



THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

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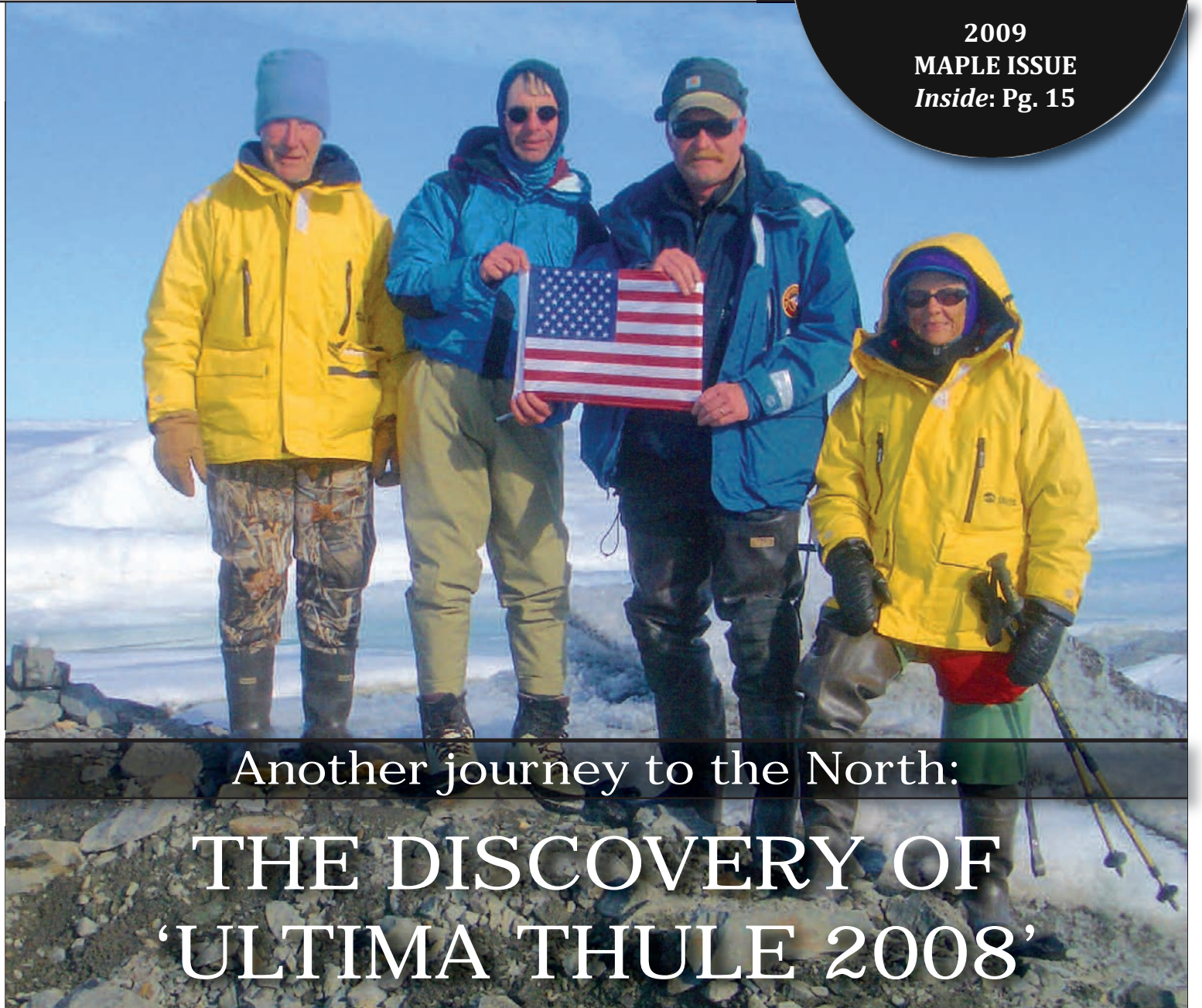
Cell phones and sap suckers

by NATHANIEL TRIPP

There it goes again, another call. The downy woodpecker sounds just like the outside ringer box we installed on the porch years ago after the thing got clogged by mud daubers. Lots of times I've started to run inside to answer, only to realize that this call is coming from half way up a maple tree.

Later in spring it's the sapsucker, and you can tell they're taking some care with their ring tone, going for the most resonance, the most distinctive buzz. The warm sunshine really has the sapsuckers wired, enterprising ones will sometimes even drum on a steel gate, which must give them an awful headache, but nothing else seems to matter when spring

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2009
MAPLE ISSUE
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Another journey to the North:

THE DISCOVERY OF 'ULTIMA THULE 2008'

Residents of Lyndon, Fischer, left, and Burdet, right, have spent 30 years together exploring the world on various adventures; last spring they took a skiing trip to the North Pole. Later in the year, they were asked to take on the current challenge, an opportunity put their stamp on history.

by HEINZ FISCHER and LYNDY BURDET

We were on a Russian icebreaker steaming north along the East coast of Greenland. Our goal was to discover a new "most northern point" of land in the world and to climb the most northern mountain. A German television crew on board planned to film and report these extraordinary events.

The Vikings first dreamed about such a far away land, and they named it "Thule," a name it retains today. During the last 200 years, adventurers and explorers have tried over and over again, sometimes under the most extreme conditions, to find land this close to the North Pole. In 1921, a Danish expedition discovered Kaffeklubben Island (83.67°N), but in 1979 another tiny island — Oodaaq (83.40° N), was spotted even farther north, which was then considered the most northern piece of land. An expedition using an icebreaker, however, failed to reach it. Strong winds had pushed multiyear ice towards the North coast of Greenland, forcing the icebreaker to turn around 260 miles short of the drop-off point.

"No way," we exclaimed when geophysicist Ken Zerbst, the expedition leader on the icebreaker, called last year and explained that he had found another way to search for the most northern piece of land in the world.

"Absolutely no." We had just returned from skiing to the North Pole and needed to catch our breath.

A week later, we again heard from Zerbst with all the details. The expedition would be sponsored by German TV, and the film crew, who knew us well from the icebreaker trip, wanted to join the expedition. The crew was very interested in filming the event and reporting to their viewers about this very fragile region of the world.

So we agreed to go.

Our team consisted of Ken Zerbst, Brian Beatty (a mountain climber), and the film crew. On July 19, they flew again to Oslo, then to Tromso, Norway and on to Longyearbyen, Spitzbergen. We spent two days there to organize the four-man team and three-man film crew. Then we were on our way by Twin Otter plane to Station Nord on Greenland.

The Twin Otter is a 20-passenger STOL (Short Takeoff and Landing) utility aircraft. The aircraft's fixed tricycle landing gear, STOL capability, and relative high rate of climb have made it a successful cargo, regional passenger and MEDEVAC aircraft, but it was loaded to its limits with seven people and all the camping and filming gear. From Station Nord, a former US airbase now under Danish military control, we proceeded to Kap Morris Jesup, Greenland. At this location there is a "runway" consisting of stone, rocks, mud, snow and ice. It took three low passes by the pilot to memorize a path around all the obstacles before landing. On the ground we set up tents and camp.

Kap Morris Jesup had been the staging point for many past expeditions to the North Pole, including

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From the Editor

Rebirth is in the air

There is light on the horizon, both literally and figuratively. These days, as the snow melts and the evenings become longer, many of us enjoy having daylight for a couple of hours after we return from work. It's a sign that spring is coming, a time for rebirth. There other signs we can also see if we look hard enough.

Hard times have affected us all in some way. National news reports are often grim, but let's take a break from listening to the talking television heads. In our little corner of the world, we often don't see the economic extremes. After all, we're used to relative simple existence, and often enough, the only extremes we do see are weather-related. Last month, I had a great conversation with a St. Johnsbury store owner who plans on adding another location 20 miles south. Any news of business expansion is welcome these days.

There are people in our communities that have been affected by the economic downturn. A short drive around the region and quick survey of local manufacturers can prove that easily enough. Their struggle is real and is unfortunate. While traveling through northern New Hampshire over the weekend, parts of the trip seemed like a whole different world. The loss of manufacturing jobs hit some communities up and down the Route 3 corridor very hard. The problem is only exacerbated by the struggles these communities were enduring before any of this happened. However,

residents of these communities should take some solace in the fact that there are examples of communities that went through similar hard times and emerged better for it. Slowly, over time, perhaps these towns will move away from their industrial history and embrace a new identity.

Many of our readers, once they make it a little further inside this month's North Star, may stop and read a short article about the revival of St. Johnsbury's Maple Festival. Scheduled for mid-April, it sounds like the rebirth of this event is shaping up to be memorable. Music, events, activities and local vendors lining Railroad Street while the community comes together to celebrate one of our most well-known industries, sounds like times gone by.

All of our community events (Autumn on the Green, Caledonia County Fair, Danville Fair, St. Johnsbury Foliage Festival, etc.) become even more important in times like these because they reinforce the relationship of business and community. Scott Beck and his group of devoted volunteers deserve a lot of credit for undertaking this revival. They've spent months planning and organizing this celebration right down to the tiniest detail. They've also committed to this level of volunteer involvement every year in anticipation of the festival. The festival faded away 20 years ago because volunteers became scarce and an event like this cannot survive without them. Hopefully this time around, Scott's group will increase every year as Railroad Street merchants see the benefits this event brings.

I, for one, will be there.

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

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

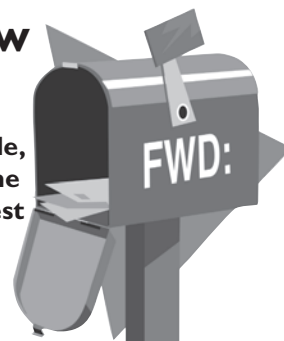
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A major fire strikes Railroad Street building, marveling at the longevity of the Kelsey and Bishop families

The North Star

"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"

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THE NORTH STAR

April 6, 1877

Perils of Pearl Diving – Australian papers state that two divers engaged in pearl fishing in Torres straits were recently drowned while at work in the diving dresses, and two swimming divers have been devoured by sharks. The sharks are now so numerous as to produce a perceptible falling off in the quantity of pearl shell being obtained. One of the divers is described as losing his life in a singular way. He was walking along the bottom, which was very level and free of coral, when his life line became tangled around a large piece of cup-shaped coral, the only obstruction for a considerable distance. The boat to which he was attached was drifting with the tide as he walked on, and the life line getting foul the boat was anchored as it were. The strain on the life line would appear to have pulled the diver down to the coral, thereby causing such alarm

as to cause him to lose his presence of mind to just cut the line. He might just as well cut his throat, as by his thoughtless act he transferred the boat's strain from the rope to the air pipe, which was soon pulled out of its socket in the helmet. It was some time before the body was recovered. It was on its back and a knife was clutched firmly in one hand.

War of Words – When a Vermont editor gets up and refers to a Wisconsin man as a Wisconsiner, the latter simply telegraphs back that he wants nothing more to do with Vermontstrosity.

Murder in Littleton – Guy Kimball, of Dalton, aged 65, went home last night drunk, quarreled with his wife and beat her to death with a stick of wood. Kimball is a quarrelsome, drunken wretch, and has repeatedly abused his wife. The deceased was an inoffensive woman about 45 years old. The murderer is under arrest. Kimball came to Littleton yesterday for liquor for a lame son with a broken arm. He arrived home about 4 p.m. drunk. At about 9 or 10 p.m. he ordered his wife to make him a cup of tea. She refused. He then knocked her down and jumped on her and ordered his son to bed. The son heard noises until about 11 p.m. Another son returned home later on and found his mother dead. Kimball confessed to the murder and made no attempt to escape before he was placed under arrest.

Weather – Mild for the spring time. Snow fast disappearing and sleighing mostly bare ground. Wheeling poor and horseback traveling much in vogue.

Pets – Ninety-five dogs have been registered in Danville. They are all collared, of course. Most of the canines were their necklaces very proudly and are strutting about like a dandy.

From Russia with Weigh – Recently, the Fairbanks received the largest order from Russia ever received from that country. It embraced all the scales of their make from the hay scales down.

Meteor – A large meteor passed over Glover and Craftsbury last week on Tuesday morning. It appeared as a large as a full moon, and moved very rapidly from east to west. A noise like the rumbling of a heavy wagon, or of distant thunder, was heard, while the earth trembled as though affected by a small earth quake. Some who saw the fiery visitor said it broke into fragments and fell to the earth. This was probably the earth quake shock felt in Troy the same day.

★★★

April 13, 1877

St. Johnsbury Fire – Last Saturday night, something of a fire occurred on Railroad Street. It commenced at about 10 p.m. in a large block owned by N.M. Johnson and was first discovered by someone who occupied a room

in the second or third story, and who was about retiring to bed. He immediately gave the alarm, and soon there was a large force of firemen and others on the ground, The fire had begun on the lower and back part of the building and ran up through the partitions to the roof, which was more injured on that side, and it is thought will have to be rebuilt. The Flanders Water Works were put in requisition, and they were so efficient, that with the assistance of the firemen the fire was soon squelched and prevented from spreading, the flames being literally drowned out. The inside woodworks were destroyed and the goods were damaged more by water than by fire. Mr. Johnson's loss between the building and goods we've seen stated as \$5,000.

★★★

April 20, 1877

Longevity – Last week, we published a case of remarkable longevity in the Bishop family, of St. Johnsbury. We now present quite a remarkable record in the family of Mr. James Kelsey, who came to Danville in 1789 and dies in 1845 at the age of 79. The following named children born at the old homestead in North Danville are now living, Harvey Kelsey, aged 86 years and six months; James, 84 and six months; John, 78 and six months; Robert, 76 and six months; Hiram, 74; Sally, 72;

Hugh, 64. This totals 536 aggregate years with an average age of 76. The members of this family are all now in tolerable good health with the exception of Harvey and Major John Kelsey, the last of whom is very feeble, and not expected to survive long.

The Hunter – The pioneers who settled Northern Vermont found on the bank of beautiful Lake Memphremagog a hunter and a trapper named Ben Wilson, or Indian Ben as he came to be known for his associating with the St. Francis tribe of Indians, who held that region as their hunting grounds. Ben was probably the first white man to trod the shores of that picturesque, and now well-known lake. Whence he came or how long he had been there no one could find out. He was at the time of the settlement, a man in middle life, and had evidently spent many years in the forest with the Indians. Ben was one of the most successful hunters and trappers on the lake, as well as one of the most athletic of those hearty and fearless men. During his life on the lake and its immediate tributaries – for he would never hunt or trap any other ground – he met with many adventures.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear North Star Monthly,

During this age when there is too much disheartening news, I thought you might want to let your readers hear some encouraging news. I am the 7th grade social studies teacher at Danville School. As a community service project, my 7th grade students wanted to visit with the townspeople who eat lunch at the Danville Senior Center. (Many of these townspeople are in their 80's and 90's.)



The Danville Senior Center is located about 200 yards from the school, on the lower floor of the United Methodist Church.

On February 12th and 17th, the Danville 7th graders had lunch at the Danville Senior Center. The students helped serve and dined with the adults having lunch. The kids loved talking to the local

adults about what Danville was like in the 1920's, 30's and 40's. One woman was nearly 100 years old and she had been a teacher in Danville. The students even got to meet a woman who lived in Germany during World War II. This was fascinating for the kids as we had just finished studying WWII. This woman, named Gunde, helped history come alive for my students.

These two lunches were the best history lesson my students have had all year. I believe I speak for all my students when I say that the adults at the Senior Center gave us much more than we ever anticipated. Those sage adults performed a community service for us! Thank you, Danville Seniors. Lastly, I would like to thank Karen Moran and Rev. Hank Cheney for their grace and hospitality.

I have attached photographs which I took at the two luncheons. Please feel free to put this letter and any of these photographs in your newspaper.

Sincerely,
Jim Shea

Knowledge is power

by ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

On February 6, 2009, there was a news program on National Public Radio that made me quite sad. It seems that the United Kingdom is the country in the world having the greatest level of citizen surveillance.

I find this statistic hard to swallow! From the days of my youth I know how reticent and private the British people were. I know how they valued their privacy. When I was growing up, jokes circulated about Americans who would tell their life story to a complete stranger, if given the opportunity and five minutes. Things have changed!

On my last two visits to the UK I noticed a

should have been destroyed but was not, so that innocent people now have their DNA samples held by the government in violation of the law.

The House of Lords finally has held hearings about the subject of privacy and recently issued a major report. One of its concluding statements was, "Ministers have sanctioned a massive increase in surveillance ... at great cost to the taxpayer, without properly assessing either its effectiveness or taking adequate steps to protect the privacy of perfectly innocent people." Another states, "The huge rise in surveillance and data collection by the state and other organiza-

Why does it matter who knows what about you? I think that in view of the plans in the U.S. to store and transmit patient health records electronically, there are some real issues about who knows what about any person." Isobel P. Swartz

steady increase in the numbers of CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) cameras all over the country. In this part of Vermont we are used to these cameras in banks and in government offices, airports, bus terminals and even in some schools after 9/11. In Britain they are everywhere: on street corners pointing in all directions; used on the highways to collect the registration numbers of speeding cars; in railroad stations, offices, businesses, shops and even close to public footpaths. The government has estimated that there are now 4 million CCTV cameras in use in British cities compared to 1500 in German cities and none in Denmark. This has become a very controversial issue because some Britons claim that there really is no privacy anymore.

There were a couple of interesting items on the NPR program. Several people on the London streets were interviewed, and asked how they felt about the cameras. Most said they felt safer; others said that innocent people who had nothing to hide need not worry about this intrusion in their lives. NOT SO! The Chief of the London Police was interviewed and asked if the cameras really reduced crime. He said that they did not prevent crimes from being committed, but made it easier to solve the crime after the fact. So much for safety!

Cases of mistaken identity, false arrest and other related abuses of power have been directly connected to malfunctioning cameras or to those inaccurately placed. Many of the cameras are owned by private companies and are not government approved. They may not even be in working order a good part of the time, giving people and businesses a false sense of security, and making them less careful and street smart. In some cases the cameras have been inappropriately positioned so that the interiors of some homes have been caught by the surveillance.

Another issue that is also concerning the British government is that for the past several years an extensive DNA database (largest of any country) has been accumulated related to criminal offenders. The Government uses this information in criminal cases and those involving missing persons. The European Court of Human Rights has declared the British database a breach of the right to privacy because people who were wrongfully arrested, and then released from custody, automatically had a DNA sample taken upon arrest. When they were released the sample

tions risks under-mining the long-standing tradition of privacy and individual freedom which are vital for democracy."

