Mt. Waialeale, HI. The highest one-year rainfall in the world was 1,042 inches (nearly 87 feet). That rain fell in Cherrapunji, India. The 12-hour and 24-hour records were recorded on an island in the Indian ocean, La Reunion Island. The 12 hour record is 53 inches. The 24 hour record is 72 inches.

For the purists, Candlemas falls 40 days after Christmas. That would put the holiday on February 3. To get the day to fall on February 2, Christmas has to be included in the count. (December, 7 days; January, 31 days; and February, 2 days = 40).

So much for counting days, but be sure the door is securely latched when you go to bed tonight. There is plenty of winter left to come.

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May June Session
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Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

My girlfriend, I'll call her Sally, says she is going to leave me if I don't get help for my jealousy. It's true that I often feel really sick thinking about Sally with some other man, and several times I have questioned her until she has blown up at me.

I don't want to lose Sally, and I don't want to spend the money

and time going to psychotherapy, so I'm hoping you can help me.

Jealous in Johnson

Dear Jealous,

Wow, quite a challenge. Here goes ...

In our society there are several ways of viewing jealousy. Some of those touch on culture: a form of madness, proof of love

or simply a part of our larger culture milieu (think of the themes of some country-western songs). Other views come from psychology: a neurotic leftover from childhood or a family pattern.

We would have to guess that probably all of the above apply to you to a greater or lesser degree. Burt has devised an exercise that can help some jealous folks. Picture a circular pie that you will call your jealousy. Divide the pie into three sections. The sections can be different sizes.

The first section we'll call the Territorial Imperative or "Ain't

no other bulls coming into my pasture." The second section we'll call, "What will they think of me?" The third section we'll call, "I may lose this person."

Different weights of cultural, family, and neurotic attributes make up the three sections. Your task is to push around the sections until the sizes correspond to the aspects of your jealousy. You may learn some useful (if painful) information about your jealousy. It might be helpful to also write about the process of going through the exercise.

Perhaps the exercise will help you to understand and overcome

your difficulty with feelings of jealousy. If, despite your best efforts, you find yourself acting out your jealousy, you may want to consider psychotherapy. It is a time commitment, and it does cost money, but the results can be invaluable. One of the major motivations for people going into psychotherapy is to achieve relief from and understanding of painful recurring feelings. Good luck.

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors through Community Emergency Services

RUTH GOODRICH

In the middle of a stormy winter night, a call for help. Those who answer the plea slip from warm covers, dress quickly and dive into the darkness on roads that nobody else in their right mind would go out on.

There are drifts to plow through. The wind is howling and trees across roads are normal encounters for the Emergency Medical Services responder. Whether fire- or ambulance-personnel, these dedicated volunteers are our friends and neighbors.

So many times we hear people say, "I could never do that". But you can. And many do.

All you have to do is care. The rest is not difficult. There is training involved and a commitment to keep up with the continuing education which can be interesting and fun. Yes, you do have to take a test or two, but life is full of tests.

What is really satisfying is the feeling that you made a difference for someone who needs help or perhaps just a ride to the hospital.

It is not about the flashing lights or the sirens. It is helping to calm the fear in the eyes of someone having a medical difficulty. To offer support and comfort to those in need. Getting them quickly and safely to a medical

facility that can do more for them.

You will meet new friends and develop a respect for those who do this work. Sometimes that means wallowing through waist-deep snow down an embankment to a car that went off the road and down a ravine at 2 o'clock on a Saturday morning.

Most times it is a person with an illness that may just need assistance to the hospital. My own experience is that no two calls are alike. They all pose interesting challenges and are at all times educational in one way or another.

Knowing what to do in a crisis or an emergency situation eliminates the fear and the anxiety and brings a calming influence into a situation. That knowledge can save lives when other help is unavailable or has to come from

further away.

You can be a part of this valuable community service. Everyone should know CPR and other basic first aid skills. Your local ambulance service teaches these community classes often. Just contact them for more information. Talk to them about becoming a first responder or an EMT. Classes are regularly held and convenient for most schedules. The folks who are doing this in your town tonight will go the extra mile to help you become qualified. Help is always needed and appreciated.

When my oldest daughter approached me and challenged me to become an EMT my first thoughts were: "Yeah, Right. I have too many other things to do and besides, I am too old for this." Wrong.

injured or worse, dying, that someone would be at her side caring for her. I saw my efforts as a way of giving back for what others have done for my family and for our service-men and -women. You can make a difference. I encourage you to think about your time as a member of your community and join forces with your local emergency medical services personnel.

Ruth Goodrich is a member of Danville Rescue, Cabot Ambulance, Walden Fast Squad and an American Red Cross Disaster Volunteer.

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What's Happening at the Town Hall?

Barnet

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

January 14, 2008

Town Forest Road – Board signed discontinuance of a section of Town Forest Road. The discontinued portion starts 300 ft. south of town's property line which adjoins property of Terry Bunnell. End of the road is now located approximately at gate to transfer station.

Budget – Board reviewed 2008 budget and agreed to present it to budget committee. Budget as it stands represents total tax appropriation of \$988,525, an increase of \$85,350 from 2007. Most of increase is in highway budget, which is proposing a tax increase of \$81,600. Increases are substantially due to diesel prices and large increase in maintenance costs.

Tax Anticipation Loan – After review rates among tax anticipation loan bids from BankNorth, Community National Bank, Passumpsic Savings and Union Bank, Board voted to accept bid from Community National Bank.

Transfer Station – Town treasurer gave a recap of expenses and revenues from transfer station during 2007. 700,060 pounds were hauled from station including 180,000 pounds of construction debris. Total costs including hauling and town labor came to \$41,022. Revenues collected at gate totaled \$36,391. Town collected \$1,811 for construction debris. Cost of disposal for construction debris is \$6,467 plus hauling charges.

Access Permits – Board approved access permit for Janet Weidmann on West Main Street in West Barnet.

Town Energy Committee – Board discussed letter asking town to form energy committee.

Library – Board met with library trustee Sydney Frechette to discuss proposal to increase pay of library staff. Library trustees are asking to increase library director's rate to \$11.35 per hour and assistant to \$9.50 per hour. They also recommend a benefit of four paid holidays a year. Recommendation will be discussed with budget committee.

Town Meeting – Board reviewed articles for town meeting.

Cabot

Town Clerk: Doug Harvey
Selectboard: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and Ted Domey

December 19, 2007

Old Library Shelving – Following a discussion about old library shelving, Board voted to donate shelving to Cabot Historical Society.

Historical Society – In response to a question about tax exempt status of Cabot Historical Society, Doug Harvey reported the organization is exempt in accordance with state law, V.S.A. 32 s. 3802.4.

Tax Anticipation Loan – Board voted to accept \$540,000 tax anticipation loan from Chittenden Bank at a rate of 3.39%.

Town Audit – Board accepted audit agreement with Fothergill, Segale &

Valley.

Town Auditor – Board voted to accept resignation letter from Auditor Jane Brown and to post open auditor position.

Property Valuation – Town Clerk reported that as of January 1, town's certified equalized education property value will be \$144,460,000, coefficient of dispersion value is 12.92%, and common level of appraisal equals 99.87%.

VT League of Cities and Towns Insurance – Board noted 2008 town property and casualty insurance will increase by \$5,000 for the year, and health insurance cost will increase by 8.2%.

Willey Building Committee – Board reviewed Willey Building Lift and Building Maintenance Report. Board voted to accept proposal for bi-monthly maintenance and service from Bay State Elevator. Further Board voted to post requests for proposals for painting the building and painting building roof.

Health Order – Caleb Pitkin agreed to inspect property at 3065 Main Street to see that health order was met.

Heating Fuel – Doug Harvey reported that clerk's office has not yet received an agreement from Ultramar for heating fuel and that Ultramar recently delivered fuel at a cost of \$3.25 per gallon. Larry Gochey confirmed that town will have a contract by end of the week with a cost of \$2.46 per gallon and an adjustment will be made.

Budget Review – Board reviewed draft of 2008 budget for general fund, fire department and waste water accounts including recommendation for increases to general pay scale.