Maybe there are people who think all this is a storm in a teacup. Why does it matter who knows what about you? I think that in view of the plans in the U.S. to store and transmit patient health records electronically, there are some real issues about who knows what about any person. Locally, people were recently affected when a hacker got into a system that stored the data of millions of banking and credit card transactions. This breach of security concerned money and social security number information. This was a major nuisance but not a social disaster. Another breach, perhaps more serious, involved the theft of pension and retirement records of state employees.

Imagine what could happen if medical records were stolen. This information is worth a great deal of money to insurance companies whose premiums, or even acceptance of a client, are based on a patient's health history. Many employers would love to know their job applicants' medical histories but are barred by law from asking. If they had this information they could easily decide to interview only those applicants with a clean medical record. Results of DNA testing indicating genetically transmitted diseases, not even manifested but possible at some future point in life, could also handicap a healthy person in some job markets.

Why is the British experience relevant? Privacy is important and is protected by law in the U.K. and the U.S. Once lost it is difficult to regain. Community surveillance introduced "to provide safety" does not always do so and can be misused. DNA records are the most intimate of all personal records. These should not be shared with any but family, for that is what they are: the history of a family with all its quirks and foibles, its talents and its downfalls, open to misinterpretation as well as to interpretation. There are many life saving benefits to the rapid access provided by electronic transfer of medical record to authorized medical personnel. It is also possible that this conversion to electronic format could save the health care system a lot of money. But before I am convinced that this is the way for us to proceed, I want to know that these records are safely protected from prying eyes. This is a significant challenge.

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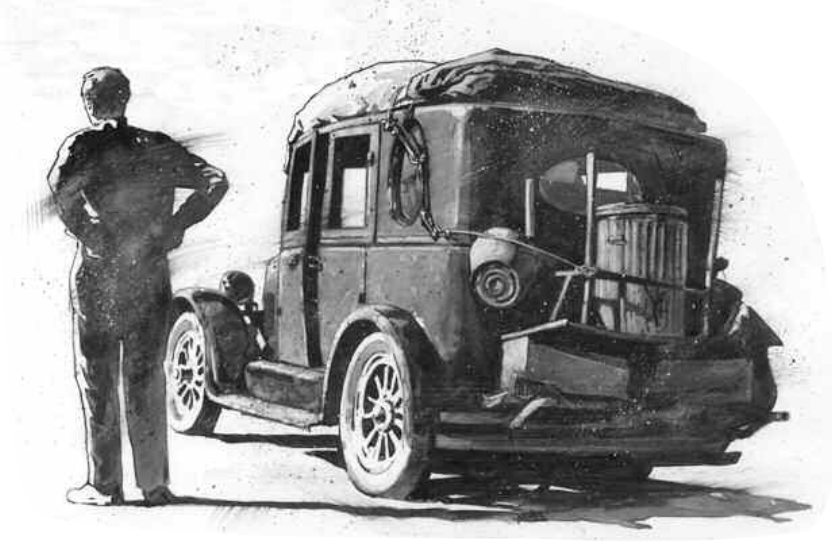
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Surviving a depression

by JOHN DOWNS

One has only to watch TV or read most any newspaper or news magazine to understand how serious economic conditions are in this country and around the world. The Northeast Kingdom will not be spared.

When I first thought about writing this to cheer us up, I thought about the expression "Been There - Done That". Anyone my age (89 and still counting) has vivid memories of his or her own family's poverty, or that of a neighbor or friend, in the Great Depression. Having survived those days convinces me that the present downturn is temporary - and will last a few years at most.

The safety net underlying our economy today assures our survival - but there was nothing like it during most of the 1930s. Things we take for granted today - Medicaid, social security, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, food stamps, to name a few - didn't exist. There was only the will to survive.

Several anecdotes about my father's fight to protect our family's survival should provide some comfort for those in dire straits today. He practiced law for a few years, and ran a chocolate company successfully until 1922 when the value of its sugar inventory dropped from 25 cents a pound to five cents, and the company went bankrupt.

Afterwards he became a securities salesman in Boston, and later opened a branch office for his employer in Springfield. He worked successfully during the stock market boom of the 1920s that ended so disastrously in 1929. At that time the family consisted of my dad and mother, four boys of whom I was the youngest, and a scruffy Airedale named Skippy. We lived modestly in Longmeadow.

Then the stock market collapsed. My father's office was closed, and he moved back to the company's Boston headquarters. The two owners of the firm were convicted of making unauthorized investments and went to prison. One of them was a friend and also had four children. He had no way to support them while in prison.

My father - Joe - had found it virtually impossible to borrow money to support us, but there was sympathy for the plight of the family of the man in prison. So dad borrowed money for the support of the family of his friend in prison, with the understanding between them that the money would be divided 50-50 to support the two families. This arrangement lasted for a year until his friend was released.

One evening Joe came home and told my mother, with us boys listening intently, that he had been contemplating suicide so that we would have the proceeds from a \$25,000 life insurance policy to live on. Unlike several acquaintances who did commit suicide, Joe thought that he would be worth more to the family than \$25,000 if he stayed alive. The policy expired as he was talking to us.

We lived in Winchester, just outside of Boston, from 1931 until Joe's retirement in 1947. He bought a small 4-bedroom house with a mortgage payment of \$75 a month that sometimes wouldn't be paid for months at a time. The bank knew it would be no better off with some other debtor, so obligingly waited until the house was sold years later to collect the unpaid principal and interest.

My dad continued to be a stock broker - not because he was particularly successful, but he enjoyed

what he was doing, and what else could he do at age 54 with his background?

I remember watching him more than once haul a bag of coal on a sled up the hill to keep us warm for another day or two. Once, as we were eating a dinner of corn meal mush, he took a coin from his pocket, held it in his hand, and said, "Well, I don't know where tomorrow night's dinner is coming from, but this will get me back into the city to find it."

Once when I was in the 8th grade, I had saved a dollar to take a girl to the movies. When Joe learned what I was going to do, he said, "How can you do this, knowing how much we need the money?" I very reluctantly cancelled the date, and it was the end of my social life for a long time.

My father and mother were college graduates and wanted us to go to college. Carl, the oldest son, was working in Chicago and was not interested in further education. Brothers Warren and Roger worked hard and were accepted by Harvard, only eight miles away in Cambridge. Joe told them that he was able to borrow money for their tuition, and would support them at home, but they would have to earn the money for the rest of their expenses. This arrangement worked well.

It was frustrating for Warren and Roger to commute and study at home. When I was ready for college, I told my folks that I wanted to go away to college. Joe said that I knew the family's circumstances, and that he could not help me if I did that. Thanks to jobs, loans and scholarships, I managed to get through Yale and graduated in 1941 in time to register for the draft.

I did live at home from 1944 to 1947 while attending Harvard Law School thanks to the GI bill, and it was indeed a frustrating experience. After finishing law school, my folks sold the Winchester house, paid their debts, and with the \$2,500 left, moved to Maine and took over my grandmother's old farmhouse built in 1804. Although we had spent pleasant summers there for years, there was no indoor plumbing, running water or electricity.

At age 69, Joe hung out his law shingle again to make a few much-needed dollars. His "practice" included handling collections, and drafting an occasional will and deed. He did get one financially rewarding case, and with a little help from a fledgling Vermont lawyer, he successfully represented an old lady against the trustee of a trust established for her benefit. The trustee would not pay her money from the trust that she needed for her support.

On one of the happiest days of his life, his aches and pains temporarily in remission, he stood before the probate judge, whom he knew well by then, to have his final account as successor trustee allowed. Simultaneously with the judge's verbal approval, Joe dropped dead of a massive heart attack.

Joe was his sons' real hero. With my mother's understanding and help, he had kept the family together through thick and thin, helped us to survive the Great Depression, and made it possible for his sons to get educated.

The lesson we boys learned from our father, and never forgot, was that failure is never an option. And so today, I know that it is only a matter of when and by what means we will survive the present Depression.

Grand Kids

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The grandparents of these three.
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First they were babies in a crib,
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Bringing each a bit more class.
Now they're older and on their way,
They still make the old folks' day.

- Richard Quimby

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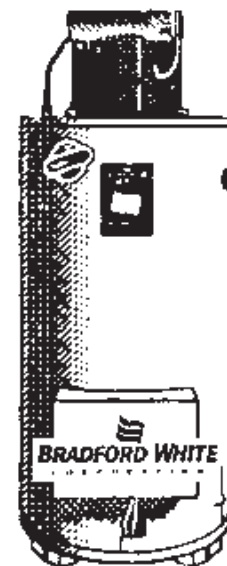
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Follow the Money

by RACHEL SIEGEL

'Checks and Balances'

Now that the federal government has become, under duress and at great expense, a major shareholder in our financial sector corporations, they are coming under increased scrutiny—especially for corporate salaries. Why do CEOs and other corporate executives make millions, and then command millions more in “bonuses”? Because they can.

In theory, corporate structure is a representative democracy, a system of checks and balances. Shareholders oversee management while management puts their capital to work. Corporate boards, elected by, comprised of, and representing shareholders, manage management and insure that they are motivated to act in the owners' best interest. Both want their share of profit to be larger, and each benefits when the other succeeds.

Management compensation is a corporate expense, deducted from the earnings that belong to the owners. Managers would be inclined to pay themselves as much as possible, except that owners want the earnings to be as large as possible. So management's greed is kept in check by owners' greed, and it is the owners, who risk their capital after all, that have the last word. In theory.

In reality, things have not exactly worked that way, especially in the financial industry. Most major banks and particularly investment banks have been corporations for a relatively short time. Until the bubbling stock market made public offerings the capital they couldn't refuse, most were structured as private partnerships. They now have a public structure, but perhaps still a private culture.

Corporate directors who sit on the corporate compensation committees that approve salaries are usually nominated by the very same executives whose salaries they decide, and therefore are beholden to them for that lucrative board seat. Compensation committees use industry averages to justify or at least rationalize their decisions, which encourages salary escalation as industry averages are driven up by... salary escalation. That rising tide also reassures that they are competing for top talent by increasing the “going rate.”

That rate could be high because, however high, corporate salaries were still just a percentage of corporate fees, which in turn were a percentage of the value that clients—in the financial industry, corporations seeking financing or investors seeking portfolio returns—willingly paid for services.

Directors make decisions based on the information that management gives them, but man-

agement typically has better access to information and thus the opportunity—and certainly the motivation—to tailor its message. Knowing all this, why don't shareholders pay even more attention?

A diversified portfolio can belittle the losses of any one investment, because that investment is just a small percentage of the portfolio's total value. But as firm-specific risk can be diversified away, then firm-specific shareholder attention can be, too.

The vast majority of corporate shares are held by institutional investors—mutual funds, pension funds, insurance companies, endowments, etc. Institutional funds are so professionally managed and so profoundly diversified that they have no incentive to oversee the management of any one investment. Individuals invest through those intermediaries, and so are one step removed from actual corporate holdings. Diversification and intermediation have minimized risk, but minimized the incentive to provide governance as well.

Will the federal government be a more conscientious shareholder? It has the imperative of the public will, yet is itself a representative democracy with checks and balances, a cacophony of competing and conflicting interests and information. There is talk of extending its ownership, of nationalizing the entire banking system or at least the “big banks.” That will certainly change the banking system as we know it, and may or may not resolve one of our many current crises, but it won't resolve the larger issue of the viability of corporate governance or of corporate structure.

The corporation allows a separation of ownership and management, just as financial intermediaries allow a separation of the investor from the investment. Both exist because they create value by doing so. Separation allows for expansion, it lets more people participate more efficiently and with less risk, in turn creating more efficient markets, and, in theory, more value for more people.

Corporations traded in the capital markets have lost half their value in the last year—perhaps a reflection not only on the value of the markets or the economy but of the corporate structure itself. That structure evolved in the 17th century because it served a purpose—allowing companies to raise capital and allowing investors to diversify risk—better than anything that had been used before. Indeed, it has carried us far, but how should it carry us farther?

Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy, and on accounting dilemmas. She is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College. “Follow the Money” has been a regular feature in the Northstar since 2001.



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Boera dubbed 'Citizen of the Year'

A Lyndonville man described as a "model for community dedication and performance" has been selected the Northeast Kingdom Chamber 2009 Citizen-of-the-Year, one of the region's most distinguished awards.

A. Richard Boera, a longtime community activist and servant, received the honor for his extensive service in Lyndon and St. Johnsbury town positions as well as region-wide financial posts.

Boera, born on Staten Island, N.Y. in 1925, entered Princeton University in 1942, leaving the university to enter the Navy in 1943. While in the service, he received training at the Stevens Institute of Technology and the U.S. Naval Reserve Midshipman's School at Columbia University; he received his commission in 1945. His sea duty was aboard the light cruiser, USS Portsmouth, on which he served as "A" Division Officer. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1965.

Boera has had an interesting and varied career. After receiving a bachelor of science degree from Stevens Tech in 1947, he worked as an aerodynamicist at the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company in Baltimore. He graduated with a master's degree in aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology in 1949.

Boera returned home to Staten Island and assumed management of the family's restaurant, The Old Mill, until it burned down in 1957. That same year, Boera began work at Staten Island Community College, where he served in many financial positions at the school in his 13 years there, including assistant professor of mechanical technology and ultimately as its business manager. In 1970, Boera moved to Vermont to assume the position of comptroller/business manager at Lyndon State College.

After having served under seven college presidents during the terms of six chancellors of the Vermont State Colleges, he retired as LSC's Dean of Business Affairs in 1989. The year of his retirement, he was named Lyndon's Citizen-of-the-Year, sharing the honor with Rebecca Reynolds.

Boera has served in numerous volunteer capacities over the decades, as Lyndon's Town and Village auditor, Lyndon's Boy Scout Troop 38 assistant scoutmaster, Justice of the Peace for over 30 years, Lyndon Planning Commission chairman, Caledonia County Fair Association director and treasurer, Lyndon Historical Society director and treasurer, Board of Civil Authority member, Sanborn School Fund trustee, Lyndon Institute incorporator, Lyndon American Legion Post life member, St. Johnsbury-Lyndon Industrial Park Board chair, St. Johnsbury-Lyndon Revolving Loan Fund chair, interim Lyndon selectman and – since 1998 – as the secretary/treasurer of the St. Johnsbury Development Fund. He received the Caledonia County Public Service Award in 2005.

One of his most satisfying endeavors was planning and personally overseeing the restoration of the 1857-1900 District #6 one-room schoolhouse in Lyndon Center during 2004-2006. The building serves as a living history classroom for area grade school children and was honored by being placed on both the Vermont and National Registers of Historic Places.

Friends note that one of Boera's most impressive spans of service is to his Rotary clubs, first on Staten Island and now in Lyndonville; his service to the worldwide civic organization – as a secretary-treasurer, director, past president and now as an honorary member of both clubs – stretches back 57 years. When not involved with community or family activities, Boera is an avid golfer, a long-time member of the Orleans Golf Club.

"I have met no finer gentleman nor anyone else who more fully embodies the concept of service above self," said fellow Rotarian Mary Ann Riggie.

Married to Julie Baeszler Boera since 1952, the couple have seven children. They are Patricia, of Burlington; USAF Brig. General Michael and wife Carrie, of Hawaii; Peter and wife Kiva, of Wheelock; VTANG Lt. Col. Christine Simpson and husband Bruce, of Jericho; Susan Sobczak and husband David, of South Burlington; David and wife Meg, of Burlington; USAF Lt. Col. Donna O'Haren and husband Lt. Col. Shannon, of Hawaii. The Boeras also have 12 grandchildren.

A ceremony will be held in the Spring.

Maple revival

Locals look to bring back downtown festival

by JUSTIN LAVELY

In 1981, the Northeast Kingdom organized the first ever St. Johnsbury Maple Festival. Its success prompted a string of festivals throughout the 80s, until interest waned and volunteers were scarce. However, under the direction of a new team, the St. Johnsbury Maple Festival Group, the festival seems poised for a revival.

The group is made up of local businesspeople from St. Johnsbury and surrounding communities and they are committed to preparing a community wide celebration of the maple sugar industry.

And they are thinking big.

Preliminary plans are to close portions of Eastern Avenue Railroad Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 18 to make room for maple tasting, sugar on snow, a pancake breakfast, a rock climbing wall, live music, kids activity area, maple science and historical exhibits, a sugar house on wheels, maple donuts and maple cotton candy.

Details on the festivals in the 1980s, including the event's eventual stall, are difficult to come by, but the reason for the revival effort is simple.

"Why not?" says Scott Beck, owner of Boxcar & Caboose on Railroad Street. "A group of people, including myself, felt that this community needed a festival type event at least once per year. Winter, summer, and fall events are already taken by other organizations. We are the maple capital of the world still, so a rekindling of the Maple Festival seemed like a natural fit. The maple industry, large growers and small, is a big part of St. Johnsbury and the Northeast Kingdom."

Six months ago, Scott brought the idea of reviving the festival to Fred Little, owner of Sunshine Boutique and Moose River Antiques, Gary Eli, of Caplan's, and Scottie Raymond and Lew Apgar, from Kingdom Outdoors. Since then, other volun-

teers and organizations have joined the team, including the town of St. Johnsbury, St. Johnsbury Works, and the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce. St. Johnsbury Recreation Department Director Joe Fox has also volunteered to conduct a Fun Run during the event. A Food Court will also be available at the

St. Johnsbury Welcome Center.

Live bands from around the Northeast Kingdom will perform on a soundstage all festival long, including Red House, a country rock band from Newport, Oblion, which plays jam-funk, and a surprise group of very talented local musicians that will be combining to play R&B. Several other bands, playing bluegrass and jazz, are also expected to perform.

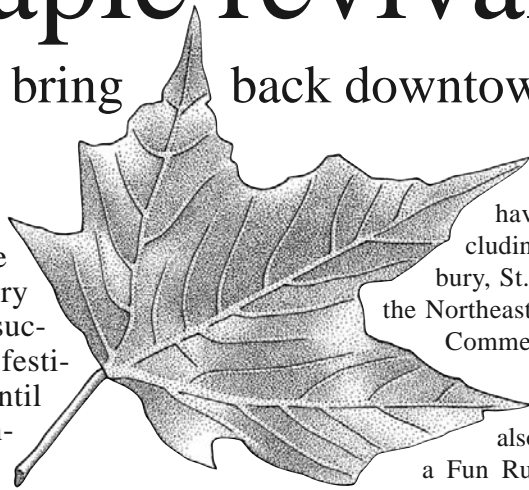
In addition to the activities, Scott is also hoping to have around 60 maple-related vendors on the street. At the moment, 40 have committed.

Admission for this rain or shine event is free to all. All fundraising for the event has been through local sponsors. As of press time, the group was still putting together a schedule of events, which they plan to post on their Web site www.stjmaplefestival.com

The first Maple Festival back in 1982 was spearheaded by Carmie Snyder, then President of the chamber, Vern Forthun, then vice president, and former executive director Terry Hoffer. Forthun remembers the activities from past festivals covering St. Johnsbury from one end to another. The turnout was usually large, according to Forthun, but the massive amount of planning needed made the event difficult to sustain.

"It was unfortunate because it was a really good festival," says Forthun.

Current planners are involved in other local organizations and seem to be familiar with and willing to put the time in. When asked if the plan was to make the festival an annual attraction, Scott's answer was a resounding, "Yes."



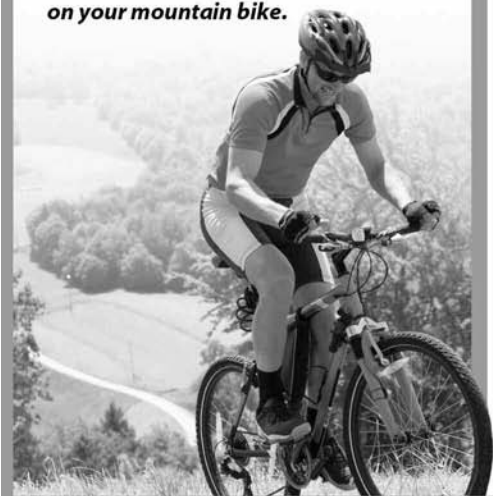
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Around the World in 18 Days

by DICK BOERA

The only thing planned about this trip was the thought that my “window of opportunity” for some travel time would appear to be in April when weather might be decent, commitments at home minimal, and tourist traffic lighter. Our daughter Donna would be in Hong Kong for two weeks for advanced studies in Chinese, and this gave us the idea that meeting up with her for a few days might be a good starting point. Some time back, we’d considered Australia’s “natural” state, Tasmania, as worth exploration, ...and the fabled Taj Mahal is on everyone’s dream list of sights to savor “...before I sleep.” Fair enough, they’re all in the same global region; we’ll see what develops as we go along.

April 7, 2002

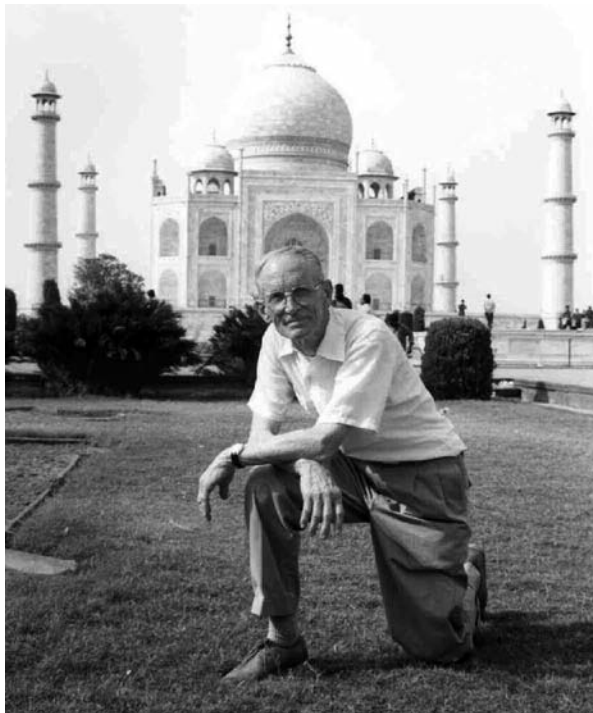
I need most of the three-hour layover in Chicago to cope with a snafu that develops early on. When I appear at the Korean Airlines ticket counter to get my boarding pass, I’m told that I need a visa to land in Hong Kong with a one-way ticket ...despite the fact that visas aren’t normally required. (The one-way fare is a warning light occasioned by the 9/11 circumstances.) Of course, it’s too late to get a visa now, so I’m obliged to get a one-way ticket from “somewhere” to satisfy the airline. They hold my tickets while I check out other options. The shortest flight Korean Airlines offers is back to Seoul,

Korea, and the cost for this brief distance is more than that for the 8,000-mile trip from Burlington! I’m obliged to think about Tasmania in more specific terms sooner than exp

I’m able to book Hong Kong to Hobart, Tasmania, via Melbourne for April 13. This satisfies the Korean counter, but now the problem is they’ve discovered that my luggage was manifested only to Seoul instead of all the way to Hong Kong. They retrieve it in about 15 minutes, but before they can advise me of its appearance someone inadvertently sets it back down on the conveyor belt to the luggage carrier and plane. Another 45-minute wait for the re-retrieval, then I have to have an escort to the x-ray machine before it can go back to the airline for processing. Bottom line, I make it to the boarding gate with just 20 minutes...of the three hours...to spare, and I’m wet, not from the rain, but from perspiration. The plane is about 90 percent full, 98 percent Korean. Luckily, I had asked for...and got...a window seat immediately behind an exit door so I can fully stretch my legs during the 15-hour, 6,543-mile flight and can get into the aisle without stepping over anyone. All the Korean stewardesses are stunning; they look like models for a travel ad.

April 8

We land at Incheon Airport in Seoul at 6:15 p.m. (gaining nine hours, losing a day), and it’s almost time to board the flight to Hong Kong. It’s a beautiful international terminal, spotless and shiny marble throughout. Once again, the plane is about 90 percent full, this time 98 percent Chinese. In just under four hours we arrive in Hong Kong. There’s no problem processing



through Immigration, procuring Hong Kong dollars at an ATM, and - following Donna’s instructions - finding the Airport Express train. From the end of the run, I take a cab to Donna’s Shangri-La Hotel in the heart of the city, knocking on her door near midnight. She’s sleepy, but happy to see I made it. The hotel is gorgeous, the room luxurious, and I’m assured when I register that there’s no extra charge for sharing the room. We save the small talk for morning and I hit the sack right off.

April 9

Through the next four days, I enjoy the sights and “feel” of this awesome city (the name means “Fragrant Harbor”), sometimes with Donna, but more often while she’s off for her studies. There’s an orientation tour, a cable-propelled tram up to Victoria Peak, a ferry across the harbor to mainland Kowloon (or “Nine Dragons”) and the New Territories which, along with 235 other

islands, comprise Hong Kong, a metropolis of 6.9 million inhabitants. One tour heads to Aberdeen where we ride in a sampan past the Jumbo Floating Restaurant (capacity 3,000) and the crowded community of houseboats, barges and junks. The water is filthy, hardly conducive to enjoying the restaurant fare. Then it’s on to the beaches at Repulse Bay; higher up, a view of the South China Sea and then a chance to shop at the Stanley Market, much like Beijing’s Silk Alley. After a unique dinner at a Thai restaurant, Donna and I return to Victoria Peak one night to view the unique panorama of myriad skyscrapers below, bedecked with neon and multi-colored lighting.

After breakfast one day, I call the Indian Embassy, just a block away from the hotel, and learn that the famed mosque is not camouflaged. Apparently, the stories are a hoax...possibly perpetrated by the Pakistanis to hurt the Indian tourist

trade. Now the problem is that five working days are needed before a visa can be issued, and I’ll be leaving before then; I’m told that I can appeal tomorrow morning. The appeal is successful so I’m off to the Indian Embassy to leave my passport and pay for the visa to be picked up later, but before 5:00 p.m. Returning to the hotel, there’s a note from the consulate advising that I don’t have any blank pages left in my passport; a visa cannot be issued unless they have a page on which to stick it. Fortunately, the U.S. consulate is located close by and they are open for business. I rush over there and the super-efficient staff accommodates me in less than five minutes! I hustle back to the Indian Consulate and, after an hour, they issue my visa.

The day after Donna leaves for home, I catch a Qantas flight to Hobart, capital of Tasmania, Australia’s island state. Tasmania is advertised as “The Natural State” or “Holiday Isle” (on license plates). From the



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air it looks hilly, even mountainous, and there are a few large lakes, not very green just now with fall settling in in this part of the world. My guidebook tells me Tasmania, the smallest of the seven Australian states at approximately one percent of the total Australian land mass (about the size of Switzerland), has a population just under half-a-million, with 180,000 of the state's residents living in its capital city. Nearly a third of it is national parks and reserves.

At 9:30, we touch down at Ho-

Tasmanian Devil Park, an animal reserve shelter, where we roam freely among kookaburras (the giant kingfishers), Tasmanian Devils, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, eagles, owls, hawks and parrots, all in their natural habitat. Many of the kangaroos have lost their skittishness around people and can be petted. The Devils are kept behind stone barriers as we watch them feeding. They have to be the most ferocious-looking, vicious-sounding little "buggers" pound for pound that I've ever come across. I would-

takes us over Queensland, Northern Territory, and Borneo, landing at Bangkok in mid-afternoon.

Of several hundred boarding Thai Airlines flight #315 to Delhi - a 4-hour hop - I count three other Caucasians and just one person who could be older. Wine is served with a tasty chicken and rice meal...and brandy afterwards. That's all I need to fully conk out! Land at Indira Gandhi International Airport at 10:15 p.m. local. After Immigration clearance and changing dollars to rupees, I casually scan the dozens of

morrow and to arrange ongoing flight tickets. After I give Mukul a list of all the places I'd like to visit, a Delhi tour is arranged for today and Agra for tomorrow. I'm introduced to today's driver/guide, Jagbir Singh, whose English is passable and smile broad, and we're off. It's sunny, 85°, quite clear. First stop in Old Delhi is the Lal Qila or Red Fort, built by the Emperor Shah Jahan (builder of the Taj Mahal) between 1618-47. I pay homage (shoes removed) to Mahatma (Great Soul) Gandhi at the Raj Ghat, the 'samadhi' or site of his cremation in 1948, surrounded by a beautiful garden. An eternal flame burns in remembrance of the "Father of the Nation" and Indian families queue up to have their photos taken alongside his shrine. The colorful saris of the Indian women are striking.

It's a short drive to the Gandhi Museum, where the martyr's life is depicted in photos, paintings, sculptures, carvings, correspondence, manuscripts and personal belongings, including the blood-stained loincloth worn the day "Bapu's" life was cut short, January 30, 1948 and the bullet that cut him down. Quotations of "Gandhiji" (1869-1948) fill the walls of the library/museum: "My life is my message," being the simplest, yet saying it all. "Non-violence," he said, "is not to be used ever as the shield of the coward; it is the weapon of the brave." The text on one of the yellowing postcards purchased at the entrance desk sums up the life of this remarkable man:

"The flesh-and-blood Gandhi was a most unlikely saint. Just conjure up his portrait; a skinny, bent figure, nut brown and naked except for a white loincloth, cheap spectacles perched on his nose, frail hand grasping a tall bamboo staff. This was one of the century's great revo-

lutionaries? Yet this strange figure swayed millions with his hypnotic spell. His garb was the perfect uniform for the kind of revolutionary he was, wielding weapons of prayer and nonviolence more powerful than guns.'

I ask Jagbir to stop at the golden-domed Sikh temple, off the beaten track, where he instructs me to check my shoes and socks, wash my feet, and don a headpiece (a handkerchief will do) before entering the sacred place. Again, I'm the only foreigner present, so I try to keep a low profile. Jagbir has been very patient with me all day, waiting in the car while I visited all the mosques, temples and museums for indeterminate periods of time. I insist that he take time to eat, though I took very little food myself since I had just a touch of "Delhi belly" today, perhaps a reaction to the malaria pill.

Back at the Connaught, the safest bet for dinner is in the hotel's fine restaurant, where I have roast lamb with hot sauce and the old standby rice. The Indian beer is cold and good and the dessert, gulab jamun, is sweet, delicious, syrupy. A five-piece band provides Indian music, with only a Sikh couple and me on hand to enjoy it. I'm told that Indians come in late for their evening meal, between eight and eleven, much like Spain.

The next morning "Jag" arrives at 7:30 to chauffeur me for the 200 km. drive to Agra. It's another beautiful day. Leaving the relatively orderly confines of New Delhi, we enter a different India. Outside the city are miles and miles of ghettos; no one can possibly live like this, but millions do. It's a wild drive - 125 miles of hell - a mix of motorcycles, bicycles, rickshaws, 3-

Continued on Page 31

"Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure..." Author u

bart International, a compact but efficient operation about one-third the size of Burlington's airport.

On the first day, to get my bearings, I take a van taxi-tour up the steep, narrow, winding road to the top of Mt. Wellington, 4,000 feet above the city; it's not quite as dramatic as the drive up New Hampshire's Mt. Washington. Here we have a breathtaking 270° panoramic overview of the whole Tasman peninsula. The top of the mountain is a very unusual rock formation that the driver explains is an "uplift" formed from a molten mass of volcanic origin, but internally rather than the result of an eruption. Back down at sea level, we pass the site of 19th century convicts' settlements, the "Female Factory" (women's prison farm), and the Cascade Brewery.

Another day brings a tour to Port Arthur via the Tasman Bridge. The leaves are just beginning to fall. It's like our September here in appearance and temperature - clear, sunny, and crisp. There's a stop at

n't like to encounter one in the wild.

Then it's on to Port Arthur, "the pre-eminent symbol of Australia's convict heritage." The settlement, site of the penal colony, dates from the mid-19th century. Located in a pleasant cove, surrounded by majestic eucalyptus trees, it's a very restful place. The prisons and soldiers' barracks, as well as the Commandant's House have been partially restored. Admission to the sprawling site includes a half-hour cruise of the bay (Mason's Cove) and there's time for a sandwich lunch, made even more enjoyable by the accompanying ginger beer, before we head back.

I've been in Tasmania just four days - it's now April 17 - and I head to mainland Australia, Melbourne, just an hour away. After an overnight rest at a hotel near the airport, I'm off to India, first flying "backwards" to Brisbane before heading west to Bangkok, where there is a short layover (since I was also here a couple of years back).

The path of the nine-hour flight

signs being held up by guides, taxi drivers, hotel van drivers, or travel agents "paging" individuals; I'm shocked to realize that angelic Rachel (the travel agent in Hong Kong) has come through for me. From behind a magic marker sign emblazoned with "MR. ALVARO BOERA," I'm greeted by Mukul Azad, representing Shikhar Travels, who takes me in tow. Having been contacted by the Hong Kong travel agent Rachel, he leads me to a waiting taxi for the long night drive into the city. Mukul is arranging a guide and taxi for touring in Delhi tomorrow; there are no sightseeing bus tours here. He drops me off at the hotel, advising that he will arrange to have me picked up in the morning. The 4-star Hotel Connaught in the heart of Delhi, is ideal, its accommodations far exceeding my most optimistic expectations. The air conditioning is a godsend.

At 9 a.m. sharp, the driver arrives; Mukul has sent over a taxi to take me to his office to work out sightseeing details for today and to-

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Making History

Author Info

The couple met in 1978 at the airport in Lyndonville. Burdet, was living in Mt. Holly, VT, and she had a private pilot's license. She flew to Lyndonville from time to time to visit her son Bill, a student at Lyndon Institute. Burdet grew up in Connecticut, studied at Mt. Holyoke College and took her junior year abroad in Switzerland. She loved Switzerland.

"I stayed for five years, mainly because I loved the climbing and skiing, and I ended up helping with translations for the Swiss expedition to Mount Everest in 1952."

Fischer, a native of Germany, majored in electrical engineering in college and worked in Switzerland before moving to the United States. He became a U.S. citizen and worked for companies building electrical transformers in the Midwest. Seeing the need in the industry for high quality insulation material, he arranged for Weidmann, a Swiss company, to sell its products in North America. Eventually EHV in St. Johnsbury became EHV-Weidmann; Fischer met EHV founders Gordon Mills and Bob Fuehrer, and he became part of the company's expansion in St. Johnsbury.

fied that it was indeed an island. The exposed area was 300 feet by 170 feet, but it was hard to tell how much more was covered by ice and snow.

The Danish government verified the findings, and before we left, we erected a cairn and secured in it a plastic bottle with a description of the expedition, their signatures and their flags. They named the island "Ultima Thule 2008." The Danish government will likely change the name to the Inuit language.

Back in camp, another kind of excitement gripped us. During one of the daylight arctic nights, three polar bears paid a visit. One polar bear pushed his snout into our tent. He was

Continued from Page 1

Peary's attempts. The weather was beautiful — sunshine day and night at an average temperature of 38 degrees. We learned soon that having a helicopter in this part of the world is a great luxury. The helicopter was stationed 80 kilometers south and belonged to an Australian mining company searching for zinc. The helicopter had been airlifted over from Norway under extremely difficult conditions, and their hourly rate was exorbitant. Even so, the team had to wait 11 days before it was available to search the ice for land. The waiting strained our nerves, especially since we did not know how long the good weather would last. We were fortunate to have only one day of dense ice fog.

During the waiting time they explored the surrounding area of Kap Morris Jesup. There is much history to be found in the many cairns they discovered, telling about past explorations and attempts to reach the North Pole from there. Finally the helicopter arrived. Recent satellite photos and gravity data gave us a rough idea where to search for land. There are only a few weeks in August when the sun is strong enough to melt the pack ice and expose any island underneath.

We were lucky.

Just before the expedition was forced to give up the search because of time constraints with the helicopter, we discovered land at 83.41°N. Measurements and the structure veri-



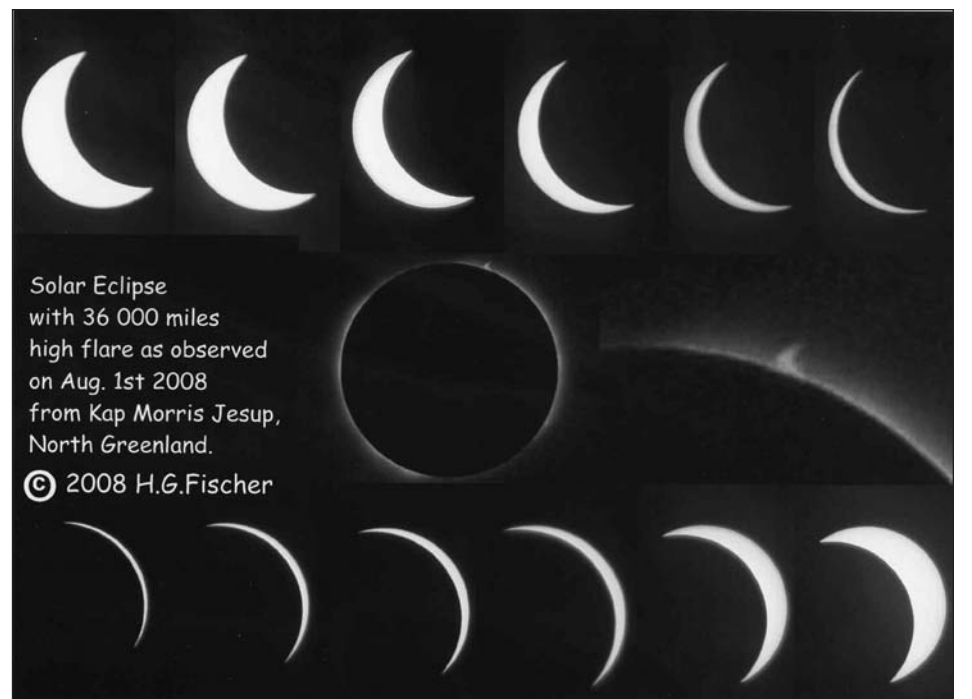
only 18 inches away from our heads. We were lucky that the polar bear did not use his claws to investigate further. They made a lot of noise and the polar bears retreated, but not before one of the cameramen filmed them.