Board Banquet – Board adjourned to banquet room for Bill Walters' meal service including appetizers, smoked trout, beverages and desserts.

January 16, 2008

Telecommunication Tower Radiation Testing – In response to a letter from Dale and Janet Newton, Board noted a letter from UNICEL describing a July 2007 analysis indicating that tower emissions, in a worst case, were well within federal guidelines. Board agreed to request a copy of the actual report to determine if it meets zoning regulation requirements.

Web Site – William Walters provided a summary of current web site status and usage. Board approved his request for \$24.95 to purchase 100 compact discs.

Town Auditor – Board appointed Sue Freeburn to open position of auditor.

Budget Review – Board reviewed budget information and established a preliminary 2008 budget. Board discussed request for special appropriations and agreed to add all but one to warning for town meeting. The exception, a request from Brian Houghton for \$150 for upkeep and maintenance of town's Civil War Memorial, will be included in annual budget for Willey Building.

Green Up – Board appointed Gary Gulka as Cabot point-of-contact for Green Up Day.

Willey Building – Board approved requests-for-proposals for painting Willey Building and painting its roof.

Certificate of Highway Mileage – Board approved 2008 certificate of highway mileage.

Campaign to End Childhood Hunger – Board voted to have copies of assessment available for public review at town meeting.

Health Order – Caleb Pitkin reported he inspected property at 3065 Main Street and requirements of health order have been met.

Legal Matter – Doug Harvey reported that Charles Merriman, town attorney, went to court for a pretrial hearing and Ken Davis failed to appear. Trial will be scheduled for early March.

Heating Fuel – Harvey reported clerk's office has not received a contract from Ultramar for heating fuel, but did receive credit for previous deliveries at a cost of \$2.49 per gallon.

Mailbox Damage – Board noted bill for damage to mailbox from Baron Wormser and asked town clerk to respond informing Wormser that town is not responsible for such damages.

Fire Department – Board concurred with fire department request that an article be included in town warning to authorize fire department to procure a new emergency rescue vehicle at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.

Danville

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

December 20, 2007

Road Crew – After discussion about previous decision to raise road crew pay, Board approved rescinding the decision. With Marvin Withers not voting, Board approved a 3.5% wage increase for 2008 for road crew and Kevin Gadapee as well as a one time stipend each for a florescent winter coat. Further, Kevin was removed from appointed list as he works under a contract. Board also discussed missing reduced-speed signs in North Danville and a snowplowing concern on Highland Avenue reported by Barb Fontaine.

Road Crew Assistance on Fire Calls – Kevin Gadapee asked for clarification on calls for assistance from town fire department. Earlier, Fire Chief Cochran asked that two fire fighters on road crew be released for an emergency fire call. Kevin described his crew as emergency workers, too, and that at times he cannot spare them. Board agreed requests for road crew assistance would be left to discretion of road foreman.

Highland Avenue – Merton Leonard reported Mr. Dodge has refused to pay for one-way signs installed on Highland Avenue in compliance with Act 250 permit. Leonard mailed letter to residents of Sugar Ridge requesting them to obey one way signs for safety sake, as people obeying the signs do not expect to meet a vehicle coming from opposite direction.

Nonadoptable Dogs – Board accepted contract with Central VT Humane Society to accept all non-adoptable dogs from Danville for a price of \$500 for next year.

Personnel – After executive session, Board approved 2008 salary increase for Ginnie Morse to \$42,500, Sharon Daniels to \$13.76 per hour and Dawn

Pastula to \$11.50 per hour. Board approved salary increase for Merton Leonard to \$46,500.

January 3, 2008

Town Hall Rental – After request from Amanda Weisenfeld that Board reduce town hall rental fee for monthly contra dances, Board agreed to leave rental fee as it is.

Hill Street Park – On request of Polly Joncas, Board voted to allow creation of a public skating rink at the Hill Street Park subject to insurance coverage by town's policy.

Road Crew – Kevin Gadapee reported heavy snow in December kept road crew busy and expenses high. On his recommendation, Board approved purchase of H.P. Fairfield body and plow equipment for \$68,380 as long as order can be canceled if budget restraints become significant.

Personnel – Following executive session Board voted to increase Zoning Administrator Linda Leone's pay to \$10.75 per hour for 2008.

Accident on US 2 – Board reviewed letter from VT Agency of Transportation regarding an accident on US 2 and agreed to call an emergency management meeting to prepare for reoccurrence of such an accident.

Animal Control Officer – Marvin Withers reported on his visit with Doug Pastula to town's animal control officer. Dogs were looking well, well fed and watered. All had shelter. A veterinarian checked the dogs twice in last 6 months, and found them in good health.

January 10, 2008

Budget Review – Board reviewed fire department activity and 2008 budget with Keith Gadapee. After discussion Board approved department budget at \$25,212. Board reviewed municipal budget and agreed to reductions totaling approximately \$30,000 from original requests. Board voted to suspend traffic control coverage for the winter and reviewed revisions to highway budget, which reduced it by another \$6,000.

January 17, 2008

Budget Committee – Board met with town budget committee to review municipal and highway budgets. Budget committee asked for estimate of grand list, projected tax rates and special appropriations requests.

Use of Town Hall – In response to request by Karen Remington that she be allowed to use town hall for her dance yoga classes for youth, adults and seniors and pay a rent based upon a percentage of income per class, Board recommended that she investigate use of school cafeteria thereby allowing better access for children at school. Board does not want to set precedent of lowering rental rate and having regularly scheduled events during office hours.

Joe's Pond Beach – Officers of West Danville Community Club met with Board to discuss the fate of old bathhouse at Joe's Pond beach. Board agreed to hold a public meeting to discuss bathhouse and a replacement pavilion.

Road Crew – Kevin Gadapee reported winter road work and vehicle maintenance projects. He reported discussion at recent emergency management meeting including town sanding state roads in an

emergency on request of fire chief and that he is not comfortable sanding state roads. After discussion, Board voted to express concern to state highway department that rescue personnel are not getting sand required in an emergency and request explanation for the new policy.

Danville Rescue – Merton Leonard reported Danville Rescue is seeking a community member to serve on its board of directors.

Historical Society – After discussion Board voted to add special appropriation request from historical society to town meeting warning.

Town Hall Curtain – Leonard reported an old painted theater curtain was recently obtained and Vermont Painted Curtain Project will be restoring it.

Route 2 Construction – Board noted George Cahoon's recent donation of collection of slides taken during construction on US 2.

Scrap Metal – Board discussed offer from Gates Salvage for a dumpster for collection of scrap metal. Board is concerned about where dumpster might be placed and supervision to prevent its use for nonmetal objects.

Fire Department – Mike Walsh reported roof on fire department building measures 24 by 60 feet on each side. Cost of new roofing will be about \$4,500 to \$5,000. He will look for volunteers to help install it.

January 24, 2008

Budget Hearing – Board met with town budget committee to review town and school budgets, and thereafter board voted to approve general, fund, highway department and wastewater treatment budgets as presented.

Town Meeting Warning – Board noted increase in special appropriation requests totaling \$30,000 from 2007 and that 2008 budget was based upon those special appropriations approved at 2007 town meeting. Approval of new requests will change budget. Board voted to approve warning for town meeting as printed.

Lyndon

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

December 10, 2007

Supervisory Union Conference Room Renovation – Tom Petit reviewed proposed conference room renovation project. Board had previously approved spending \$2,000 for electrical work necessitated by the project. CNSU would like additional funding from town. Board will consider this in preparing



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Matthew 7:12

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

2008 budget.

Liquor License – Board approved liquor license for The Packing House.

Highway Report – Board reviewed highway report for week ending November 30. At 92% through year the budget is 84% expended.

Health Savings Accounts Insurance Alternative – Arthur Sanborn and Lisa Barrett presented proposal to offer a high deductible health insurance plan with a health savings account to employees.

Police Department – Board reviewed proposed changes to inter-municipal police agreement and noted department is spending on average 65% of its time in Village and 35% of its time in the town.

December 12, 2007

Liquor License – Board approved license for M&M Beverage.

Bond Anticipation Note – Board approved \$40,320 bond anticipation note to finance purchase of fire department rescue truck with Community National Bank at 3.78%.

Perpetual Care Agreement – Board approved perpetual care agreement for Nathan and Francelia Houghton.

Budget Review – Board reviewed proposed 2008 budgets for general, highway and sanitation funds.

Waste Management – Steve Pitman, representative to Waste Management District, reviewed proposal for “pay as you throw” program.

December 26, 2007

High Deductible Health Plan – As discussed at Board’s previous meeting, 9 employees have opted to switch to high deductible health plan with health savings account effective January 1, 2008. This will save the Town \$31,300 in gross premiums, with a first year savings (after funding the health savings accounts) of \$15,600. Net savings will be \$20,800 annually thereafter.

Budgets Review – Board continued work on 2008 proposed budgets.

Peacham

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

December 5, 2007

Village Intersection – Board discussed village intersection. Tim McKay reported on meeting with Ruggles Engineering. Board reviewed draft survey and a map indicating sight lines, knoll cuts and areas of drainage and filling. No cost estimates are available. Board voted to have Ruggles produce a cost estimate and that the phased project concept be addressed and undertaken at a cost as low as possible.

Road Crew – Phil Jejer reported on new truck purchase information including vehicle specifications and financing. Mack Mountain Road is in good condition and road crew has worked extra time due to recent snowstorms. Road crew will begin assisting contracted snow removal crew with sanding as time allows.

Town Truck – Board reviewed truck-financing options.

Town Trail Plan – Gary Swenson presented draft of town trail plan. Board discussed state grant, trail maintenance, length of trail, trail information for public and role of town conservation commission.

Town Ball Field – Matt Kiley and Steve Mills presented an old engineering design drawing showing septic system located near ball field. Board reviewed designs for layout presented by means of aerial photographs. Board urged Kiley to contact Sharon McDonnell to coordinate paths around ball field. Further research will be done regarding septic system layout near field.

Transfer Station – Board discussed transfer station. New Casella Waste Management Company representative Todd Deuso assured Board that Casella’s and town attorney would have a contract prior to the end of year.

2008 Budget – Board noted a 8.2% increase in health insurance. New vision care program is available. Board discussed a co-pay system for health insurance and vision care. Board voted to provide medical insurance coverage to full-time employees under Cigna insurance company Open Access Plus 500 policy. Town will pay 98% of policy premium. Balance will be paid by employee as payroll deduction.

Town Report – Board asked that town auditors and town treasurer show grant accounting figures in annual town report.

Ancient Roads – Board voted to fill out ancient roads survey.

December 12, 2007

Town Forest – Board authorized Town Forester Neil Monteith to negotiate contract for timber sale from town forest for consideration at next meeting.

Transfer Station Compactor – Board discussed contract with Casella Waste Management and purchase of compactor at transfer station. Board voted to approve waste management contract and to purchase Marathon compactor for \$8,344.42.

Road Crew – Administrative Assistant Phil Jejer reported on snow plowing, bucket snow removal in problem areas and various equipment breakdowns. Board voted to authorize payment of \$150 for purchasing proposal from T.D. Banknorth, based upon its lowest rates quoted, for purchasing new 2007 International dump truck.

Zoning Administrator – Board met with Bob Hansen, town zoning administrator, and discussed increased responsibilities and time spent by administrator. Board approved increasing compensation for position to \$2,500 per year.

Budget Review – Board discussed capital plan and paving plan including equipment replacement and fire department capital fund. Board reviewed 2007 finan-

cial report and budget for 2008.

January 2, 2008

Timber Sale Contract – On recommendation of Town Forester Neil Monteith, Board approved timber contract.

War Memorial – Board discussed recommendation by Allen Thresher Sr. that town consider erection of a U.S. veterans’ war memorial monument. Board agreed to form a committee to investigate proposal and seek volunteers to serve.

Cemetery Plan – David Jacobs presented preliminary Cemetery Site Plan with consideration of current and proposed cemetery site. There will be public meetings to discuss final plan.

Town Trail Plan – After discussion, Board approved town recreation trails plan and action plan I.

Budget Review – Board discussed 2008 budget including general revenues and timber sales, state reimbursement for current use, state buildings reimbursement and road revenue.

Retirement Fund Policy – Board discussed having retirement fund policy for town personnel policy.

St. Johnsbury

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

January 7, 2008

Budget Workshop – Board reviewed departmental budget requests for 2008 including dispatch with Mark Gilleland, town manager with Mike Welch, town clerk and treasurer and board of civil authority with Sandy Grenier, economic development with Joel Schwartz, planning & zoning with Priscilla Messier, fire department with Chief Troy Ruggles, highway fund with Larry Gadapee, police department with Chief Richard Leighton and recreation department with Joe Fox. Budget finalization is scheduled for January 28.

Town Meeting Location – After discussion of various locations for town meeting, Board agreed to hold 2008 meeting in St. Johnsbury School auditorium with overflow, if there is any, in school cafeteria.

St. Johnsbury Works – Linda Fogg met with Board to discuss more active role by town in St. Johnsbury Works. St. Johnsbury Works Board is open to including a town representative among its membership.

Transitional Housing on Railroad Street – Board met with Olivia Belean and Merten Bangemann-Johnson from Gilman Housing Trust and Michelle Fay from Umbrella who discussed proposal to establish housing for victims of domestic violence on the 2nd and 3rd floors of 1867 building on Railroad Street. If approved, an application for \$300,000 grant will be submitted to Vermont Community Development Program. Board discussed location and other applications for funds being prepared on behalf of Weidmann Electrical Technology and St. Johnsbury Community Center.

Caledonia Work Camp – Board met with David Peebles, Department of Corrections, Jim Donnon, Superintendent of the Work Camp, and Roger Tetreault, VT Building and General Services to discuss potential expansion of Caledonia Work Camp. Legislature approved construction of new work camp and communities are being asked for their interest. Proposed addition would add up to 100 more beds to existing 100-bed facility. Board agreed to discuss this further and call for a vote at March town meeting.

West Hill Road Construction – After presentation by Mike Welch, Board voted to approve agreement with VTrans for construction services on West Hill Road to mitigate drainage problems at correctional facility.

Line of Credit – Board approved \$500,000 line of credit with Community National Bank at a rate of 3.25%.

Highland Avenue Street Light – Board discussed moving a certain street light on Highland Avenue.

Firefighter Mike Pelow – Board asked about status of Firefighter Mike Pelow. Mike Welch reported all reports are favorable, and Pelow has returned home from hospital.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss contracts and labor relations agreements with employees including Joel Schwartz, no action was taken.

Welcome Center – After discussion Board approved agreement with Ruggco, Inc. for improvements at Welcome Center.

January 14, 2008

Budget Review – After review of highway fund budget Board agreed to order, not two but, one new truck and maintain at least \$30,000 in equipment reserve fund. Board discussed dispatch services budget and asked Mark Gilleland to investigate grants for security cameras. Board reviewed proposed salary adjustments based upon 4.0% increase and employee participation in pension plan and higher employee contribution level for health insurance. Board recommended economic development contract services be reduced by \$2,500 and suggested amount for town clerk’s record books be reduced by \$1,000.

Transitional Housing on Railroad Street – Board discussed proposal from Gilman Housing and Umbrella for shelter and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence project in 1867 building on Railroad Street. Following discussion including supervision, loitering, taxes and length of stay among residents in transition and concerns expressed by some Railroad Street businesspeople as to location of project, Board voted to apply for up to \$300,000 in community development block grant funds.

Town Meeting Location – Following discussion of having town meeting in St. Johnsbury School auditorium with overflow seating in cafeteria and possibility of larger than ordinary attendance due to discussion of work camp expansion, Board asked for a test of public address system in school gymnasium prior to making a decision.

US 5 Speed Limit – Board discussed current 40-mph speed limit through inter-

section of US 5 and South Main Street and voted to ask state traffic committee to consider lowering posted limit.

Town Forest Stewardship Committee – On recommendation of Andy Fisher, Board appointed Tara Robinson-Holt and Kathy Decker to town forest stewardship committee.