With great anticipation, we waited for the solar eclipse, the center of which would, by chance, pass directly over Kap Morris Jesup. It was a very strange two minutes. An ordinarily bright summer night became eerily dark. Only the far horizon was illuminated by the sun. We took some great pictures.

As our last big feat, we scaled the most northern mountain in the world. A cairn at the top called it only "Peak 6." They named it "Galen Rowell Mountain" in memory of Ken Zerbst and Lyndy Burdet's mountain-climber and photographer friend, who had been killed a few years earlier in a freak airplane accident. On top of the 5,400 foot high mountain, located 14 kilometers northwest of Kap Morris Jesup, they erected a cairn and placed in it a plastic bottle with their signatures, the expedition details, and their national flags.

German Television has broadcasted the one hour long, special documentary called: "Ultima Thule 2008 – The Hunt for the Most Northern Piece of Land in the World."

It was quite an adventure. We were lucky, we made history. Also it was interesting to see how much goes into making a good film. We certainly respect what film stars have to do, but we had enough of filmmaking, and we do not want any part of it in the future."



Cell phones and sap suckers

Continued from Page 1
is in the air.

I see the same thing on Main Street when classes let out, at first the kids seem to be afflicted by a strange disability which has them mumbling to themselves and canting their heads to one side. Sometimes they stagger blindly right into the street, and I've learned to be especially cautious on these first really warm days. Then when evening finally comes and the good kids, anyway, are all inside doing their homework, out comes the woodcock, putting on the strangest performance of all. It's crazier than a loon with its whirling flight and "woo-woo" call, accompanied by the grunts and peeps and trills of amphibians, all of them trying to get connected.

I don't have a cell phone. Part of the reason is that it wouldn't do me much good out where I live anyway. I suppose it would be useful if I traveled, but I don't travel, either. People tell me they're great in emergencies, but I'd prefer to avoid those, too. I feel the same way about the Internet. I spend at least an hour connected to it every day but it's work, that's all, and hardly ever pleasant. I've reached a point in life where the connections I want to make are primarily spiritual, and you can't find those in a box.

I haven't forgotten what it is like to be young, though, and that time when dialogues with others my age were so desperately important. Nor have I forgotten the absolute agony of asking for a date, which has now been mitigated by services like Facebook. But today some scientists are beginning to caution about the irony of becoming isolated by so many connections. There is an enormous fallacy in having hundreds of friends. And here's another thing. There is no substitute for the interplay of visual and auditory cues, the body language

and other silent communications that take place when two people meet. That's how we learn to judge character and develop appropriate responses.

When a sapsucker connects, it is always to another sapsucker. Same goes for the woodcock, and that can't be said for the Internet where there is no eye contact, no tone of voice to judge. It's almost designed for fraud and requires constant policing. There's fraudulent behavior in nature, too, especially among insects, which pretend to be things they are not, and even the plant kingdom provides some spectacular examples of misrepresentation such as the carnivores which beckon to the unwary with promises of tasty treat.

It's a jungle out there, and how I love to be afoot in the midst of it, making connections of my own! I'll never forget the day many decades ago when the ruts on our road had finally dried enough for a walk. My gaze drifted from the yellow coltsfoot to the flight of the mourning cloak butterfly and then alighted on a nearby twig of a hazelnut bush. There, for the very first time, I saw the most exquisite spring flower of all. It was tiny, almost microscopic, but brilliant magenta with tendrils like a sea anemone reaching out for the pollen of nearby catkins. I suppose I could have "googled" it, but that would not have been as memorable.

Spring is all about getting connected. The air is filled with the networks of trees and birds, bugs and frogs as well as humans. A great symphony of voices, of scents, of vibrations fills the excited atmosphere with the universal language of life. I don't deplore any of it, I just hope that everyone, young and old, can find the time to cut their electronic umbilical for long enough to really join in.

Making Progress

Sometimes a step backward can show us how far we've come

By BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

The year was 1942. I had graduated from college and married a young man who had just been asked to serve as secretary to a senator from his home town in Connecticut.

when my boss interviewed a young black woman and rejected her. I asked Mrs. Wilson if the woman wasn't up to the job, and she replied, "Well, I'd rather have a white girl." In time, I made friends with a lovely Native American girl who had lived on a reservation and was thrilled to be in a 'real' city. One day I asked

Northeast. I wasn't aware of what the tolerance of people was in the north in those days as there had been relatively few black folk there in my experience to test the case.

When I had been in private schools in New York there were no 'colored' students. When I had arrived at Wellesley there

"I was disillusioned that in a city like Washington, which I had considered quite sophisticated, such episodes could occur."

Bets Parker Albright

Our engagement had been fairly long, and now, with his new job, we could afford to live in Washington. There were lots of jobs available, and if I spent some time learning to take shorthand, I could be hired in a good government office.

We found a very small walk-up apartment, and after only a couple of months of secretarial school I was offered a good job. I had majored in modern languages in college, which enabled me to work as secretary and translator at the Library of Congress. My boss, a very competent woman, was less than impressed with my office skills. I managed to drop a typewriter, which survived the fall. My boss muttered that she hoped I wouldn't have children, as dropping them wouldn't be a good idea!

I muddled along pretty well, and actually did a bit of translating, using my knowledge of German and Italian – useful during those war years.

Several incidents brought me up short during my time in Washington. I was quite upset one day

her to have lunch with me. I took her to a nice little restaurant where I often ate. To my horror and embarrassment, the waitress said she was sorry, but the restaurant was not open to the 'colored.'

I was disillusioned that in a city like Washington, which I had considered quite sophisticated, such episodes could occur. It is hard even to imagine it now, as we rejoice at the position that Barack Obama and his fine family find themselves in. One day we invited to our apartment for dinner the president of Howard University, who was a close friend of my father-in-law. He told me that he would love to accept our invitation, but he knew he would not be welcome in our apartment building as a man of color, and that if I made a fuss it would cause trouble.

Despite these disheartening events, it was exciting to live in Washington, if only to take in the drama of being close to the center of so many wartime activities. Even so, I was relieved when we moved back up to the

was only one colored student in my class. She was lovely and she was popular, but I did wonder why she chose a school that obviously accepted only 'token' students of color, apparently to prove that they weren't exclusive.

Schools and colleges everywhere are very different now, thank goodness. In my college magazine I see pictures of women of all races and colors. Oddly enough, when I was in college there were girls from China, because Madame Chiang Kai-Shek had spent her undergraduate years at Wellesley!

So we have come a long way, although problems surrounding color and race will continue to persist. But it is generally agreed that with the advent of President Obama, the world has taken a giant step forward. In small ways, a rural northern place like Vermont has become more accepting of people of different races and colors, and they feel more and more welcome here. I think it's fair to assume that this positive trend will continue.

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The house as seen from the drive of the Danville Congregational Church. There is a shared parking lot at the end of the drive with a pathway to the house through public fruit, flower and herb gardens.



Margaret Springer, former Danville Historical Society President and Archivist for 30-plus years, enjoys tea in the new Keeping Room in the Danville Village House.

The Little Cape That Could

Danville Village House to Open Its Doors on May 2

Photos & Story by SHARON LAKEY

“It’s been a labor of love, but I’m not a patient woman,” said Mary Prior, President of the Danville Historical Society.

She’s had to learn to be patient, though, as the charming cape, now known as the Danville Village House, has slowly reappeared in its original form beside the stately Danville Congregational church on Hill Street.

The project began in 2006 with a letter sent to various organizations in Danville. In it was a stunning offer from a lawyer, announcing that an anonymous donor wished to gift substantial money to a group who had a good idea about how to use it.

Impatient Mary, never lacking for an idea, jumped at the thought of establishing a re-

stored building dedicated to the collection and sharing of history in the center of Danville Village. Margaret Springer, who had worked for 30-plus years as president and archivist of the Danville Historical Society, was ecstatic about the idea, and the thought began to gather momentum.

Time was of the essence, and Mary immediately contacted Paul Chouinard. “He is an architectural perfectionist by avocation,” said Mary. He’s a real estate agent to boot, and they set out to find a house that would fit the bill. By luck or grace, the little cape by the Congregational church became available.

“I like where it sits,” said Paul. “It is near the center of the village, and it has historical integrity.” Paul describes it as, “a prototypical Cape Cod style home mirroring the austere simplicity of early nineteenth century,

rural Vermont homes.”

Oddly enough, Mary found that the lineage of the people connected with the house were among the long-standing families of Danville: Sias, Choate (the builder, a cabinet-maker), Currier, Cahoon, Peck and Gadapee. It was a perfect match. “All the work the historical society had done under Margaret’s direction and tireless efforts made it possible for me to research this house,” said Mary.

With Paul’s knowledge of early construction and Mary’s deed research, a detailed history of the house, proposed budget and projected use of the building was sent to the lawyer of the donor. Imagine the excitement when Mary received a letter that related the donor would pay the purchase price of \$198,000 and another \$200,000 for restoration. “The donor had some good suggestions

as well,” said Mary. “For example: Weren’t the proposed cedar shakes a fire hazard? The donor was also adamant that the house would have a meeting room and parking lot.”

Together, Mary and Paul, conferencing with the Historical Society, worked out the renovation plans. Paul, a real stickler for detail, was chosen as clerk of works. They visited Sturbridge Village. “The buildings there were built in the same time period as the house,” explained Paul. “It helped to visualize what the house looked like back in 1838 when it was built.” In their planning, they designed for historical correctness as well as compliance to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In keeping with the desire to use as many local artisans and builders as possible, Paul began the painstaking job of putting together contracts. The list of chosen contractors in-



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

cluded: Harold Lunnie, foundation; Garren Calkins, driveway excavation, parking area, and seeding; Michael Walsh, garage restoration, single story addition, clapboard siding, flooring, and shed storage room; Joel Currier, wood for flooring and wainscot; Paul Dussault, heating; Hollis Prior, landscaping; Luke Colby, wiring; Sally A. Fishburn, replacement doors and windows; Phil Beattie, stonework; Lucian Avery, blacksmith; Steven Towsley, chimney; and Frank Siebenbrunner, finishing details. (This list doesn't include the red-hued Mary and her husband, Hollis, who could be watched for weeks as they voluntarily painted the whole building.)

Meanwhile, Mary continued her historical research, this time in a more communal way. Her Grammie Tennie was a social historian. In writings for Vermont Life and the Burlington Free Press, she published stories told by those still living about people and events of the past. "I spent a great deal of time driving her to remote locations throughout Caledonia and Essex Counties," Mary remembers. "I'd wait, sometimes for hours, while she interviewed someone for an article she was writing."

In Grammie Tenney's tradition, Mary searched and wrote some social history of Annie and Sam Currier, who were owners of the house from 1933 to 1960. Sam died in 1943, so for most of that time, it was known as Annie's house. The interviews include some wonderful stories, two of which follow.

Janette Langmaid Morse, Mary's second cousin:

"Annie Currier looked like she wouldn't like children, but that was not the case. She had a sort of scowl



Paul Chouinard, Clerk of the Works, and Mary Prior, President of the Danville Historical Society enjoy a quiet moment admiring the work of many hands.

for an expression, but she was the nicest woman. My mother and father lived next door. My son Alan used to go visit her often. She would have a nice, sweet pudding for him. One day, she offered him his pudding; he didn't like it very well, because it wasn't sweet.

"Why doesn't the pudding taste like usual?" he asked.

"It's Indian pudding," Annie replied.

"Where did you get the dead Indians to put in the pudding?"

Winona Gadapee, former owner of the house:

"I loved that house. I would still live there if I could, but my breathing required a brand new house. While we lived there, the key to the Congregational church hung by the kitchen door inside the sun porch. It was available to anyone who needed it. When we sold the house to the Grayecks, the key still hung there for use by all. Once, Mr. Grayek, who was Jewish, laughed in telling me that the key to the church hung right beside the doorpost that they would touch on their way in as a Jewish blessing.

"Only in Danville," he would say."

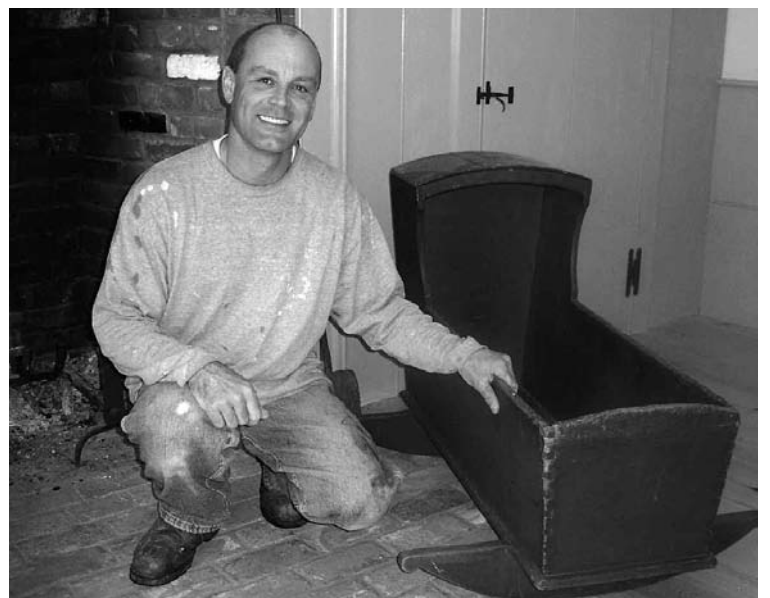
In a way, the tradition of the key still exists. But this time, the house itself has become a key. All those who paid with money and time offer the residents of Danville a lovingly restored place to meet, research, chat, and remember their dear ones and the community in which they lived.

Besides the May 2 Grand Opening, programming ideas are starting to stir. Mary plans for the building to be open from 1:00-8:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Saturday mornings. "We need to spread the word into the community, so Danville Village House becomes alive and vibrant," she said.

For pictures, story and a walking video tour link of Danville Village House go to <http://sharonlakey.blogspot.com/>



Danville Village House is located near the center of Danville Green, making it easily accessible for residents to attend meetings and programs, view displays and do historic research. Frank Siebenbrunner has been busy finishing details at the house. Here he is pictured by one of the artifacts that was given to the Danville Historical Society. It is hoped that community members will feel comfortable in donating historical items for display.



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Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



Remember when going to the movies was a treat? As I've mentioned before, Alvin called them "moving pictures" and took me with him to see a Judy Garland/Andy Rooney musical. Mabel Watson took her students at the South Park school to see a gangster film in Woodsville. So, when June took us to see Naughty Marietta, a movie was no innovation for me.

When I said "June took us," I didn't mean she drove us to St. Johnsbury. Driving, for the Big Girls, was yet to come. She paid for our tickets. It would have been during the summer, when

she worked for either Watermans in North Danville or Eva Mason, who had a summer place on Penny Street. Summer people paid better wages than the local women who took in boarders. No doubt June felt flush with cash.

We didn't mind that the films were black and white, for technicolor was away in the future. I didn't notice that Jeanette McDonald's hair-do was more thirties than seventeen hundreds nor that her rosebud mouth and penciled eyebrows didn't fit the period. Poor eyesight and ignorance contributed to my blissful acceptance of the story. When she and Nelson Eddy sang a duet, telling their love and looking at the camera instead of each other, my romantic soul was thrilled to its depths.

None of us enjoyed Trader

Horn. Dad was disappointed, for he had assumed from the title that the movie would be about the fur trappers in the old West. However, regardless of his aversion to snakes, once he'd paid for the tickets, he and his family would stay to watch the whole damn thing.

Maw was more than disappointed, she was horrified, she knew it would be some time before Patty, who was badly scared by the episode where a crocodile ate one of the porters, would cease to have nightmares about it. And Maw was the one to had to get up in the night when Patty had a nightmare. By then my myopia had reached the point where I couldn't follow the plot, there was no romance in the movie, no singing and no happy ending.

After Trader Horn, we didn't go out to the motion pictures for a while. If I remember correctly, not until I was a freshman at the Academy and Deedee was a senior. It was the fall before World War II began. Walter Pope had come to the farm for a visit.

Walter and his brother Carleton were Aunt Flora and Uncle Fred's boys. They loved to come

to Uncle Ben's and Aunt Helen's. Carleton liked to work with Dad in the barn and woods. Walter enjoyed his stay when his turn came to visit us. He was near Deedee's age. He worked with Aunt Flora and Uncle Fred at a hotel in Manchester. He had a week off to spend at the farm.

That was a halcyon week for me. It started late Sunday afternoon, when Walter drove Deedee and me to St. Johnsbury to see It Happened in Sun Valley. That was a proper movie, with music and singing, skiing and skating. By then, Deedee had some figure skates and I had a new pair of hockey skates.

So I sat mesmerized, wishing I could do each maneuver. After the show, Walter took us to an ice cream parlor on Railroad Street. I sat opposite them in the booth and watched Deedee like a hawk so I'd know the proper way to drink an ice cream soda. I don't know whether one was supposed to eat the ice cream and then drink the liquid through a straw or whether it was the other way around. How sophisticated I felt to be sitting eating ice cream late at night! It was even later when we got back to the farm. At

school the next day I kept yawning. In the middle of the week, we went to a B movie and on Friday we went to another. By the time the weekend came and Walter left to go back to Manchester and his job, Deedee and I were desperate for sleep and behind in our homework.

The next year I had another chance to go to several movies in a week. June was teaching the fifth grade in the Lyndon school system. She boarded with Mrs. Eaton. I stayed with her during my spring vacation. I probably got there on the bus that ran from White River to Newport. One day, I visited June's class room but once was all I — and June — needed.

Fortunately for me, Mrs. Eaton's grandchildren were also visiting. Peter was younger than his sister, but they were both old enough to walk with me "over street" to the theater on Elm Street. We saw a movie about Jack the Ripper, starring Orson Wells, spooky music, lurking shadows and all. It was years before I got over my horror at the memory. We went to the Saturday matinee. The movie was a classic western, in which the cavalry came over the hill, to the sound of stirring music, just in time to rescue the hero. As we walked out, Peter was overcome with emotion. His sister, a typical older sibling, could not understand why Peter was crying when there was a happy ending.