Walden

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

December 11, 2007

Town Garage – Board discussed plans for town garage and agreed to gather information to present at town meeting for voters to consider building new garage.

Constable – Bill Huntoon reported dog attack in Walden. Dog is currently in quarantine until rabies status can be verified. He reported he and health officer are working on an animal abuse case. Huntoon expressed concern about growing number of dog issues in Walden.

Snowmobiles on Town Roads – On request of Coles Pond Sledgers, Board approved use of a section of Nicholson Road and .1 mile on Cobb Road for snowmobiles.

Bayley Hazen Road – Board noted a \$7,000 Better Back Roads grant for ditching on Bayley Hazen Road.

Skunk Hollow Road – Doug Luther spoke to Stannard Town Clerk regarding snow plowing on Skunk Hollow Road. He is waiting to hear from her.

Employee Benefits – Lina Smith asked Board to consider adding voluntary vision insurance to employee benefits to be paid by employee if they choose to subscribe. Board voted to do so. Personnel policy will be changed to reflect option.

Line of Credit – Board approved line of credit note with Union Bank.

Budget Review – Board reviewed 2007 financial report and discussed 2008 budget.

December 26, 2007

Budget Review – Board reviewed 2007 budget versus actual financial amounts. Board voted to give road crew, town clerk and assistant town clerk 2.3% cost of living raise effective January 1. Board approved increasing mileage reimbursement to match federal level of 50.5 cents per mile effective January 1, 2008.

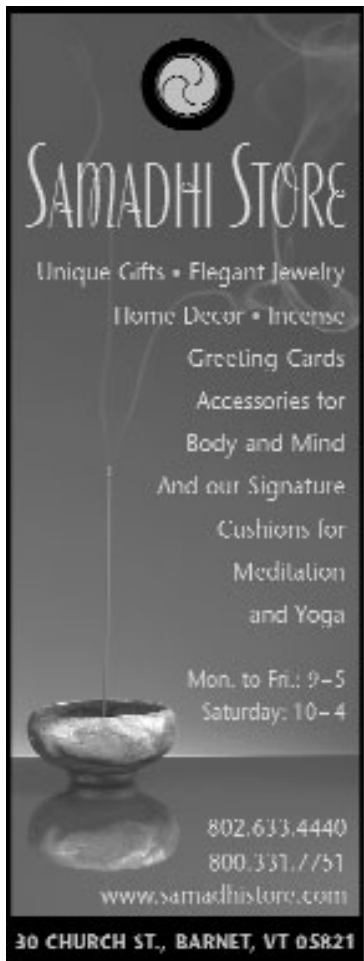
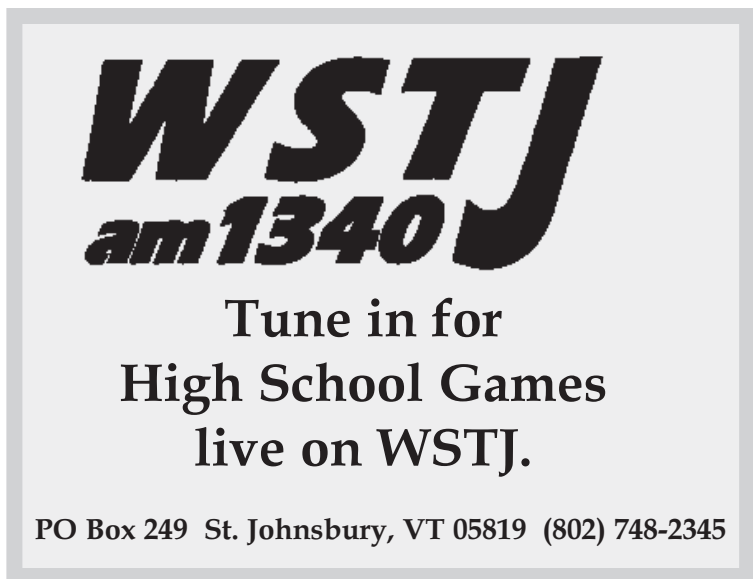
January 8, 2008

Cabot Creamery – On request of Cabot Creamery, Board voted to provide letter authorizing use of SA # 1 and #3 in order to make changes to Creamery’s Act 250 permit.

2008 Capital Improvements – Board met with road foreman and discussed various highway projects for 2008.

Constable – Board met with Constable Huntoon who proposed fees to defray his increasing costs for and time answering dog complaints.

Budget Review – Board discussed draft 2008 budget and planned to finalize it at next meeting.


Promise of Spring in the Ballot Box

PETER ALBRIGHT

This week I received a thoughtful letter from my friend and neighbor Van Parker. Parker is well known to *North Star* readers through his regular contributions on these pages.

His letter helped me think through some things, particularly in this election season, that hadn't been clear to me. You might be suffering similarly, so I would like to share some of this with you. This election process gives both an opportunity and a challenge, in our system of government at least, to sort through ideas and styles of leadership, to try to come up with the best people to lead our country and our society. I take my part in this seriously, and I find that it's hard work.

The gist of Parker's letter, which I won't paraphrase at any length, is that he believes that Barack Obama's message resonates with many people, himself included, and that he would like to see Obama continue to put that message forward.

The message is basically that our country needs a radical change of direction. The word "change" is part of the message of virtually all presidential hopefuls, so it is going to be important, even crucial, for us to understand what each means by change. We need to be forceful with the hopefuls and eventual candidates to get them to answer the question, "What sorts of change do you want to project for the future, and what changes will you as president lead us to try to bring about through our democratic form of

government?"

One of the key words in that question is "us." As Parker points out, Obama is a former community organizer. He knows that real change comes from the bottom up. He reminds us that power to change the world comes from within us. What people need now, Parker says, is a leader who can call out the hope within us. Then the machinery of government, properly applied, can carry out the will of the people.

We are living through a bleak eight-year period in which the will of the people is ignored and our business is carried out as much as possible in secret and through mis- (or dis-) information, accompanied by frequent executive-legislative gridlock. I think that this is what the extremely low approval ratings of our present government reflect. A democracy ceases to be a democracy when it operates in this way.

We need to tell those we have put in charge in Washington and state capitals that leaders of a democracy cannot turn a deaf ear to what the people want their elected officials to do. If they do, the same people have a way to tell them that such behavior is not acceptable. How so? By using the ballot box to set a new course for the country. When individuals really believe that they have that power, as Howard Dean said they do, they will look hard at candidates for office, ask tough questions, look beneath the surface glitter, make up their minds and vote for candidates who will lead openly, tell the truth and listen to differ-

ing points of view. We, the voters hire – and we fire!

I think that to be good citizens in America, we have to pay attention to what is going on in the political process, no matter what discouragement we may feel with how badly it seems to be functioning – and keep on looking at it.

Most of us can argue that we have other things we need to be tending such as getting ahead in business, paying taxes or providing money for college. That is true, but those things are linked to the moral, social and economic health of the country and what direction it is heading.

In my view, taking citizenship seriously is like taking personal health seriously: it is something we have to do every day, and it is important. And it is not like it is a chore – we know it leads to benefits down the road. If we don't get proper exercise or eat sensibly every day, we may be heading for health problems down the road.

It is my belief that if we don't keep a steady eye on people we put in positions of responsibility in government – and let them know that we are wide awake – the country we love is in for trouble. In Vermont, we have had the satisfaction for years of seeing those we have sent to Washington serve us superbly and take care of our business with dedication. But we are lucky to have that history.

This year – and there is less than a year left – we are faced with a task that seems harder than usual. We are looking at a group of hopefuls, most of whom we don't know well, and at the end of the campaign, we will make one president.

I don't know who will impress me the most along that winding trail or whom I will finally choose. But I am going to stay awake and alert, even though it is a long slog. My country is at stake. The future of my great-grandson is at stake.