As well as a movie, you saw a newsreel, introduced with suitable music, and previews of coming attractions. In the days before television, newsreels were your only chance to see the various personages you read about in the newspapers, stepping jerkily as they greeted each other, or marching too quickly by a reviewing stand. Even on Saturdays, when the theater was filled with children, when the movie began, everyone sat still. You held your breath during the tense moments, tried to warn the hero of hidden danger and cheered when he was saved. When you came out of the theater into the afternoon sun, you blinked your eyes and stared about you, amazed that ordinary life still went on.

And when we four girls lived in a small apartment opposite the Lyndonville theater, we faithfully went to the Sunday evening show. We kept up with the latest movie stars and watched the progress of the war in the newsreels. Watching movies about combat, heroism and loss, we felt was part of our war effort. Rather than a treat, the movies were like a dose of medicine we dutifully swallowed.

I'm glad I saw movies when I did. We don't drive at night, but even if we did, most previews of "coming attractions" would turn us off the whole idea. Nudity and violence have no appeal for us nor do films where the father is a blundering idiot, the mother, compassionate but dim, and the children, unbelievably wise.

Ah, yes! Those were the days!

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DANVILLE SCHOOL

2008 Schedule
Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

Softball

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| April | | | |
| 16 | Thursday | Blue Mtn. @ Danville | 4:00 |
| 20 | Monday | Danville @ Lake Region | 4:00 |
| 22 | Wednesday | Danville @ Hazen | 4:00 |
| 28 | Tuesday | Danville @ Stowe | 4:00 |
| May | | | |
| 2 | Saturday | Lake Region @ Danville | 3:00 |
| 5 | Tuesday | Richford @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 7 | Thursday | Stowe @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 9 | Tuesday | Danville @ Winooski | 11:00 |
| 11 | Monday | Danville @ Blue Mtn. | 4:30 |
| 12 | Tuesday | Hazen @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 14 | Thursday | Danville @ Peoples | 4:30 |
| 19 | Tuesday | Danville @ BFA Fairfax | 4:30 |
| 21 | Thursday | Danville @ Northfield | 4:30 |
| 23 | Saturday | Williamstown @ Danville | 11:00 |
| 26 | Tuesday | Danville @ Richford | 4:30 |
| 28 | Tuesday | Enosburg @ Danville | 4:30 |

Baseball

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| April | | | |
| 16 | Thursday | Blue Mtn. @ Danville | 4:00 |
| 18 | Thursday | Proctor @ Danville | 1:00 |
| 20 | Monday | Danville @ Lake Region | 4:00 |
| 22 | Wednesday | Danville @ Hazen | 4:00 |
| 28 | Tuesday | Danville @ Stowe | 4:00 |
| May | | | |
| 2 | Saturday | Lake Region @ Danville | 3:00 |
| 5 | Tuesday | Richford @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 7 | Thursday | Stowe @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 9 | Tuesday | Danville @ Winooski | 11:00 |
| 11 | Monday | Danville @ Blue Mtn. | 4:30 |
| 12 | Tuesday | Hazen @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 14 | Thursday | Danville @ Peoples | 4:30 |
| 19 | Tuesday | Danville @ BFA Fairfax | 4:30 |
| 23 | Saturday | Williamstown @ Danville | 11:00 |
| 26 | Tuesday | Danville @ Richford | 4:30 |
| 28 | Tuesday | Enosburg @ Danville | 4:30 |

Track & Field

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------|------|
| April | | | |
| 24 | Friday | @ St. Johnsbury (Frosh) | 3:30 |
| 29 | Wednesday | @ North Country | 3:30 |
| May | | | |
| 8 | Friday | @ Peoples | 3:30 |
| 13 | Wednesday | @ North Country | 3:30 |
| 20 | Tuesday | @ Harwood | 3:30 |
| 21 | Thursday | @ U-32 (Frosh/Soph) | 3:30 |
| June | | | |
| 6 | Saturday | @ Chester, States | |

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St. Johnsbury Academy

Spring 2009 Sports Schedule

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| BOYS VARSITY/JV LACROSSE | | |
| 4/4 | New Hampton, NH (A) | 12:00 |
| 4/28 | Spaulding (NL) (A) | 4:00 |
| 4/30 | Harwood (NL) (A) | 4:00 |
| 5/2 | Spaulding SAT* (H) | 3:00 |
| 5/4 | Montpelier (No JV) (H) | 4:00 |
| 5/7 | Milton (A) | 4:00 |
| 5/9 | Hartford (NL) (A) | 11:00 |
| 5/12 | Harwood (H) | 4:00 |
| 5/14 | Lamoille (A) | 4:00 |
| 5/16 | U-32 (A) | 11:00 |
| 5/19 | Rice (H) | 4:00 |
| 5/21 | Randolph (A) | 4:00 |
| 5/23 | Montpelier (NL) (A) | 11:00 |
| 5/26 | U-32 (H) | 4:00 |
| 5/29 | Vergennes (A) | 4:00 |

* JV Games Will Follow Varsity

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| GIRLS VARSITY/JV LACROSSE | | |
| 4/9 | Spaulding (NL) (A) | 4:30 |
| 4/22 | Randolph (NL) (No JV)(H) | 4:30 |
| 4/24 | U-32 (NL) (H) | 4:30 |
| 4/27 | BFA St. Albans (NL) (A) | 4:30 |
| 4/30 | Montpelier (NL) (H) | 4:30 |
| 5/2 | Oxbow (No JV) (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/5 | Montpelier (A) | 4:30 |
| 5/7 | Chelsea (No JV) (H) | 4:30 |
| 5/9 | Hartford (NL) (H) | 11:00 |
| 5/12 | Sharon Acad. (No JV)(A) | 4:30 |
| 5/15 | Lamoille (H) | 4:30 |
| 5/19 | Rice (A) | 4:30 |
| 5/22 | Randolph (No JV) (A) | 4:30 |
| 5/26 | U-32 (A) | 4:30 |
| 5/29 | BFA (H) | 4:30 |

* JV Games Will Follow Varsity

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| BOYS TENNIS | | |
| 4/8 | Middlebury (NL) (H) | 3:30 |
| 4/28 | Stowe (A) | 3:30 |
| 4/30 | North Country (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/2 | Spaulding (NL) (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/4 | Harwood (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/7 | North Country (NL) (A) | 3:30 |
| 5/9 | Montpelier (NL) (H) | 10:00 |
| 5/11 | U-32 (A) | 3:30 |
| 5/14 | Middlebury (A) | 3:30 |
| 5/16 | S. Burlington (NL) (H) | 10:00 |
| 5/20 | Montpelier (A) | 3:30 |
| 5/23 | Harwood (NL) (A) | 11:00 |
| 5/26 | Spaulding (H) | 3:30 |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------|
| GIRLS TENNIS | | |
| 4/6 | Lake Region (H) | 3:30 |
| 4/8 | Middlebury (NL) (A) | 3:30 |
| 4/28 | Stowe (H) | 3:30 |
| 4/30 | North Country (A) | 3:30 |
| 5/2 | Spaulding (NL) (H) | 3:00 |
| 5/4 | Harwood (A) | 3:30 |
| 5/7 | North Country (NL) (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/9 | Montpelier (NL) (A) | 10:00 |
| 5/11 | U-32 (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/14 | Middlebury (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/16 | S. Burlington (NL) (A) | 10:00 |
| 5/20 | Montpelier (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/23 | Harwood (NL) (H) | 11:00 |
| 5/26 | Spaulding (A) | 3:30 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| TRACK SCHEDULE | | |
| 4/14 | South Burlington (A) | 3:30 |
| 4/24 | Frosh Meet-N. Country(H) | 3:30 |
| 4/29 | Oxbow, Danville, (A) | 3:30 |
| 5/1 | Burlington Inv. (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/2 | Burlington Inv. SAT*(A) | 2:00 |
| 5/6 | Lake Region, Oxbow,(A) | 2:00 |
| 5/13 | Essex, Lamoille, (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/16 | Girls Iverson- (A) | 10:00 |
| 5/20 | Lyndon (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/26 | Lake Region, NC, (H) | 3:30 |
| 5/30 | Essex Invitational (A) | 10:00 |
| 6/6 | State Meets (A) | 10:00 |
| | @ Burlington | |
| 6/13 | New England Meet (A) | 10:00 |
| | @ Burlington | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| ULTIMATE FRISBEE | | |
| 4/3 | Amherst Round Robin (A) | |
| 4/18 | Northfield Tourn. (A) | |
| 4/19 | Darrow Tourn. (A) | |
| 4/25 | Northfield Tourn. (A) | |
| 5/2 | Amherst Invite (A) | |
| 5/3 | Amherst Invite (A) | |
| 5/9 | Greenfield Tourn (A) | |
| 5/16 | St. J. Academy Inv. (H) | |
| 5/17 | St. J. Academy Inv. (A) | |
| 5/24 | Vermont States TBA | |
| 5/31 | New England Champs TBA | |

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------|
| GOLF SCHEDULE | | |
| 4/28 | BFA,MMU & NC (H) | 3:00 |
| 4/30 | Girls Invitational (A) | 2:00 |
| 5/2 | BHS, CVU & Essex (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/5 | CHS, MIDD & NC (H) | 3:00 |
| 5/7 | MVU, Mt. ABE&SBHS(A) | 3:00 |
| 5/12 | Girls Invitational (A) | 2:00 |
| 5/13 | Rice, SHS & VER (A) | 2:00 |
| 5/15 | Boys Invitational (A) | 8:00 |
| | Girls Invitational (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/16 | CVU, Milton & VER (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/19 | Girls Invitational (A) | 12:00 |
| 5/20 | CVU, MIDD & SBHS (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/22 | MVU, NC, SBHS (A) | 3:00 |
| 5/23 | Girls Metro (A) | 1:00 |
| 5/29 | Boys Metro (A) | 9:00 |
| | Girls Tournament (A) | 1:00 |

Go Hilltoppers!



Sap Bucket Photo: Courtesy of Ruth Goodrich. All others by Jeff Gold.

Maple syrup is made from sap, collected from sugar maple trees in the brief period between late winter and early spring when nights are cold and the days are above freezing. The sap, which has run one drop at a time from spouts in the trees, is taken from individual buckets or by means of plastic tubing to the sugarhouse to be boiled and concentrated into sweet maple syrup. For a wonderful treat of the season ask about Sugar on Snow at a Vermont sugarhouse or see the instructions below.

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Montpelier's got steam especially just three miles up Main Street at the Morse Farm. Sweet things are happening on Maple Open House Weekend (March 27-29). Maple pancake (plain & blueberry) and sausage breakfast March 14, 8-11 a.m. See the boiling and have sugar-on-snow every weekend afternoon March through mid April. Mail order, large gift shop, maple kettle corn and maple creemees. www.morsefarm.com



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RT 15 Walden, VT 05873. (802) 563-2756

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1005 VT RT 14 North, East Montpelier, VT 05651. (802) 223-5757

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Sugar on Snow: "Sugar on Snow" parties have been a traditional spring-time favorite in Vermont for hundreds of years. Sugar on Snow is made by pouring hot maple syrup onto packed snow to form a taffy-like candy and is traditionally served with raised doughnuts, dill pickles and coffee. The pickles and coffee serve to counter the sweetness of the maple candy. To make your own Sugar on Snow heat pure Vermont maple syrup without stirring to 233°. Pour or drizzle (again without stirring) the syrup immediately over the packed snow to form a thin coating. The taffy is soft, so the easiest way to eat it is to wind it up with a fork and enjoy.

Naomi Bossom returns to a tree-encircled studio

by VIRGINIA DOWNS

The Catamount Arts Exhibit is over and Naomi Bossom is back at work in her art studio on North Prospect Street in Lyndonville. The sunlight flickers among the trees surrounding her art retreat, an ideal aura for inspiration.

The March exhibit, a lively occasion featuring Naomi's woodcut prints and wall hangings and the dynamic prints of Bill Darling, a St. Johnsbury Academy teacher. The talk was punctuated with laughter in the crowded rooms as enthusiastic visitors studied the graphic works of art, quizzing the artists about their meanings.

Naomi shows the artwork on the walls of the small studio — pen and ink drawings, fabric collages, and woodblock prints, her favorite medium. "Block printing allows me to clarify my shapes and ideas," she explains. "I gravitate to the graphic. The quality of crispness works best for me. I guess you would say my style is narrative — some kind of story wants to be told. I try not to tell it all; I let people find it and make it up themselves."

"Wood is beautiful to work with. It does require sharp tools and a strong hand," she says. First she does a drawing in soft pencil on tracing paper, turns the paper over, tapes it to a block of wood, and rubs the image onto it. Then come the cutting and inking phases before the final print is made.



Left, Naomi Bossom speaking to Wilder Simpson and his wife, Mary, a Lyndonville artist, while they enjoy a Catamount Art's exhibit opening March 6. Naomi works on a fabric collage, an art form in which "everybody sees what they want to see."

Naomi is a regular artist for the international magazine, "Art of Eating," published by Ed Behr of Peacham. "The artwork ties in with subjects in the magazine," she explains. "I had fun doing a woodblock print of a tractor from the fifties. Woodcuts are great for illustrating books or articles." She shows a children's book she illustrated several years ago, "Scales Full of Fish," with the fish clustered in a weight scale.

She is one of 200 members of the Society of American Graphic Artists, which will put on a show this summer in Australia. "They usually take all the members' work," she says, "but this time the sixty judged best will be shown. Mine will be called 'Moose Meets Kangaroo' to bridge the cultures." Her work has been in other SAGA

exhibits, including her "Broadway Babes" which was shown in New York City.

A print she made once was a series of vignettes which she felt expressed the everyday objects as seen in a woman's life: among them, a kitchen scene, pigeons, and people walking in a park. "Somebody saw it in a gallery and viewed it as one's life from birth to death," she recalls. "The viewer often comes up with something different from what the artist had in mind."

Naomi enjoys taking art lessons at the Catamount Arts occasionally, mostly for sociability, she explains. "An artist's work is solitary, and you need to get out and have fun." She pointed out the twice-a-week exercise class that she takes in Lyndonville as a good example of one of those fun out-



Photos by Alvin Shulman.

lets.

As a board member of the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, she enjoys driving down to Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury to visit with fellow artists and plan the art shows they sponsor regularly.

A modest person by nature, she denies that she showed promise as an artist when she was very young. What she did excel in from the age of five, was music. "My parents bought a piano for my older brother. He was a very brilliant young man, but did not have a good ear for music. So I would sit down beside him and play the melody." By the time she had entered first grade, she was taking lessons. With a piano in her studio now, she takes time to play every day she can. Once a month, she drives to Norwich for lessons with

a professional musician.

Naomi claims she did not show promise as an artist, though, when she was a child, "I'd draw on sidewalks with chalk like any other kid, but that was all."

When an older girlfriend was applying to go to a high school for music and art, young Naomi was determined to go too. When she did not measure up in a preliminary music test, she told herself, "Then I will be an artist."

She laughs as she recalls her efforts to put together a portfolio. "I somehow put together a bunch of fruit and painted a still life. Then my friend and I took ferry trips across the Hudson to Palisades Park, which was open country like Vermont. We'd have picnic lunches on a little sandy beach under the George Washington Bridge where you could look out over Manhattan." She recalls drawing a woman and a little boy and discovered for the first time that artistically she gravitated toward people. In high school years, when

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she was given a project in history class, she remembers "I got out of doing a paper by making a doll and dressing it in period costume." She found that what she lacked in verbal skills could be compensated for in artistic creations.

Naomi went on to Bard College, studied wood cut printing, and then to Columbia University, where her artistic skills flourished. The year she graduated from Columbia's School of Fine Arts, she won first prize in her class after putting on a show of her best work.

To top it off, the prestigious AAA Gallery in New York accepted her work for exhibit right after graduation.

When asked what new artistic venture she faces she smiles and says, "My eleven-year-old granddaughter, Zoe, who goes to a charter school in Devon, Pennsylvania, told me that the grandmother of one of her classmates taught art for week so why couldn't I? Her class is studying paper collage. So it looks like I'll be taking a trip down to Pennsylvania soon."



NEK Habitat enters second year

Northeast Kingdom Habitat for Humanity has announced new steering committee members and officers for 2009. NEK Habitat is a local project committee of Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity, centered in White River Junction, which builds, repairs and renovates homes for people in need.

The local committee is helping to finish two houses in the Northeast Kingdom, and will resume employing its volunteer work crews in March. Work will resume this spring on the house of Chad and Billie Jo Abbott, of Brownington. The organization is also partnering with Gilman Housing Trust to finish - and find a family for - a house in Orleans. During 2008, volunteers also completed five smaller projects in Danville, St. Johnsbury and Newport.

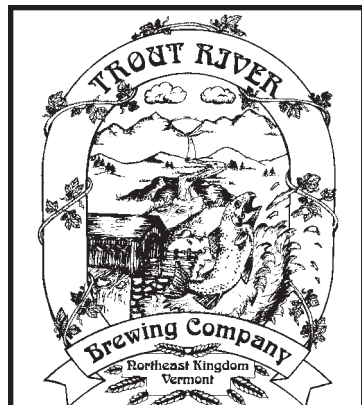
The Committee Chair is Dan Swainbank, of Danville. The Vice Chair is Francis Carlet, from Peacham. Returning committee members are: Bob Gondar (West Burke, Secretary), Cyndy Nye (St. Johnsbury, Volunteer Coordinator), Jesse Tatum (Derby), Rev. Gerry Piper (West Danville), Susan Aiken (St. Johnsbury), and Bruce Starbuck (Lyndonville). New committee members are Sara Heft (Danville), Jody Paine (Danville),

Jillian McLaughlin (Lyndon State College), and Fritz Fay of Black Dog Builders (St. Johnsbury).

"The most gratifying and successful part of our first year," said Swainbank, "has been the outpouring of volunteers, including skilled trades people. Our goal for 2009 is to continue those efforts and raise money to build a home in the area." NEK residents who would like to get involved should contact Cyndy Nye, Volunteer Coordinator at (802) 751-8700, or by email at up-countryinteriors.com.

The NEK committee has formed sub-committees in the areas of fundraising, site selection, family selection and support, public relations, and building. The Northeast Kingdom group is reviving a Habitat affiliate which worked to build and renovate affordable homes in the region from 1988 - 2002. The committee meets on the third Wednesday of every month at LSC.

To get involved, area citizens can contact NEK Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 1421, Lyndonville, VT 05851.



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Walden Hill Journal

No shortage of variety

Apr. 2, 2008

Only two days into the month and already we've had the full gambit of April "showers": mist, thick fog, freezing rain and rain with thunder, which appropriately appeared on April Fools Day. Today dawned with snow showers. What we need is a gentle steady spring rain to melt off our mountains of snow and bring the frost out of the road. I took a crunchy, blustery snowshoe this morning. Blue sky and bright sunshine helped to dispel the wintry chill. I was fine in the woods, but the strong gusts of

wind kept me moving in the more open areas. A newly gnawed stump shows that the beaver have briefly emerged from their winter dens. Fresh chips around the stump concur that the cutting was done recently.

Apr. 8, 2008

50° sunny days with clear, crisp 20° nights have the maple sap flowing and the sugar makers boiling. The gradual melt-off is occurring and mud season has begun. Fortunately the roads are still firm enough just below the surface to

keep the ruts manageable. Deer are seeking out open ground on Route 2 so it's a cautious drive to St. Jay and back. We're still mostly snow-bound on Walden Hill, but a few brave robins have ventured up, seeking out the wet open ground. They are a beautiful sight for winter weary eyes. Killdeer have returned too but much closer to town where large patches of field have opened up.

Apr. 11, 2008

We've had some nice bird sightings at the suet feeder. A pair of hairy woodpeckers, several downies, a flicker, a nuthatch, too many starlings, song sparrows, juncos and chickadees. Robins were plentiful today too, enjoying the rain. The road remains a bit precarious, but driving slow has its advantages. We had a close-up view of a very industrious pileated woodpecker, piling up wood chips atop the snow. Fortunately he was excavating a tree on a fairly level part of the road so we could stop and watch and roll

down the windows to hear his loud tapping. As we moved on, so did he, undulating to a nearby tree.

Apr. 16, 2008

We're in the midst of a very spring-like sunny spell. Clear blue skies beautifully offset fresh powder, lightly dusting the White Mountains. Warmer daytime temps are quickly bringing down the snow pack, even up here on Walden Hill. A few bare patches and lots of running melt-off dot our otherwise very white field. The snow is too unstable for snow shoeing and still too deep for boots, so we're sticking to hikes on the road. There are some muddy ruts, but for the most part our road is passable. Kittredge is another story and in full mud season bloom. Downy and hairy woodpeckers and flickers have been pecking away at the suet feeder, while flocks of juncos forage for debris left on the ground. Sugaring is in full steam. Hopefully the high temps predicted for the next few days won't cause the maple trees to start budding out too soon.

Apr. 20, 2008

Warm, sunny weather continues with highs in the 70's. Our vegetable garden has finally reappeared, beckoning thoughts of planting. Kohlrabi and basil seedlings are growing in the solar

ium. Sap buckets have been taken down as maples begin to bud. Poplar catkins give those trees a false look of new leaves. Our frog pond is overflowing, and our vernal stream glistens and bubbles in the morning sun. I was actually able to walk to the compost bin on bare but very soggy ground. Piles of droppings in various sizes show that our doe and her fawns have been back exploring the yard for spring edibles. I think they've been pruning some of the bushes. Tulip shoots, lily leaves, and poppy greens are poking through the ground near the warmth and shelter of the west side of the house. Spring has definitely sprung. Even our side stairs and porch are free of snow. The field and woods still have a ways to go.

Apr. 23, 2008

Unseasonably warm weather continues as we leap into spring. Peepers are singing their nocturnal chorus close to town. Daffodils and crocuses are in bloom even up at our elevation. Turkeys have been strutting down the road in their pecking order lines. Shads are dotted with white, and lilacs are showing hints of purple at the tips of their tightly closed buds. Maples are tinting the hills red with their early colorful leaves. We've put in a few screens to enjoy the outside air.

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This may actually be one of those rare years that spring comes early.

Apr. 25, 2008

Had our first electrical thunderstorm two nights ago. High winds brought in somewhat cooler and very clear weather. The night sky was a magnificent star show, and the moon late rising so as to not interrupt the dazzling darkness. Honking frogs have joined the high-pitched peeper chorus to form a cacophony of wetland sounds. Swallows are more prevalent and almost blue in their metallic mating plumage. Coltsfoot is in bloom. I turned the garden today and will add my usual "moo doo" once it's available. I may even brave an early planting of peas and lettuce if this fine weather holds.

Apr. 28, 2008

April may be moving forward, but the weather has taken a step or two backwards. Cold and clammy with lots of rain today. We have the wood stove on for one of the few times this month. Vermont has been on red alert as far as fire danger, so today's good soaking should help alleviate that potential hazard. Fortunately the buds on the flowering trees have held back enough to avoid being damaged by the colder weather.

Apr. 30, 2008

We're ending April with a dusting of poor man's fertilizer. The snow is an especially bright white against the brilliant, freshly greened fields. A cold low of 26° last night reminds us that more chilly weather lies ahead. After so much sunshine and very warm spring weather, we need an occasional reminder to pull in the gardening reins and wait for the calendar to advance a bit. Had our first moose sighting on Dole Hill yesterday evening. I guess we should take those moose crossing signs on Route 2 more seriously.

Jump Jazz Jubilee benefits all

The Northeast Kingdom Youth Services 5th Annual JUMP Jazz Jubilee is as exciting as its name sounds.

There is the music, the crowd, the entertaining games, the exceptional silent and live auction items and the spectacular array of signature hors d'oeuvres and desserts from the areas best chefs. When you put all this together and factor in the dynamic Mike Welch as emcee and the congenial ambiance of the St. Johnsbury Country Club, you have yourself quite a party. You will want to join the fun and save the Saturday, May 2, 2009 date to attend this gala event.

Auction bidders will find an amazing variety of items presented during a live auction and on silent auction tables, including two African Photo Safaris from the Zulu Nyala Game

Lodge, a seven-night stay at the luxurious Divi Village Resort in Aruba, original artwork and crafts, a demo-recording for a singer songwriter or solo musician from Dreamery Productions, spa sessions, a stay at the famed Rabbit Hill Inn and much more. There is something for everyone to bid on and it is all for the benefit of a good cause.

Door prizes, a 50/50 Raffle and a lively Heads and Tail game all add to the party atmosphere. "It is easy to forget that this fun-filled night is actually a fundraiser, with all proceeds supporting the JUMP Mentoring Program at Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (NEKYS)" says NEKYS executive director, Marion Classen. And, she adds "the vital one-on-one attention that mentors provide promotes healthy development and pro-

ducts kids from risky behavior at a critical age. This proven, cost effective resource for the Northeast Kingdom needs this type of community backing to survive"

The Country Club with its full service bar and casual, but elegant atmosphere provides a perfect venue for the festivities

and area chefs provide a beautiful gourmet spread of hearty appetizers and dessert platters. Tickets are now available for \$35.00 each which includes a complimentary beverage from the full service bar. Contact the NEKYS office at 802-748-8732 for more information.

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 - (3) A community member volunteering directly at Danville School.
 - (4) A community member that exemplifies those qualities that build a supportive and healthy community in which a school and young people can thrive.

Send nominations, including explanation, to
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And Community Helping Hand Award
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Lyndon Institute Spring Athletics 2008

Varsity Baseball

| | | | |
|--------|----------|---------------|-------|
| Fri. | April 17 | Bellows Falls | 4:30 |
| Mon. | April 20 | Rice | 4:00 |
| Thurs. | April 23 | @ Lake Region | 4:00 |
| Sat. | April 25 | @ N. Country | 11:00 |
| Wed. | April 29 | Vergennes | 4:30 |
| Sat. | May 2 | @ Randolph | 4:00 |
| Tues. | May 5 | Northfield | 4:30 |
| Tues. | May 12 | @ Oxbow | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 14 | U-32 | 4:30 |
| Sat. | May 16 | Randolph | 11:00 |
| Tues. | May 19 | @ Northfield | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 21 | Harwood | 4:00 |
| Sat. | May 23 | Oxbow | 11:00 |
| Tues. | May 26 | @ Montpelier | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 28 | @ Lamoille | 4:30 |
| Sat. | May 30 | @ U-32 | 11:00 |

Varsity Softball

| | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------|-------|
| Tues. | April 14 | Brattleboro | 4:30 |
| Fri. | April 17 | Bellows Falls | 11:00 |
| Mon. | April 20 | Rice | 4:00 |
| Sat. | April 25 | @ North Country | 4:00 |
| Mon. | April 27 | Oxbow | 11:00 |
| Wed. | April 29 | Vergennes | 4:00 |
| Sat. | May 2 | @ Randolph | 4:00 |
| Mon. | May 4 | @ Harwood | 1:00 |
| Sat. | May 9 | @ Otter Valley | 4:30 |
| Tues. | May 12 | @ Oxbow | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 14 | @ Randolph | 11:00 |
| Sat. | May 16 | U32 | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 21 | Harwood | 11:00 |
| Thurs. | May 28 | @ Lamoille | 4:30 |
| Sat. | May 30 | @ U-32 | 11:00 |

Track & Field

| | | | |
|-------|----------|------------------------|-------|
| Fri. | April 17 | @ Middlebury | 3:15 |
| Fri. | April 24 | @ STJA NEK Frosh | 3:15 |
| Wed. | April 29 | @ Spaulding | 3:15 |
| Fri. | May 1 | @ Milton | 3:15 |
| Fri. | May 1 | @ BHS Invite | 3:00 |
| Sat. | May 2 | @ BHS Invite | 1:00 |
| Wed. | May 6 | Lyndon | 3:15 |
| Tues. | May 12 | @ Milton | 3:15 |
| Sat. | May 16 | GIRLS at Iverson Relay | 10:00 |
| Wed. | May 20 | @ SJA | 3:15 |
| Wed. | May 27 | @ Colchester | 3:15 |
| Sat. | May 30 | @ Essex Invitational | 10:00 |
| Sat. | June 6 | State Meet @ U32 | 10:00 |

Golf

| | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Mon. | April 27 | STJCC | 3:30 |
| Wed. | April 29 | @ Montpelier | 3:30 |
| Mon. | May 4 | @ Oxbow | 3:30 |
| Wed. | May 6 | @ Lamoille | 3:30 |
| Mon. | May 11 | @ Lake Region | 3:30 |
| Wed. | May 13 | @ Stowe | 3:30 |
| Mon. | May 18 | @ Northfield | 3:30 |
| Mon. | May 18 | @ NC Invite (Girls) | TBA |
| Wed. | May 20 | STJCC | 3:30 |
| Thurs. | May 21 | @ NC Invite (Boys) | TBA |
| Wed. | May 27 | @ Harwood | 3:30 |
| Tues. | June 2 | Div. II Sectionals at STJCC | |
| Tues. | June 9 | Girl's States @ Proctor/Pittsford | |
| Wed. | June 10 | Boy's States @ Middlebury | |

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John Morrison Pearl

Remembering Brother John

by PEGGY PEARL

February 12, 2009 was the celebration of the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln and at 2:12 p.m. bells rang out marking the anniversary. As I took my turn ringing the North Church bell, little did I know that at this precise time, my family was losing a son, brother, husband, father, uncle and friend. John Morrison Pearl died unexpectedly in his proudly restored 1967 White log truck.

John was the youngest of four children born to Lucia (Johnson) and William Pearl on December 23, 1955. It probably was the only time in his life that his siblings were upset with him, for it was Christmas time and we wanted our Mother home! His Aunt Alice Blair of Danville made it a resolution that he would never suffer from being born so close to Christmas, and she was the hostess for 51 of his 53 birthdays. From the time he sat in the "teeter-babe" on the floor of our big old rowboat that got us to the little island and back at Joes Pond, he had a wonderful grin. We still look at pictures and giggle.

John was a student of St. Johnsbury schools and gradu-

ated from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1973. He possessed knowledge that could not be obtained in a classroom. Good ole Yankee ingenuity made him capable of figuring out how something worked and how to fix it if it didn't work. He had a great deal of admiration for the way older things worked, be it a saw mill or Model T. He was patient in his work and was always pulling a part from another piece of equipment (we called it his dump pile) to make something else go. In his latest accomplishment – the White log truck – one finds a faucet handle that makes the windshield wipers go!


John's pace was moderate and there really was no sense in trying to hurry him. While his pace was moderate, I believe that his mind was always think-



ing about his project and how he was going to get it done. His words were often few, but when he spoke you listened. Perhaps the only frustration one had with John was trying to get a yes or no, a time, or a definitive answer! His wife, Sheri Sargent could attest to the latter. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 2008, having exchanged their vows at the Pearl Farm in Danville. Here they worked together, building a house off the grid, operating a dairy farm for many years and sugaring and logging on the property. They have two sons – Isaac married Logan Chapin at Cheever Falls in October of 2008. Just the Friday before John's death, Isaac had left his

mechanic's job and come home to work with his father. Henry is enrolled in the 2+2 Agriculture program and is finishing his second year at Vermont Technical College. Henry, even in his sorrow has a wonderful ability of seeing the cup half full, "At least I had a good Dad for 21 years."

His temperament was easy, gentle and kind. He was very rarely angry, although I do remember one incident out at the sugar house. He and I were going to be boiling late, so he was going to take the horses back to the barn and bed them down. He had them turned around headed for home when I had one more question about the responsibility I was being left

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Unforeseen describes what may happen as one event, without knowledge or intent of another can change the lives of many people; much like a pebble thrown into a pond creates a ripple effect that may have an "Unforeseen" effect on some foreign shore.

Raymond S. Blanchard was raised in Peacham where his ancestors settled in 1777. He is a writer of poetry in addition to writing and producing television series on health care.

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with, and he came into the sugar house. The next sound we heard were the horses leaving. John made a gallant effort to board the wagon but ended up giving chase all the way back to the farm. Needless to say, the next thing I heard was the horses returning with John at the reins. He blanketed them, and they waited until the early morning hours to return us to the farm!

His manner and his work ethic was a wonderful example to their two sons, as well to his niece Carrie and his nephews Tom and Nick. Watching John was how you learned what to do. Traveling with John, be it a walk in the woods, a ride up Mt. Washington, or touring the memorials around the Mall in D.C., you always came away with another perspective. There would be that tree that you would appreciate more; the cellar hole that held more questions than answers and then there would be that quote: "You just think about that time –and how they did things." Time spent with John was quality time.

Our family is big on birthday celebrations – a tradition started by our parents – and we all get together for a meal, usually followed by games. Games or movies were usually the after supper entertainments at John's home, so games were taught to all generations at birthday parties. Slow games were not popular but timed answers picked up the pace as well as the volume!

John renewed his interest in motorcycle riding right around 50; I kidded him about the age "thing." Henry was already on

one so next was Sheri, followed by sister Elizabeth and her husband Bob Sargent. I flunked, so I just got visited by the bikers! Isaac got in on the tail end of the motor bike rides. With his passing, I am so glad John got to enjoy that age "thing!"

Brother Tom left us in 1982. John is survived by his wife Sheri Sargent, his sons Isaac and his wife Logan and Henry; his parents William and Lucia Pearl; his sisters, Peggy Pearl, Elizabeth and husband Robert Sargent; and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his faithful dogs Rufus, who would ride in anything with him, and Mudder who preferred to follow along.

John's presence was huge. You always thought he would be part of the landscape, and even though the emptiness crept around the dining room table for a week while we ate together, it was often replaced with a story – a memory of John that even saw us laugh. Whatever relationship he was to us all, he was our friend. Being a relative and a friend too, speaks volumes. I honestly believe that if we all left the footprints my brother John left on this earth, it would truly be a better place.

By his older sister Peggy Pearl for the whole family.

Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

Lynn A Bonfield



Death transformed nineteenth-century American families as fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers left home and died in the Civil War. Drew Gilpin Faust, author of the recent landmark book, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*, estimated that 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, a number approximately equal to the total American fatalities in the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War combined.

In the town of Peacham, where the 1860 census reported 1,247 people, 122 men went to war, and two-thirds of these lost their lives. Peacham soldiers wrote about the topic of death in letters home. Hazen B.

Hooker (1841-64), who was raised on the farm originally built for Rev. Leonard Worcester in the area now called Green Bay, penned a letter on December 28, 1862 to his parents, Orman and Mary Blanchard Hooker, from a camp in Virginia, four months after enlisting:

You no doubt have got the news of Bens [Merrill] death before this time. You wrote if Ben died, you supposed I should feel as if I could not stay here any longer. Marm [mother] you cannot imagine how different my feelings are from what they were when I left home. I cannot look upon death as I did at home. It makes me feel bad to see and hear of the death of my friends and schoolmates, but I have become so hardened that it does not have but little affect on me to what it used to have. We have been here a week, and

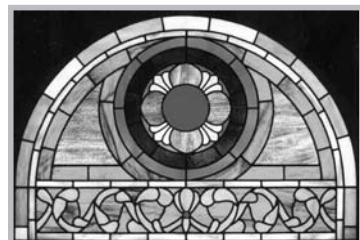


Hazen Hooker, Vermont Volunteers, 3rd Regiment, Company G. Courtesy of the Peacham Historical Association.

there has been a funeral every day, and some days two. War is a terrible thing. You cannot realize any thing about it, unless you witness some of its scenes.

Three months later he addressed the subject of death again in the letter printed here expressing grief over the death of his cousin, Sanford Hooker. "Death is everywhere," he wrote, "but it is not good for soldiers to think of such things."

Continued on Page 28



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Maudy Thursday, April 9, 7PM at the North Danville Baptist Church Celebrating Christ's Last Supper with his disciples. The Rev. Bob Sargent, pastor.

Good Friday, April 10, 7PM at the West Danville United Methodist Church The Rev. Gerry Piper, pastor.

Easter Vigil Service, April 11, 6:30PM at the Danville Congregational Church

Easter Early Service, April 12, 7AM on the Danville Green Led by the Danville United Methodist Church. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the church. Breakfast in the church following the service. The Rev. Hank Cheney, pastor.

Easter Breakfast, April 12, 8:30AM At the Danville Congregational Church

Easter Sunday Worship Services
Danville United Methodist Church 9:30AM
West Danville United Methodist Church 9:30AM
North Danville Baptist Church 9:30AM
Danville Congregational Church 10AM

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The North Danville Church (ABC)

Danville Community Holy Week services:
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Good Friday, April 10, 7PM at the West Danville United Methodist Church The Rev. Gerry Piper, pastor.
Easter Early Service, April 12, 7AM on the Danville Green Led by the Danville United Methodist Church. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the church. Breakfast in the church following the service. The Rev. Hank Cheney, pastor.
The Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 25, marking the beginning of Lent, was held at the Danville Congregational Church.

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Bronstein and Smith next in the gallery

“Elemental, unrefined, simple iron isn’t that many steps away from dirt, but in the right hands, it can be used to create something truly beautiful.”
 - Steve Bronstein



The upcoming show at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery promises spring visitors a visual feast. Marshfield iron sculptor, Steven Bronstein, and Peacham oil painter, David Smith, will share gallery space “under the purple awning” at 4:30 Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury. The show opens April 5th and will run until May 18th. The general public is invited to a complimentary wine and cheese Artists’ Reception Saturday, April 18, 3-5 p.m.