When I cast my ballot in November, I hope I will feel that a breath of spring is about to sweep through the land, with new vitality and energy. ★

Silence Is Not Time Wasted

VAN PARKER

A friend, now retired, told about a meeting between a group of American and visiting Japanese business people. They gathered around a table discussing a matter of mutual interest. One of the Americans made a suggestion. The Japanese sat there impassively. Wondering if they had heard what was said, the American speaker continued in some detail to elaborate on his proposal. Still, there was no apparent response.

Finally one of the Japanese gave what turned out to be a very thoughtful answer. The mystery was solved. The Japanese heard everything. Rather than tuning out, or taking an afternoon nap, they were using the silence to process their thoughts.

Westerners as a whole, and Americans in particular, like to fill their days with talk or some kind of sound. This means, if possible, not leaving any empty spaces. Silence, as one person observed, seems to a lot of us like a waste of time.

This applies to our religious life, too. Church services tend to be filled with sound, good sounds but sounds. There is little room for silence. A group of young people attended a nearby mega-church where the service usually lasts two hours. Their leader reported that virtually every second of the time they attended was filled with sound. If it wasn't the preacher preaching, the choir singing or another musical group playing, it was someone announcing an event or special music to see everyone through the transitions.

There were no empty spaces.

In contrast, I've recently been drawn to a midweek service containing lots of empty spaces. The service lasts one half hour. Those who attend are invited to enter and leave in silence, and there are silent spaces within the service itself. The leaders play the organ and sing chants, the same words over and over until they begin to sink in. Those present participate in the singing. Someone does a brief reading from the scriptures. At a certain point people are invited to light a candle, if they wish.

It's very quiet. I'm sure those who come don't consider it a waste of time.

Silence has gotten a bad rap in our culture, yet more and more of us appear to seek it. People take time to meditate, sometimes in their own homes, sometimes with friends. Others find it energizing to do things like walking the dog, watching birds at the feeder or simply carving out a little time for themselves every day. Time spent like that isn't useless. It helps people listen better, maybe even have more to say.

A family member recently gave me a book about the StoryCorps Project, begun in 2003. StoryCorps is a project of collecting stories of ordinary Americans. One is from a woman in North Dakota. She tells of growing up in the Depression. Another is from a man who lost his fiancée in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. A West Virginia woman interviews her father who lost a leg but lived a full life.

Thousands of these stories have been collected. Someone else, usually a relative or friend is there to listen.

No one rushes the storyteller. No one feels that this kind of listening is a waste of time.

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Walden Community Calendar Features Rosario Gingue Farm



Walden Community Calendar Photo

The home of Rosario Gingue on Stevens Hill West, built about 1805, was a link to some of the earliest settlers in Walden. The house and barn burned before August 4, 1943.

BETTY HATCH

Copies of the Walden Community calendar for 2008 are available. If interested in purchasing one, call 563-2472.

Each year we use a picture of interest to Walden folks on the calendar. This year's picture was the home of Rosario Gingue on Stevens Hill West. It was originally owned by John Franklin Stevens and has had many owners since. Records provided considerable information about the families that owned the property.

Ebenezer Stevens of Gilmanton, NH first bought land in Walden in 1796. By 1804 additional purchases brought his holdings to nearly 1,000 acres. John Stevens, the second son of Ebenezer and Mary (Sanborn) Stevens, was born in Belmont, NH in 1770. His name appears on the voter records in Walden for September 4, 1802, leading us to believe that he wanted to join his family here. Apparently his first house on Stevens Hill was a log cabin on the westerly side of the hill. When the field was plowed, four stones were found apparently set for the corner posts of a foundation. When the stones were moved, ashes and broken bricks appeared.

Child's 1887 *Gazetteer* describes John Stevens this way. He "was a staunch Methodist, a lib-

eral supporter of religious teaching and lived to be 80-years old on Stevens Hill, where three families of his descendants built houses and farmed."

Walden land records include the deed from Ebenezer Stevens to John Stevens for land in December, 1806. It was here that John raised his family of ten children. No doubt the big house and barns at the top of the hill were built about 1805 or thereafter. The records are hard to follow, but it seems that Moses, the youngest son, stayed home and worked the farm with his father.

With extended family nearby the Stevens established their own burial ground near an orchard on the farm. Granite posts and heavy link chain marked the plot. After the farm was sold out of the family, their remains and grave markers were moved to the South Walden Cemetery and the family purchased adjoining lots so other members could be buried together.

John Stevens deeded land to John Franklin Stevens in October, 1845. This lot was to the west of his father's. Franklin purchased other lots from many other residents.

To give an idea of this man, one can read the following in the *Gazetteer*, - "John Franklin Stevens was born in Walden, May 29, 1816. His educational facilities

were those of common schools, but he was a boy of active intelligence and inquiring mind, and his education was supplemented by a fund of general intelligence. He followed his father's calling, that of an agriculturist. He married January 1, 1846, Elvira R. Farrington, and had one son Charles Henry who was a farmer and a resident of Walden. Mr. Stevens was a Methodist in his religious belief, a Democrat in politics, became prominent in the community, and represented Walden three legislative terms. He served as justice of the peace, selectman and overseer of the poor for twelve years, lister eight years, and held these offices at the time of his death, which occurred suddenly, November 21, 1885. He was also administer of many estates, and guardian of minors and insane persons. He was a man worthy of the responsible trusts confided to him, whose word was as good as his bond."

Charles H. Stevens farmed after his father's death and worked in Goodenough's Store in South Walden. Eventually he and his wife moved to East Hardwick.

Eight different owners held the Franklin Stevens farm between 1910 and November 23, 1929, when it was sold to Alseme Rosario Gingue. Rosario needed help, and it was during the winter of 1934-35 that Orlin Cochran joined him as hired help. Orlin's son Milton Cochran said Gingue brought horses and sled to the Heights along the railroad tracks instead of by way of the road. The Cochran family moved into the main part of the house, while Rosario and his family occupied the ell. The house and barn burned before August 4, 1943, as on that date Wilfred and Frances Cochran purchased 125-acres of land from Rosario Gingue. ★



Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

Our Southern writers book discussion series continues with *A Curtain of Green and Other Stories* by Eudora Welty on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. This is the first collection of Welty's stories, originally published in 1941. It includes such classics as "A Worn Path," "Pettrified Man," "Why I Live at the P.O.," and "Death of a Traveling Salesman." The historic introduction by Katherine Anne Porter brought Welty to the attention of the American reading public. Suzi Wizowaty will lead the discussion. This series, sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council, is free and open to the public. Books and schedules are available at the Library.

We have 2007 tax forms available at the Library. In addition to the standard forms we also have reproducible copies of federal tax forms and instructions.

Please support the Pope Library and our after-school Young Adult Program at Town Meeting on March 4. We will offer our traditional Town Meeting luncheon during the noon break in the school cafeteria. The menu includes ham, baked beans, coleslaw, homemade rolls, beverages and lots of goodies for dessert. The price for the luncheon is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. We hope to see you there.

Some of our newest book acquisitions are: *Three Cups of Tea* by Mortenson and Relin, *In Defense of Food* by Pollan, *Giving by Clinton, Chat* by Mayor, *The Senator's Wife* by Miller, *Playing For Pizza* by Grisham and *Bangkok Tattoo* by Burdett. We also have many new DVD's in our collection: *Now and Then*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Elizabethtown*, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Pleasantville*, *The Pajama Game* and *The Neverending Story I and II*.

From the Children's Room and YA Center

Story hour is back in session on Mondays mornings at 10:00 a.m. We have a lively young group and welcome more children and their grown ups.

The after school Young Adult Program is going strong with lots of energetic participants. The program meets Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. YA Program will NOT meet on February 6, 8 and 11. It will resume on Wednesday, February 13.

Our latest YA book acquisitions are: *Rules of Survival* by Werlin, *Twisted* by Anderson, *Taken* by Bloor, *Deadline* by Crutcher, *Before I Die* by Downham, *Rover* by French, *Eclipse* by Meyer, *Saving the World* and *Other Extreme Sports*.



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Wednesday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

February 3, 2007: A snowy beginning to the month of February. It certainly makes for lots of aerobic exercise between shoveling and snowshoeing. There's about 1½ feet of light fluffy snow with a firm base below from previous trail blazing. The wind is sculpting wavy drifts, adding a gentle curving grace to the fresh powder. No need for the woodstove today. The solar power of the full sun keeps our indoor temperature in the mid 70's while outside it's a comfortable, sunny, 25°.