Bronstein is attuned to the evolution of his art, perhaps because he can draw a parallel with his own life. After graduating from college in 1970 with a degree in biology he moved to northern Vermont where he began to develop

his artistic abilities. Now, for nearly 3 decades, Bronstein has been creating functional and sculptural ironwork at his blacksmith shop and studio, Blackthorne Forge, in Marshfield. Steven acknowledges his development as an artist, “The capacity to adapt and evolve with the changing designs of the day is the blacksmith’s greatest strength. Just as the hot metal twists and bends to create beauty, so does the craft of blacksmithing itself.”

His designs strive to blend the primitive charm of ironwork with the energy and interest of more contemporary design. Clocks, vases, bookends, floor lamps, garden sculptures are just a few of the objects for which Steve has sought to blend the functional with the sculptural.

Blacksmithing is recognized as one of the “Traditional Crafts” and this tradition connects Steven to the long lineage of blacksmiths

who have been making beautiful objects for people for over 3000 years. The designs change with the times but the basic technique and the freedom that it allows continues to fulfill Steven’s desire to transform a block of steel into something that makes us want to touch it, pick it up, and have it become part of our lives.

Oil painter David Smith has had a wide range of experiences as an artist. He studied art, ceramics, painting and book illustration at Goddard College in Plainfield, VT. He has worked with children making public art, been a scenic designer and painter in Philadelphia, a graphic designer in New York City and Vermont, and an architectural and woodworking designer and builder in Vermont, where he has lived since 1974.

A man who challenges himself in the creation of his art, he describes his show at the Artisans Guild in these words: “These indi-

vidual paintings have their own stories, stories that often emerge only after a painting has been completed. That said, the consistency in my work is in the physical and emotional effect of light on objects, as well as the tension created between the representational mode of painting and the actual surface of the paint itself. Light and shadows—the two sides of the coin—move me when I see them in the world.”

Smith has chosen to paint in a representational style because of its limitations, “because of the constraints of the genre. Where there are constraints and limitations, there are boundaries to push up against. These very tensions and constraints interest me greatly.”

“These constraints are why I choose to paint with rough bristle brushes. My choice of bristle brushes comes from my desire to not paint detail, but to simply indi-



cate objects and light, allowing the viewer finish the painting in her or his mind. Emotions and information already stored in the brain interpret how we take in the world... While not unique, my painting process is one of continual discovery. I am constantly becoming aware of new emotional and visual terrain along my painting journey.”

For more information about David Smith and Steven Bronstein visit their websites: www.impactfolios.com and www.blackthorneforge.com

Guild and gallery hours are 10:30-5:30 Monday-Saturday. For more information visit: www.nekartisansguild.com



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 April 5



No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

April is a month of hope for cooks in the northeast. Fresh and home-grown is just around the corner along with those edible perennials - mint, rhubarb and that treat of all spring treats, asparagus. Even if you aren't plucking that asparagus from its winter rest just yet, you can be plotting your kitchen strategy for this gourmet gift from the earth. There is a lot of inexpensive asparagus in the supermarket this time of year and it is good quality, but if you really want the true asparagus experience find a fresh local source and see what this earthy vegetable is all about.

Asparagus

Simplicity is the key word in the preparation of asparagus and the less you do to it the better. The most important rule is not to over-cook this fragile vegetable. To ready asparagus for any cooking method, snap off the ends where they want to break naturally rather than cutting them. This will always yield a tender product.

Water cooking: Put one inch of water in a non-reactive frying pan. Heat to boiling and place prepared asparagus in the water. The amount of cooking time will depend on the size of the asparagus. As soon as it shows the least tenderness, drain the hot water and rinse with a little cold water to stop the cooking. Drain.

Two of my favorite recipes for water cooked asparagus:

1/ Drizzle extra virgin olive oil over the asparagus and sprinkle sea salt over all. Toss and serve at room temperature as a

side dish.

2/ Heat butter, the juice from one half-lemon and chopped flat parsley in a frying pan. Add the asparagus and heat. Serve immediately.

Grill: Snap off the ends and coat the asparagus with olive oil. Cook on the grill until seared on all sides. This is a simple way to add a flavor dimension to this vegetable.

Sauté: Heat a nut of butter in a pan and sauté the asparagus over medium high heat until it starts to soften. Take off the heat and let it set in the pan to cook a minute more. You don't even need to salt asparagus cooked this way.

Asparagus Chowder

This soup will make any asparagus lover weak at the knees. It provides a wonderful meal served with a good loaf of French bread and a salad.

2 or 3 medium onions - chopped
1 bunch scallion - chopped
6 to 8 potatoes - peeled and sliced
2 or 3 store size bunches asparagus - ends snapped off and discarded
2 quarts rich chicken stock (boxed stock is fine)
1 cup heavy cream
4 tablespoons butter
½ cup parsley - chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

Sauté the onions in the butter until soft. Chop the asparagus into small pieces, reserving the tips (cut them off and save for adding at the end). Add the chopped asparagus minus the tips to the onions. Cook

for about 5 minutes. Add the chicken stock and potatoes. Let come to boil and then simmer for about 20 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. At this point give the soup a hearty stir to slightly mash some of the potatoes and thicken the soup a little. Add the scallions, parsley and salt and pepper to taste. Stir and add the heavy cream. Bring the soup to almost boiling and turn off. Put in the asparagus tips a few minutes before you are ready to serve the hot soup.

Asparagus Quiche

A classic recipe for this time of year. Great as a luncheon dish or served with a slice of sautéed ham for dinner. It also freezes well after cooking. The secret to a crispy crust under your quiche is to pre-bake the shell whether you use a store bought or homemade crust. This recipe makes one 9-inch quiche. It will easily double and triple.

3 eggs
½ cup cream
Salt and pepper to taste
Pinch of nutmeg
1 onion - chopped
3 scallions - chopped
12 asparagus stalks - water cooked and cooled
2 tablespoons of parsley
½ cup grated cheese (cheddar, swiss or your favorite)
One precooked pie crust

Prebake your piecrust. Use your own favorite recipe or a store bought variety. When you prebake a piecrust you will need to brace the sides. Do this by lining a fork-pricked crust with aluminum foil and filling it with rice beans or pellets made for this purpose. Cook at 375 degrees for about 10 minutes. Take out and remove the lining. Bake another 5 minutes without the lining. Let cool. You may freeze piecrust at this stage to keep it ready for a delicious easy meal at a moment's notice.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Beat eggs, cream, salt, pepper and nutmeg together. Set aside.

Sauté the onions and scallions together till just wilted and set aside. Chop 6 of the asparagus stalks into fairly small pieces and mix with the scallions and onions. Lay this vegetable mix in the bottom of the crust. Mix the parsley into the egg mixture and stir vigorously to combine completely. Pour into the crust on top of the vegetables. Sprinkle the grated cheese on top and place the remaining 4 asparagus stalks in a spoke pattern on top of the quiche. Place in the oven and cook for 30 minutes or until set. Let stand about 10 minutes and then cut and serve.

Asparagus Strudel

2 sheets frozen puff pastry
1 cup cream cheese - softened
4 cups prepared asparagus - cut into ¼ inch pieces
Salt and pepper
¼ cup flour
¼ cup heavy cream or half and half
½ cup grated parmesan cheese
¼ cup fresh parsley - chopped
1 egg

Let the pastry thaw in the refrigerator and then bring to room temperature. On a lightly floured surface roll the pastry out to at least ½ of its' original thickness. Cut

into approximately 5"x10" pieces (you can make smaller ones if you want.) Set aside.

Cook the asparagus in water until it just begins to soften. Rinse in cold water to stop the cooking and drain on a paper towel. In a large mixing bowl mix the asparagus, flour, cream, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Place the pieces of dough on a flat surface and spread a thin layer of cream cheese on one half of each piece. Cover the cream cheese with a handful of the asparagus mix. Fold the other half of the piece of dough over the asparagus side and press down with the tines of a fork to secure the edges. With a sharp knife make three long slashes on the top of the strudel. Make sure you cut right through the top dough to expose the asparagus.

In a bowl, beat the egg with a fork. Brush the top of each strudel with egg, making sure to cover the edges with the egg mix. Sprinkle the grated cheese over the top of each strudel applying it heavier at the edges (where the fork tines have marked it). Sprinkle some pepper and chopped parsley over the egg wash.

Cook in a 375-degree oven for about 20 to 30 minutes or until golden brown.



Bringing the pub to the people

While you're reading this, Trout River owner Dan Gates is doing something he hasn't done since he started brewing and distributing microbrews in the Northeast Kingdom. Home drinkers of Trout River are accustomed to four flavored mainstays: Rainbow Red Ale, Hoppin' Mad Trout, Scottish Ale and Chocolate Oatmeal Stout, while visitors to the pub have seen various others.

Starting this month, Gates will begin distributing three new flavors to local stores. All three, Bone Yard Barley Wine, Knight Slayer and Vindicator, have been available to Trout River pub visitors, but never to shoppers around the Kingdom. The new flavors are being hand-bottled and corked in Belgian-style 26-ounce bottles, which Gates is hoping will make them stand out on the shelf.

"We see this as a way to get more of our flavors out to the public who haven't been to the pub," says Gates.

The increase in flavors has also led to an invention. In order to efficiently produce and fill the larger size bottle, Dan and a local welder designed a new filling machine.

Dan and his wife, Laura, founded Trout River in July 1996. The combination of Dan's brewing skills seem to mesh perfectly with his wife's business and marketing skills, as well as his sister Mary Christianson's art skills, which she uses to create the logos and labels.

Though tight with his recipes and techniques, Dan believes the natural- settling of unfiltered brews results in a more flavorful and complex taste, which is why all Trout River brews are unfiltered.

After significant early growth, Dan and Laura's business has remained consistent. The predictability allows Dan, the business's only brewer, to periodically take off for random adventures in Burke Mountain's fresh powder.

Trout River is located on Memorial Drive in Lyndonville.

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What's happening at town hall

Barnet

Town Clerk: Benjamin Heisholt
Selectboard: Ted Faris, Gary Bun-
nell and Jeremy Roberts

March 9, 2009

Organization - Ted Faris was elected chairman and the date and time for future meetings was set to the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Clerks office.

Industrial Park - Pearl field in McIndoes Village is a potential site for a park. The park would use a site fee rather than a tax schedule, which is currently being used in other parks. The Board recommended Dwayne Salisbury speak with the landowner and abutters.

Construction Costs - Total construction costs expended to date on the new town garage is \$326,130.

Danville

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

March 5, 2009

Oath of Office - Marion Sevigny took the oath of office, administered by Marvin Withers. Withers was elected chair.

Road Agent - Kevin Gadapee reported that periodic snow storms have kept the road crew plowing and sanding. They have also been hauling some gravel, opening culverts and pushing snow back. They also worked on trucks, one with a water pump problem, one with a broken spring and one with electrical problems.

Bridge Repair - Two bids had been received on bridge number five in Harvey's Hollow. After some discussion, Michael K. Walsh moved to award the bid to JP Sicard, of Barton, for their bid of \$78,087, per the engineering bid specs, to be completed by July 31. The board approved.

Cemetery - Sevigny requested to revisit the Board's decision from last week to hire someone to mow the cemeteries and have the Board act as Sexton. After some discussion, it was decided to subcontract the cemetery mowing and repairs, and require them to do the Sexton work also as part of their bid. Town Administrator Merton Leonard had a request from a class at school to hold a yard sale in the town hall. After much discussion the Board felt that it might not be the best place to have a yard sale due to lack of parking and the traffic on Route 2, but would offer to let the class use the back of the Green by the post office. Marvin will discuss it with the class advisor.

Highway Budget - The Board reviewed the highway budget, and approved the orders for payment. The Board also approved renewing the liquor licenses of Marty's First Stop and Good Fellows Restaurant on a motion by Walsh. Marty's First Stop also had a tobacco license for renewal that was approved.

Town Officers - The following were reappointed:

- Sexton of Cemeteries: Louise Lessard
- Surveyor of Wood and Lumber: Select Board
- Tree Warden: Stephen Parker
- First Constable: Josephine Guertin
- Pound Keeper: Cheryl McQueeney
- Development Review Board: Kristen Devereaux, Edward Hebebran
- Solid Waste Mgt Dist: Jim Ashley
- Zoning Admin Officer: Linda Leone
- Town Service Officer: Select Board
- E-911 Coordinator: Jeremy McMullen
- Planning Commission: Alison Meaders, Kim Prior
- Conservation Commission: Andrea Machell, Alan Parker
- Dog List: Town Clerk's Office
- Green Up Day Committee: Jim Jung
- Fire Chief: Troy Cochran
- Emergency Mgt Coordinator: Merton Leonard
- Assistant EMC: Michael K. Walsh

Lyndon

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

March 2, 2009

Jay-Lyn Loan Fund - The board adopted a resolution with the town of St. Johnsbury for a Community Development Block Grant in support of the Jay-Lyn Revolving Loan Fund.

March 9, 2009

Reorganization - Martha Feltus was elected chair for the coming year.

Overweight Permits - Police Chief Jack Harris explained that

permits are allowing overweight trucks to cross over posted bridges. There are four bridges in Lyndon that are posted at 24,000 pounds. Dan Hill will look into making sure the bridges are rated and posted properly. The board approved the 18 excess weight permits with the standard conditions and to authorize Hill to sign the permits on behalf of the Board.

Appointments - The board appointed Sherb Lang to a three-year term on the Planning Commission, Alice Clafin to a three-year term on the Planning Commission, Ryan Noyes to a two-year term on the Planning Commission, Mandy Mitchell to a one-year term on the Planning Commission, Dan Daley to a one-year term on the Planning Commission, Kevin Calkins as an ex officio member of the Planning Commission and Wilder Simpson to a three-year term on the Development Review Board.

Other Business - Russell Blake asked for an explanation of the duties of the Police Advisory Committee. Discussion followed on police response to burglar alarms. Chief Harris will look into the situation.

Skateboard Park Discussion - The proposed park was discussed with the Village Trustees. Members of the group fundraising for the skateboard park discussed their fundraising efforts to date as well future fundraising plans.

Peacham

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

February 18, 2009

Peacham Community Housing - Andy Broderick, Housing Vermont's representative, announced that he will be leaving that position and that Mary Owens will be his replacement. He explained the new Housing Vermont 15-year investment program in Peacham and how it will affect the current status of Peacham's senior housing units and Peacham Community Housing.

Road Matters - Mark Chase, Peacham Road Foreman reported:

- ▶ Snow banks have been winged back.
- ▶ Equipment is prepared for forecasted storms.
- ▶ Complaints have been received about private vehicles not stopping when entering or crossing paved roads from side access roads. Selectboard requested that the road foreman develop a stop sign priority list.
- ▶ Additional speed limit and road name signs discussed.

▶ Access Permit procedures reviewed.

▶ Swenson asked that an Access Permit be approved for the Peacham Astronomy Foundation, which was approved.

▶ Plowing at Peacham Pond

Discipline - Swenson moved to allow the Road Foreman ed to discipline, including suspending and terminating the employment of Town road crew personnel. The board approved.

Cemetery Plan - David Jacobs discussed the implementation of cemetery plan guidelines, short-term management of cemetery plans, the tree line between the Hardy lot and the cemetery, a proposed pond and addition of an exit road from the cemetery was reviewed. The board tabled the proposed plan until an April visit to the cemetery.

March 4, 2009

Organization - The Board elected Dick Browne as Chairman of the Board.

Road Foreman - Mark Chase reported that Dan Kelliher asked if old trees near his house on Keiser

April 2009 Menu

Danville Senior Action Center

Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$4 for guests 60+ (Others \$5) is appreciated.

- April 2 - Pepperoni pizza with stuffed crust, tossed salad, peas and carrots and strawberry shortcake.
- April 7 - Lemon rosemary chicken, brown rice pilaf, broccoli and carrots, whole wheat rolls and lemon cake.
- April 9 - Pot roast, potatoes, carrots, rolls and rice pudding.
- April 14 - Tuna salad on a roll with lettuce and tomato, tomato bisque soup with saltines, canteloupe.
- April 16 - Apricot and shallot stuffed pork loin, cranberry chutney, winter squash, vegetables, rolls and monster cookies.
- April 21 - Marinated chicken breast, fettucin Alfredo, cauliflower, peas and carrots and rolls.
- April 23 - Veggie lasagna, garlic bread, spinach salad with mandarin oranges and impossible coconut pie.
- April 28 - New England Clam Chowder with oyster crackers, chef salad with homemade croutons, orange juice, baby carrots and dip.
- April 30 - Meatloaf and gravy topped with tomatoes, peppers and onions, rice salad, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots and bread pudding.

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Pond Road and in the Town's right of way could be removed at the Town's expense. Andy Cochran and the Tree Warden, Neil Monteith, will view the site and report on their findings. Condition of a 1995 blue dump truck was discussed. The Town sander is broken and needs new augers so it can be used for the rest of the winter. The Board approved the repairs.

Appointments – The following appointments were approved:

- Conservation Commission: David Magnus
- Fence Viewers: Kenneth Bean, Maurice Chandler, and Ken Danielson.
- Memorial Day Chairperson: Mel Reis
- Economic Committee: Charlie Browne, Barry Lawson, Tim McKay, Gib Parrish, and Mary Ellen Reis.
- Tree Board: David Jacobs, Julie Lang, Neil Monteith, Cheryl Stevenson, and Marj Swenson.
- Fire Chief: Jeff Berwick
- Library Representative: Beatrice De Rocco, one year term.
- Agency Appropriation Committee: Josette Lyders, Charles Browne, and Jean Clark.
- Fire Warden: Neil Monteith
- Green Up Chairpersons: Jo Anne Post and Dave Stauffer
- Health Officer: Sharon McDonnell
- Keeper of the Pound: Jo Guertin
- NEK Waste Management District Representative: Richard Blair
- NVDA Representatives:

Jean Dedam and Tom Joyce
Service Officer:
Patty Strader
Sextons:
Ron Craig and
heryl Stevenson
Zoning Board of Adjustment:
Francis Carlet, Michael Bruton,
Ron Craig, Robert Joly, and
Donald Moore, Sr.

Fire Department - A letter was received from the Peacham Volunteer Fire Department informing the Board that at its annual meeting members unanimously voted to recommend Jeff Berwick as Fire Chief.

St. Johnsbury

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

March 9, 2009

Election of Chairman – Bryon Quatrini indicated that, traditionally the Board member who is entering the third year of a 3-year term is elected chairman. That board member would be Gary Reis. Reis respectfully declined the nomination for chairman, which was approved.