February 6, 2007: Single digit temperatures and wind-chill warnings put a temporary halt in my daily snowshoe jaunts. A quick shoveling of the stairs and a trip to the mailbox was the extent of my outdoor activity yesterday. The thermometer reached a high of 7° in the afternoon but plummeted to zero once the sun set. This morning shows more single digit readings, but the gusting winds have abated. Mount Washington has donned its full mantle of white, a splendid cloak for the majestic patriarch of the Presidential range. It needs the heaviest covering it can find with temperatures at 20° below yesterday and winds gust-

ing up to 95 mph atop the mountain.

February 10, 2007: A sun-dog sunrise yesterday foretold of cold, snowy, blustery days to come. Drifting made RT 2 a bit treacherous midday. Slowing down to make the downhill turn into Marty's store was an adventure. Fortunately today has more friendly outdoor weather. The sun is having a difficult time finding holes in the clouds, but the wind is calm. After a start of 6° this morning, the thermometer climbed to 25°. It's a great afternoon for a long, leisurely snowshoe.

February 12, 2007: It's a picture-perfect Vermont-postcard afternoon. Fresh, fluffy snow covers the ground, thickly coating the bushes and cloaking the mountaintops. Long shadows creep across the snow. It's 4:45 and the sun is just beginning to drop into the trees. A gentle wind sways through the bare, thin branches of our maples. The valley is bathed in a golden glow from the setting sun. The thermometer is at 11° and dropping. Clear days give way to crystal clear, star-studded, frigid nights (minus 12° in the wee hours of the morning).

February 15, 2007: The Valentine's Day blizzard of 2007



Photo By: Jeff Gold

There were lots of fresh snowshoe hare tracks, with squirrel and other rodents of various sizes leaving intricately woven patterns in the snow.

brought us 24 hours of continuous snowfall and whiteout conditions with strong, heavy winds gusting to 40 mph. Three feet of snow lie on the ground, leaving just the very tops of our culvert railings visible. I shoveled at noon yesterday to get to the mailbox and the stairs have disappeared again today. Likewise,

Jeff cleared the lower drive in the afternoon, attempting to make the eventual digging out a bit more manageable. Hopefully that'll be the case. We'll need the wind to die down a bit before beginning that long, arduous chore.

February 16, 2007: Day 3 of the great digging out. Yesterday

we managed a path to the mailbox and opened the lower drive. Around noon I forced open the mudroom door, pushing aside the snowpack on the porch. I found the general area where the stairs should be and layered down four deep with the shovel before hitting ground level. After clearing a single shovel width on the stairs, I donned snowshoes to traverse the drive and slide down the snow bank to the road. Then, I had to dig down a bit to find the mailbox and retrieve its contents, which really weren't worth the bother. Mid-afternoon, Jeff began his assault on the lower drive and inched his way with the snow thrower through the drifts. I brought some of the snow nearer the garage door down with the shovel so he had space to maneuver the machine. Unfortunately, the constantly changing and gusting wind brought the snow back onto Jeff. He persevered and actually cleared the drive, then drove into town to refill the gas can for the snowblower. Today we'll tackle the wall of snow blocking the upper drive, clear that drive and shovel the stairs and walkway again. We're seeing a bit of sunshine, but single digit temperatures remain.

February 19, 2007: We're back to the minus side of zero as strong winds whip down frigid Arctic air. The weatherman

(See *Valentine's* on Next Page)

Stuart V. Corso, D.M.D.

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Photo By: Mark Joncas

Mark Joncas moved into a house near Hill Street in Danville four years ago. Joncas has played town league hockey in Baie-Comeau, Quebec on the north shore of the St. Lawrence Seaway, six hours north of Quebec City. With a love of cold weather, hockey and ice skating Joncas created a skating rink near his home at the neighborhood Hill Street Park.

With help from Marty Beattie, Mayo's Furniture and Floor Covering, the Danville Fire Department, Garren Calkins and the weather, the skating has been welcomed by skaters of all ages.

Above (from left) are Andrew Joncas, Amari Cristi-Pabon, Zoe McMullen and Cameron Clark. "The skating is free," Mark Joncas says, "and everyone is welcome. Bienvenue."



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Danville Churches Host Lenten Services

BOB SARGENT

Churches of Danville, North Danville, and West Danville will host services during Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 6.

Lent was first observed in A.D. 325, when Emperor Constantine officially recognized Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire. Originally, people did not observe Lent for more than a week. Some kept it for 40 consecutive hours, falsely believing that only 40 hours elapsed between Christ's death and his resurrection.

Eventually, Lent became a 40-day period of fasting or abstaining from certain foods. The emphasis was not so much on the fasting as on the spiritual renewal demanded in the preparation for Easter.

During the early centuries, only a single meal was allowed each day. Flesh meat and fish, and dairy products were absolutely forbidden. Fasting to employ self-discipline was to

give a worshipper the control over him- or herself to purify the heart and renew life.

The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "Lenten," meaning spring. Before giving up certain things during Lent, some held a celebration to make sure they got in their share of debaucheries. This time is still celebrated as Mardi Gras.

Shrove Tuesday, which will be celebrated at the Danville Congregational Church on February 5, beginning with a Pancake Supper at 5:30 p.m. and a service to follow at 7 p.m., is a pre-Lenten service that marks the beginning of fasting.

Historians maintain that there were feasts of pancakes to use up supplies of fat, butter, and eggs - foods that were forbidden during Lent. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving. As far back as A.D. 1000, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions. Since Lent, and a time of fasting, was about to begin, what was a family to do with its meat, butter, eggs, and milk? Aha! Pancakes. And lots of them.

Ash Wednesday, which will be celebrated at the North Danville Baptist Church with a service on February 6, beginning at 7 p.m., was fixed in the 7th century at 40 days as a reminder of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert. Early penitents were sprinkled with ashes as a sign of their penance, and later applied to a worshipper's forehead, accompanied by the words, "Remember, you are dust and will return to dust." In the early church, ashes were the remains of burning Palm leaves.

The Maundy Thursday service will be celebrated in the Danville United Methodist Church on March 20, beginning at 7 p.m.. Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus. As we understand it, during this meal, Jesus took bread and wine and shared them with his disciples. The Last Supper was probably a Passover meal, the meal which the Jews share to celebrate the time when God delivered Moses and the people from slavery in Egypt.

The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane. The name is derived from the Latin mandatum meaning "command," a reference to Christ's commandment to love one another. It is recorded that during the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as a reminder that they, like Jesus, were to be servants of all. It was at this time that Jesus changed the words of the traditional Passover meal and commanded his disciples to break and eat bread, and drink wine in his memory. This act of remembrance is also known as the Eucharist, and Holy Communion.

Good Friday service will be at the Danville Congregational Church on March 21, beginning at 7 p.m. Good Friday is the Friday before Easter when we commemorate the day that Jesus was crucified on a cross. The name may be derived from "God's Friday," the same way that good-bye is derived from "God be with you."

It is "good" because the barrier of sin was broken. Jesus was arrested, tried in a mock trial and handed over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and flogged with whips. A crown of long, sharp thorns was thrust upon his head. He was forced to carry his own cross to Skull Hill, where he was nailed to a cross along with two criminals.

A sign above Jesus read, "The King of the Jews." According to Biblical accounts, Jesus was nailed to the cross at the third hour; darkness covered the land at the sixth hour; and darkness left, and Jesus died at the ninth hour.

The hours in the Bible are calculated from the first hour of the day, being 6 a.m. It is traditional to eat hot cross buns on Good Friday. The pastry cross on top of the bun symbolizes the cross of Jesus.

There will be an Easter sunrise service on March 23, led by the West Danville United Methodist Church. Easter Sunday services will be held in individual churches and there will be Easter morning breakfasts at some of the churches.

Valentine's Day blizzard of 2007 brought 24-hours of continuous snowfall and whiteout conditions with heavy winds gusting to 40 mph.

(Continued from Page 26)

assures us, however, that this subzero blast will be short-lived. Meanwhile a wind-chill advisory is in effect and poor Jeff will need to clear the wind blown snow drifts so we can get out for a commitment this morning. At least there's sunshine to try and warm up the day. A clear, frigid night makes viewing Venus a beautiful sight, from inside. The sparkling planet is lying just below the setting crescent moon, the only two objects in the western twilight sky.

February 23, 2007: A high of 41° yesterday was a brief reminder that winter can't last forever. I've been trying to reopen our snowshoe trails, but deep, fluffy snow is very difficult to pack down. I managed one short, strenuous loop through the woods.

February 26, 2007: Today was the second day in a row for invigorating yet leisurely snowshoeing. Temperatures were into the 30's with bright sunshine and little wind. With daytime thawing and hard freezing overnight, the snow packs beautifully. Jeff was out with me this time, taking pictures and helping pack the trail. We did make it over to the main logging road but had to break trail there as well. There were lots of fresh snowshoe hare tracks, with squirrel and other rodents of various sizes leaving intricately woven patterns in the snow. One female downy woodpecker was tapping away at a huge pileated woodpecker hole in search of insects or larvae. Chickadees were congregating in the spruce trees, pecking away at

seeds there and attempting a trill or two before reverting to their raspy winter call. A waxing half moon followed our wanderings. Snow on the White Mountains accentuated the long ski runs and completed our idyllic winter view. Uh oh, the roof snow just cascaded down in a thunderous roar. Jeff is extending his after-

noon exercise with clearing the drive before the mounds compact into an immovable, icy mess. At least it's still daylight.

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



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Click & Clack Talk Cars

Shop Supplies are a Legitimate Charge

Dear Tom and Ray:

What are shop supplies? I thought it was old rags and sprays to clean or lube. My recent visit to a

dealer's garage cost me \$22.56 for shop supplies. My total bill was \$297.81. Do I have to pay it? Is this a tip? - Carol

TOM: It's not a tip, Carol. The term "shop supplies" generally

refers to things like solvents, cleaners, small quantities of fluids, rags, the servicing of the parts-cleaning machine and the disposal of waste oil and other toxic materials. And perhaps antacids for treating the occasional sausage bomb ingested by one of our guys during lunch.

RAY: It's all stuff that does have to be paid for. But shops have different ways of dealing with it. In our shop, we actually track the shop supplies that were used for a particular job and itemize them on the customer's bill. So on the bill, you might see a charge for brake cleaner or for topping off your power-steering fluid or antifreeze.

TOM: The problem is, we have a small shop. And when you have a dealership, with 20 bays going and a hundred customers a day, it's difficult to keep track of that stuff on a job-by-job basis. It becomes a bookkeeping nightmare. You'd have to add a bookkeeping charge to every bill, which wouldn't make you very happy either, Carol.

RAY: So in many cases, a shop will simply bury that stuff in the labor rate and charge \$90 an hour instead of \$85. That's fair. They tell you up front that this is the cost of doing business with them.

TOM: But other shops choose not to do that, probably for competitive reasons. They don't want their labor rate to be higher than other shops in the area. So in those cases, they often charge a percentage of the repair cost for "shop supplies." That's what happened in your case.

RAY: We don't particularly care

for that approach, because then you may come in for a job like a window regulator, which requires no shop supplies no rags, no cleaners and no solvents, and you still pay 7 percent or 8 percent of your bill for supplies.

TOM: And somebody who gets a brake job (which uses a lot of supplies) essentially gets his job subsidized by you.

RAY: But like I said, it's very hard for large shops to track this stuff individually. So I would prefer that it be included in the hourly labor rate or made clear at the outset that there is a certain percent surcharge on each bill to cover these costs. That way, you know what to expect upfront and make your decisions accordingly.

Can an SUV Change a Person?

Dear Tom and Ray:

I listen to your show a lot, and I completely agree that SUV drivers are a menace. I know, because I just bought one. I had a Saturn sedan, and I was very careful and considerate. I bought a Toyota Highlander, and I drive faster, I can't see a lot of things I could see before, and last week I actually got out of my car and nearly got into a fistfight with another woman. I'm not a fighter; in fact, I'm a Catholic-school religion teacher, and I'm really soft-spoken and patient. The only explanation is the SUV. It changed me. I'm thinking about selling it, even though I only bought it in December. It's got a four-cylinder engine, and it has front-wheel drive

only, so it's not a big gas-guzzler. It's gray-green, and my neighbor started calling it "The Battleship," which is what it feels like. Should I cut my losses and get a Subaru? I want to be safe, but I also want others to be safe around me. - Trish

TOM: Wow. So the SUV turned you into a jerk, Trish?

RAY: To be honest with you, the Highlander hardly is among the worst SUVs. It's mid-size, it's based on a car platform, and yours has the optional four-cylinder engine, so it's not like people can legitimately oink at you as you drive by.

TOM: But, it is quite a change from your Saturn sedan. In the Saturn, when you got up to 60 mph, the noise and vibration told you that you were going fast enough, thank you very much. But the Highlander is new. And it's very well-made. As a result, it's so quiet and smooth that even at high speeds, you don't feel personally endangered, like you did in the Saturn. And that lack of negative feedback has released your inner animal, Trish!

RAY: While I normally wouldn't put the Highlander in the category of dangerous vehicles, in your hands I guess it is. I mean, fistfight, Trish?

TOM: So, if it makes you uncomfortable, and you don't like the way you behave in it, then trade it in for something you like better. Life is too short to be known as "that jerk Trish."



LYNDON: The possibilities for this unique property are endless. Open a Bed & Breakfast or antique shop or enjoy a tastefully refurbished home with a rental property to help pay the mortgage. This 3-bedroom home has an updated kitchen and tile in both bathrooms. Wood floors cover 1st floor, and the patio has a Burke Mountain view. Driveway is a town road. Built in 1900, this Victorian home is just off VT 114. **\$450,000**



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◀ **DANVILLE** - The views from these 13 surveyed acres are just beautiful - east, west and northern exposures. The land is mostly open and situated on a pretty country road, close to both St. Johnsbury and Danville and handy to Montpelier. MLS# 2693020 **\$92,000**

▶ **KIRBY** - 15.7 acres of open and wooded land with gorgeous views of the Presidential Range. A perfect spot to build with its short drive to Burke Mountain, and with its Kirby location, you have school choice! MLS# 2698787 **\$195,000**



◀ **DANVILLE** - Winter fun! This is the year to sled and this is the land to sled from. 62 acres with access to it all, and located only 2 miles from the village! MLS#2654598 **\$87,500**

#6825 LYNDONVILLE

Salt Box on 1.13 acres. Built in 2005 this wonderful Salt Box style home has it all. Privately located, features new kitchen w/pantry & maple cabinets, exceptionally crafted by the owner, made from wood off the property. Light and open w/cathedral ceiling 3 bdrm., 3 bath and a third floor balcony w/seating area overlooking the living room. Radiant heat in basement, System 2000 furnace. **Offered at \$279,900**



#6826 LYNDONVILLE

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#6827 LYNDONVILLE

Lyndonville, but oh so close to East Burke. This very well kept manufactured home has 3 bdrms, 2 full baths, mudroom, screened porch, and a deck. Within 5 min to Burke Mtn Ski Area and you can snowmobile from this property. Situated on 1.5 ac +/- of land with frontage on a year round brook. This home is very comfortable and ready for your family. Call for an appointment, we'd love to show you this. **Being offered at \$129,900**



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Danville Senior Meal Site

February Meal Schedule

February 5 - Cream of Broccoli Soup, Chicken Caesar Salad, Carrots, Peach Cobbler.

February 7 - Spaghetti with Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Peas and Carrots, Juice.

February 12 - Liver, Bacon, Onions, Peppers, Hamburgers, Mashed Potatoes, Whole Wheat Rolls, California Vegetables, Cantaloupe, Oatmeal Cookies.

February 14 - Lemon Chicken with Artichokes, Brown Rice, Whole Wheat Rolls, Broccoli and Carrots, Pears, Juice.

February 19 - Beef Stew with Crackers, Biscuits, Apple Sauce, Lemon Cake, Juice.

February 21 - Chicken, Ziti with Broccoli Alfredo, Whole Wheat Rolls, Carrots, Pudding, Orange Juice.

February 26 - Roast Pork with Apple Chutney, Scalloped Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, Rolls, Pear Crisp, Apricot Juice.

February 28 - Grilled Chicken, Biscuits, Sweet Potato Fries, Lemon Rice.

Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$3.50 for guests 60+ (Others \$4.50) is appreciated.

20th Vermont Thanksgiving at New York's Covenant House



Covenant House New York Photograph

At the 2007 Vermont Thanksgiving at Covenant House New York in November were (L-R) Vermonters Jerry Dougherty, Harry Gorman, Janet Wakefield, Jerry Prevost, Crystal Prevost and Covenant House staff members David Gregarorio and Bruce Henry. Janet Wakefield of Danville describes herself as the "program banker" who seeks out donations of cash and supplies to make the dinner in New York a success.

Covenant House New York is the nation's largest adolescent care agency serving homeless, runaway and other young people at risk in New York City. For 20 years, Covenant House New York has celebrated a "Vermont Thanksgiving."

The annual tradition began when Harry Gorman of Danville received a donation request from Covenant House and was unable to financially contribute. Believing in the cause and hoping to assist in some other way, Gorman turned to his friends and persuaded first Jerry Dougherty and then Willemien Dingemans Miller and Bill and Kim Darling to join him. They asked if it was possible to come to the facility

and cook a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Covenant House accepted immediately, starting what Covenant House describes as the highlight to its holiday season.

On November 21, the group from Vermont, mostly high school culinary art students, took the 8-hour trip from St. Johnsbury (in a school bus) and returned again to New York City. Though the participants

have changed over the years, the purpose and meaning behind the project remain the same.

Roughly 10 years ago, the Prevost family (Jerry, Crystal, Danielle and Aimee) took responsibility of the event, having students from Jerry's culinary arts program at St. Johnsbury Academy assist in the preparation and serving the dinner. For the Prevosts it was a way to involve their own children and others as well in an act of pure kindness, which would open their eyes to an unfamiliar world. For most of the young people from Vermont, their visit

to New York City was a new experience.

On Thursday, November 22, the Vermont Thanksgiving was served again, this time to 300 people. Following the dinner the group from Vermont was saluted for its continuing Thanksgiving spirit and dedication to Covenant House New York.

The 2007 dinner was a success. With empty plates and smiling faces, the young people of Covenant House New York and St. Johnsbury walked away with a sense of gratitude and an experience that will last for years to come.



ML#2659674 Circa 1820 renovated 3-bedroom cape on 14.25+/- acres. Inside features a spacious country kitchen with porcelain floor, a large split level den, formal living and dining rooms, first floor master bedroom/bath and more. Outside there is a screened gazebo, nice grounds, large barn with a heated shop and open fields for gardens and/or livestock.

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West Barnet Senior Action Center

February 2008

- February 1** - Buffet.
- February 6** - Chopped Beef with Egg Gravy, Boiled Potatoes, Biscuit, Sliced Beets, Orange Jell-O with Pineapple.
- February 8** - Ham & Broccoli Quiche, Fruit Cup, Sweet Breads, Pudding with Oranges.
- February 13** - Pork Chop, Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Rolls, Tropical Fruit Cup.
- February 15** - Chicken with Biscuit, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Mixed Vegetables, Cherry Jell-O.
- February 20** - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Wheat Bread, Chocolate Pudding with Topping.
- February 22** - Baked Beans, Hot Dog, Brown Bread, Cole Slaw, Pears.
- February 27** - Corn Chowder, Tuna and Egg Salad Sandwiches, Carrot Raisin Salad, Vanilla Pudding with Oranges.
- February 29** - Assorted Pizza, Tossed Salad, Ice Cream.

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

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- * 10.45 acres \$135,000 -- ML2685788
- * 2 acres \$45,000 -- ML2685784



CIRCA 1876
Classic Vermont Post and Bean farmhouse in a pretty setting in Danville. This home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, dining room, den, large eat-in kitchen - there's an attached shed and carriage house. The 2 acre+/- lot has frontage on the Joe's Brook.

\$169,900 -- ML2655311

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AROUND THE TOWNS



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Daily through February 16 "Gifts for Ganymede, Paintings and Sculpture" by Dorian McGowan, Northeast Kingdom Artisans' Guild Backroom Gallery, Artisan's Guild, St. Johnsbury.

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

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

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

1st 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.

1st Sunday - Quilting Class with Lee Beattie, North Danville Community Center, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fridays - Friday Tea Room, North Danville Baptist Church, 2-4 p.m. (802) 748-4096.

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.

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

February

- 1 Contradance, Danville Town Hall, 8 p.m.
- 2 Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.
- 2 Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m. (802) 748-8291.
- 2 BankNorth Craftsby Marathon, Point-to-point crosscountry ski marathon, (802) 586-7767.
- 2 Trio Fedele performs works for flute, cello, & piano at the South Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury. 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Agatha Christie: Creator of Miss Jane Marple, performance by Helene Lang, Goodrich Library, Newport, 7 p.m. (802) 334-7902.
- 6 Going to War in Shakespeare: Olivier, Branagh and Henry V with Pater Saccio, Stanstead College, Quebec, 7 p.m. (819) 876-7891.
- 6 Forward from Here: Leaving Middle age and other Adventures with Reeve Lindbergh, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 7 p.m. (802) 748-8291.
- 7 Art Fits Vermont with Vermont Arts Council, Poulin Building Library, North Troy, 4 p.m. (802) 828-5422.
- 7 Book Discussion: Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart*. Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 7 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- 9 A School Day in 1880, 10 a.m. - Noon. VT History Museum, Montpelier. (802) 828-2180.
- 10 Matt Clancy Memorial Scholarship Concert, Danville



Cheney family photograph

Karen and Hank Cheney read The North Star in Arcata, CA with their travel companions Oscar and Sophie. The Cheney family are sitting on the front porch of Karen's great-great-grandfather's home. Michael Chaffee loaded all of his family and children except Karen's great-grandfather and sailed from Prince Edward Island to Arcata where he established a shingle factory to meet the needs of the growing community in the late 1800's. Today, Arcata is the home of Humboldt State University. Karen says, "It feels and looks like a Vermont small college town and has some of the most environmentally innovative practices in the country." Last summer the Cheney family traveled five weeks and 9,000 miles in their 22-foot motor home.

- School, 7 p.m. (802) 748-8150.
- 14 Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.
- 15 Contradance, Danville Town Hall, 8 p.m.
- 16 Winter Tracking in Victory Basin with Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston, 9 a.m. (802) 626-8511.
- 17 Music on a Winter Afternoon with piano and cello, Call for directions. (802) 334-7080.
- 20 Full Moon Snowshoe Trek from Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston, 7 p.m. (802) 626-8511.
- 21 Journey to Alaska with Debbie Miller, Fairbanks Museum, St.

- Johnsbury, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-2372.
- 21 Book Discussion: Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 7 p.m. (802) 626-5475.
- 21-24 4th Annual Northeast Kingdom Fishing Derby, Derby. (802) 626-8511.
- 23 4th Annual Wild and Woolly Ski and Snowshoe, Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston, 10 a.m. (802) 626-8511.
- 23 Professor Fairbanks, Violinist Extraordinaire, the difference between fiddle and violin, MAC Center for the Arts, Newport, 7 p.m. (802) 505-1265.
- 25 February Vacation Day Camp at

- Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (802) 626-8511.
- 25 Art Fits Vermont with Vermont Arts Council, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 4 p.m. (802) 828-5422.
- 27 Book Discussion: Eudora Welty's *A Curtain of Green and Other Stories*, Pope Library, Danville, 7 p.m.
- 29 Vermont Inventors Exhibit Opening and Reception, Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. 4 p.m. (802) 748-2372.

See also the Arts Around the Towns Calendar on Page 14.

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