Rules of Procedure – Mike Welch presented a copy of "Rules of Procedure" that have guided the Board the past few years in the format of the meetings. The Board had no additional changes or comments to make on the proposed rules.

Public Comment - Henry St. Cyr approached the Board with a question of parking on Eastern Avenue. St. Cyr reported that a person with handicap plates has been parking on Eastern Avenue in one particular spot (in front of St. Cyr's business establishment) all day without paying the meter. General consensus was that since no one at the meeting was certain of the law, the matter would be looked into with possibly enforcing limited parking time on the Eastern Avenue meters in the future, which would alleviate this particular problem.

Public Hearing – Joel Schwartz asked the Board to serve as lead applicant for a VCDP grant application in the amount of \$275,000 to re-capitalize the Revolving Loan Fund, commonly called the Jay Lyn Revolving Loan Fund. Schwartz

reported that the fund is down to about \$65,000, with possible requests for loans coming in the near future. Currently they have eleven outstanding loans. Six of the eleven are on schedule with repayments. The Board approved the request. Public Hearing – Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) - Mike Welch presented a copy of the currently proposed SWIP to the Board. This Plan has been revised from what was approved a few years ago, by suggestions from the Recycling Committee, Composting Group, and others, to bring the Plan up to date. The State has pre-approved the plan as presented. Mike Welch explained the Town is required by the State to have a current plan in place, because the Town is not a member of any other Solid Waste District. On a motion by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Wheeler, the Board voted (5-0) to adopt the SWIP as presented.

Appointments – The Board voted (5-0) to make the following appointments:

- Planning Commission: Martha Hanson, Kevin Oddy
- Development Review Board: Alan Ruggles, Larry Sharer
- Design Review Board: Pat Cahoon, Mary Hughes, Shara McCaffrey
- John Horvatic
- Recreation Board: Kathy Deleo, Jamie Ryan
- Town Health Office: Tim Angell
- Deputy Health Officer: Troy Ruggles
- Industrial Park Board: Jim Impey, Reginald Wakeham
- Town Tree Warden: Jeff Briggs
- Town Service Officer: Michael Welch
- Homeland Security: Troy Ruggles
- Energy Coordinator: William Christiansen
- Tax Stabilization Committee: Jim Impey
- St./Lyndon Revolving Loan: Jim Impey
- Development Executive Board: Bryon Quatrini
- Downtown Improvement: Carol Novick, Amy South

April 2009 Menu

West Barnet Senior Meal Site

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

April 1 – April Fool's Surprise.

April 3 - Buffet
April 8 - Baked ham, sweet potatoes, peas and onions, cole slaw, rolls and mixed fruit.

April 10 - Baked fish, oven potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, dark bread and apricots.

April 15 - Baked macaroni and cheese, sausage, pickled beets, stewed tomatoes, biscuit and sliced peaches.

April 17 - BBQ chicken legs, mashed potatoes, tossed salad, sauerkraut, salad, bread, jello and fruit.

April 22 - Hot hamburger, open face sandwich with gravy, copper penny carrots, tossed salad and pears.

April 24 - Baked beans, hot dogs, brown bread, sole slaw, orange jello and mandarin oranges.

April 29 - Lasagna, tossed salad, Italian bread, cake and ice cream.

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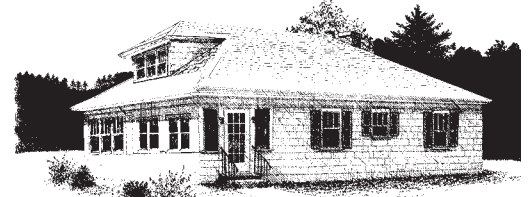
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Continued from Page 21

Hazen was the first Peacham boy killed in action, dying at the battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864, three years after the war began. His family did not learn the sad news until May 16 when his younger brother, Herbert, wrote in his diary "Heard Hazen was killed." Besides dying in battle, Peacham boys died of disease, wounds, bad camp conditions, or in Confederate prisons. Another topic soldiers wrote home about was bounties, or inducements, paid to volunteers. The state of Ver-

mont paid bounties as did individual towns. The final accounting for Peacham listed eight-five men receiving bounties which totaled \$22,668.72, according to town historian, Ernest L. Bogart. After the war, Peacham selectmen refused to pay for a proposed memorial. Eventually, and by private subscription, the town raised \$3,000, and the Soldiers Monument was dedicated on July 4, 1870 with a reading of the names of the forty-three soldiers chiseled into the obelisk. The first name read was Hazen B. Hooker.

Camp near Brandy St. Va.
Saturday, April 2, 1864

Pa, Marm, Herb and all hands,

I read your letter last night, and as usual was very much glad to hear from you. It rains and snows to day very hard. It began yesterday at noon, and has continued until now. You have no idea how muddy and wet it is. The water runs into our tent through the cracks between the logs. When we step

it makes me think of Marm working over butter. Lush [Lucius Morse] and I have been having a game of rough and tumble, and we both got pretty well exhausted. He has quietly layed himself down upon the bed pulled the big quilt over him and is taking a little repose. Sergt. Rataray [?] has just come in and waked him up and disturbed my train of thoughts, and I have got to halt and cause this turmult to cease. Peace being again restored, I will proceed. I was very sorry to hear of the death of Sanford [Hooker]. It is a sad thing for

his folks. He was a good boy. I always thought a great deal of him. Death is every where present, on the field of battle, in the camp and at home but it will not do for soldiers to think of such things, that is to dwell upon them, for if he does he will be miserable all the time. But he ought to think enough of it to cause him to live an upright honest life.

Well I suppose you are making sugar quite rapidly at the present time. I wish Mr [John] Jennison could have his wish gratified. I would like very much to have the opportunity of helping him carry on the sugar place this spring. I always enjoyed myself when working with him, but I hope before another spring appears I shall be there to help eat dinner and supper if nothing more.

I rejoice with exceeding great joy unspeakable to hear you [Peacham] are not going to pay any bounties. That is the best news I have heard for a long time. I wish I could have my say who should be drafted. Some of those once patriotic men all outward appearances would tremble in their shoes. Lieut [Alvin] Jones says, dont spare their feelings a night, twitch them out.

According to all accounts and what we can see with our own eyes, the Army of the Potomac has got some thing to do this spring. There has been quite a number of heavy artillery regiments been sent in to the field, which were in and around Washington. I should not wonder if the 11th Vt had to make their appearance before long. I think we are a going to have some pretty hard fighting this summer. That is the general opinion throughout the army.

Well it had just as well come now as ever if it has got to at all. I want to have this thing ended and come home as soon as it can be done conveniently.

About writing material I think one shall not want any at present. We have quite a supply [supply] on hand. Well I must close for this time. I sent a register of Co. G. yesterday. You can tear off[f] the paper an[d] unroll it and hang it up in the parlor. It is quite pretty.

My respects to all.

From
H. B. Hooker

The original of this letter is in the Hazen Hooker Collection preserved in the Peacham Historical Association (PHA) as are the diaries of his brother, Herbert Hooker (1846-1925), and the Civil War Register listing soldiers of Company G. The editor is grateful to Lorna Quimby, PHA archivist, for help in reading the handwriting. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Brackets indicate information added by the editor.

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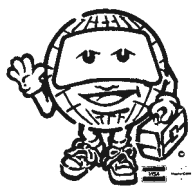
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April 30th at 7:00 p.m. / Fred Emigh
Professor of meteorology at Lyndon State College.
Topic: "Weather pattern similarities of New England & Old England"

May 18th at 7:00 p.m. / Ron Krupp
(Vermont) master of gardening and storytelling, author of "The Woodchuck's Guide to Gardening". Topic: "The whole growing season in Vermont"
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Something you can complete

by VAN PARKER

Watching a friend empty the dishwasher while his wife was away at a meeting, I mused as to why unloading the dishwasher was such a satisfying activity.

He said, without losing a beat: "It's because it's something you can complete when nothing else can be completed." He then went on to comment that the people with the highest level of mental health were airline pilots. Why? My friend said it was because they had the challenging job of delivering a plane-load of people safely from one city to another. Completing that mission successfully was a great source of satisfaction. I always wondered why pilots and flight attendants looked so happy as they disembarked from their planes. A very important mission has been accomplished.

I'm not saying that successfully piloting a plane from one city to another is on a par with unloading the dishwasher. Only that most of us need some things we can complete, however humble and ordinary they may be. Teaching is a difficult, challenging and rewarding occupation. But it's not easy for a teacher to measure her success. She may never know whether she's inspired or helped her students or not. The influence of any teacher is almost impossible to measure. My seventh grade teacher, who really helped my self-confidence, was a man who came to our school from Seattle, Washington. At the end of the year Mr. Nelson went back to Seattle.

I never thought to thank him. I hope he had some hobby like making model boats or walking two miles a day, something you can measure.

When I was in the ministry, a member of the congregation gave his time freely, offering to fix things that were broken. He repaired chairs and was also very

good at electronics. He always had time to help. Sam (who I'll call him) would do about anything you asked him to do. But when we asked Sam to serve on the maintenance committee of the congregation, he quit after attending one meeting. "They just sat around and talked," he explained. "Nothing happened."

President Obama has been going to various parts of the coun-

try promoting the recently enacted stimulus bill, a massive effort to jump-start the economy and begin to turn things around. There is no telling how long the process of re-energizing our ailing economy will take. It isn't something that can easily be fixed. On one of his stops the president stopped at a police academy in Columbus, Ohio. 25 police recruits had their jobs

saved because this new money was made available. 25 is not a huge number, but it's a fact that some people in Columbus have job that otherwise wouldn't have one. It's one piece of a huge puzzle.

So many things can never be completed.

There's plenty of unfinished business lying around. There's always a "to do" list which never seems to run out. But some things can be accomplished, checked off. They are usually small things, often unimpressive things. But

they share the virtue of having a beginning and an end. For a farmer I suppose it's getting in the hay. For most of us this time of the year it's finishing our taxes and maybe even getting a refund.

Here's a little list I drew up for myself: taking a neighbor to the doctor, walking or exercising for half an hour, paying the monthly bills, tilling the garden, planting two or three rows of vegetables, writing a short piece like this for the North Star, making a pie and, yes, emptying the dishwasher.



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- Irenaeus (C. 120 to 200 AD)

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Around the Town Community Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

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

1st Monday: North Danville Community Club, Meeting, 6 p.m. North Danville Community Center. (802) 748-9415.

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesdays: Argentine Tango, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (beginners) 5:30-6:30 p.m. (intermediate) Teacher: Isabel Costa (603) 823-8163.

2nd Tuesday: Caledonia Right to Life will meet at St. John's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1375 Main St., St. Johnsbury, VT at 7:00 p.m.. All are welcome.

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

2nd & 4th Tuesday: Drop-in quilting at 1 p.m. at the Cobleigh Public Library, (802) 626-5475.

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

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

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: Gather to

play music, 1 p.m. at the N. Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. (802)-748-2655.

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.

Thursdays: Live Music at Parker Pie in Glover. Check website, www.parkerpie.com for details or call (802) 525-3366.

Thursdays: Open Mic Night at Indigenous Skate Shop on Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury.

Additional Events are posted throughout the month at:
www.northstarmonthly.com

Please submit events to:
info@northstarmonthly.com

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

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

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

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

Saturdays: Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 12:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

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

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

1st & 2nd Saturdays: Dance in the Kingdom at the Good Shephard School - Latin & Ballroom dance: Lessons at 7 p.m. followed by open

dance, 8 to 10 p.m. (802) 748-3044

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

APRIL EVENTS

WED.1

April Fool's Day!

Rick Bender, Former Baseball Player warns Teens against "Smokeless" Tobacco from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Hazen Auditorium. Sponsored by Hardwick Dental Group P.C. Eric J. Richter, Hardwick Area Community Coalition and Lamoille Valley Tobacco Task Force.

First Wednesdays Lecture Series hosted by the Athenaeum Vermont. State Curator David Schutz shares examples of the Adirondack style of architecture at 7 p.m., along with colorful stories of the Gilded Age millionaires who summered in the Adirondacks. Call (802) 748-8291.

Lauren Weedman performs her one-woman show, "Bust," at 7:30 p.m. Bust creates hilarious comedy and poignant drama, drawing from Weedman's own experience volunteering in a southern California jail. Weedman's credits include Comedy Central's The Daily Show and Reno 911, National Public Radio's political satire show Rewind. Alexander Twilight Theatre, Lyndon State College, www.lyndonstate.edu/arts.

FRI.3

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

SAT.4

Stephen Herried presented in Catamount Art's Cabaret with comfortable seating around tables and an intimate atmosphere. Call (802) 748-2600 for more information.

Ian Tamblyn at The Music Box at 8 p.m. Tamblyn is a Canadian treasure who has been recording music since 1976. He is a folk music singer, songwriter, record producer, adventurer, guide and playwright. More about Ian at www.tamblyn.com and directions to The Music Box at www.themusicboxvt.org or call (802) 586-7533.

MON.6

Kiwanis Sugar on Snow at 5:30 p.m. at the Fradette Sugar House in East Hardwick on Route 16. Steak, potatoes and all of the fixin's with a fresh Fradette maple syrup on snow dessert. Contact a member of the Hardwick Kiwanis club to RSVP.

SAT.11

The Four Seasons Naturalist - a unique exploration of the wilds of Vermont: observing, interpreting, immersing, ourselves in the habitats that define our region at 9 a.m. Susan Morse of Keeping Track, Inc., is a nationally recognized naturalist and habitat specialist with thirty years of experience tracking and interpreting wildlife uses of habitat. To register, contact Tara Robinson Holt at (802)748-2372, Ext.120 or tholt@fairbanksmuseum.org

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Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

On behalf of the staff and trustees of the Pope Library, we would like to thank Danville citizens for wholeheartedly standing behind the library at Town Meeting. It was very gratifying to see that we all understand how important this building, collection materials, services and librarians are to Danville. Our luncheon was delicious and well-attended. Huge thanks to Wendi Larrabee for all her help in the kitchen, Marty Beattie for the delicious ham, Kate Beattie and Alice Hafner for their famous baked beans, Shirley Richardson and Jane Kitchel for providing pickled beets, Cabot Creamery for their donation of butter and cottage cheese, all the bakers who provided delicious desserts and our kitchen and wait-staff. It was a very successful day, all around.

Our next big event is the Novel Dinner. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 19. Marion Cairns and Chef Woods will again graciously open the Creamery to us for this very popular fundraiser and cook a wonderful dinner for our guests. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. If you would like to join us please call the library and we'll try to find a place for you at one of the book-theme tables. We look forward to this fun evening and a chance to see many creative ideas literally brought to the table!

Some of our latest book acquisitions are: A Three Dog Life by Thomas, The Rape of Europa: The Fate of Europe's Treasures in the Third Reich and the Second World War by Nicholas, Outliers: The Story of Success by Gladwell, Heart and Soul by Bincy and The Women by T.C. Boyle. Our new books on CD are: Twilight by Meyer, Dood by Simons, Body Surfing by Shreve and The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Shaffer and Barrows. Come in and check them out!

A few of our new Children's and YA books include: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (1, 2 and 3) by Kinney, The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing Vol II, The Kingdom on the Waves by Anderson, Darkness Under the Water by Kannel (local author!), The Librarian from the Black Lagoon and The Gym Teacher From the Black Lagoon by Thaler. Story hour continues to be full of active little people and their grown-ups. Join us at 10am on Monday morning for lots of fun. Please note: no story hour on April 6 and April 13.

SUN.12

Easter!

Easter Breakfast at 8 to 9 a.m. at the United Church of Hardwick, 216 South Main Street. A buffet breakfast featuring: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, quiche, fresh fruit cup, bacon and sausage. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, orange juice and milk.

THURS.16

Comedy at Lyndon State college - **Jenn Hyjack** performs at 9 p.m. Hyjack brings experience in film, television, and theatre to perform comedy. Student center, Lyndon State College. www.lyndonstate.edu/arts

SAT.18

Alan Greenleaf and the Doctor presented in Catamount Art's Cabaret with comfortable seating around tables and an intimate atmosphere. Call (802) 748-2600 for more information.

"Springing Toward Earth Day" Poetry Reading led by Phyllis Larrabee at 11 a.m. at the Cutler Memorial Library in Plainfield. Call (802) 454-8504 for more information.

The Wilderness Road: Vermont's history in songs new and old with Pete Sutherland and Celebrating National Library Week at 7:30 p.m. at The Hardwick Town House.

The Addison County folk musician and songwriter will be singing original and traditional songs drawn from Vermont's colorful history in an intimate acoustic concert.

St. Johnsbury Maple Festival - Pancake Breakfast, Maple Vendors, A Fun Run, Rock Climbing Wall and more. Starting at 10 a.m. Come for a sweet time! Visit www.stjmaplefestival.org for more information.

SUN.19

NEK Audubon Trip to Wenlock Wildlife Management Area to hike the Big Moose Bog Trail and South America Pond Road. The group will meet at White's/Agway parking lot at 7 a.m. Call Tom at (802) 626-9071 or email thomas.berriman@myfairpoint.net for more information.

FRI.24

Lyndon Home Show - Get ideas for remodeling, redecorating, and improving your home starting at noon. The Home Show will be on April 24, 25, and 26 at the Fenton Chester Ice Area in Lyndon Center. Call Shawna Wilkerson at (802) 626-3610 for information.

Josh Brooks performs, Vermont's best songwriter - in the tradition of Johnny Cash, performs at 7:30 p.m. in St. Johnsbury Academy's Morse Center Tickets for (802) 748-2600, catamountarts@charter.net.

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Continued from Page 9

wheel mini-taxis, buses, oblivious pedestrians, beggars, sacred cows, horses, donkeys, trained dancing bears, camels, water buffaloes, and a few private vehicles, creating an impression of utter, hopeless chaos. Jagbir surely has nerves of steel. Jag says that safe driving in India “depends on a good horn, good brakes and good luck!” He has all three. After 50 (harrowing) miles, I can’t help but resign myself to faith in his experience and good luck and, with a “What the h— attitude,” I begin to relax. Camel carts heading the wrong way as we hurtle toward them still unnerve me from time to time.

The dull green of the city has turned to dusty clay in the countryside...except for the median strips which paradoxically are abloom with beautiful flowers for mile after mile. Motorcycles whiz by with the saris of the women drivers or passengers trailing in the breeze, somehow avoiding entanglement with the drive chains. The women walking along on both sides of the road are carrying huge bales of hay on their heads or heavy bundles of sticks (firewood). The filth and crowded conditions under which the people live is mind numbing. Bathers and water buffaloes share the same putrid streams, which also serve as the community “laundromats.” “Abject” is inadequate to describe the hopeless level of poverty which is the standard way of life for the average Indian outside of the cities. There are nearly 900 million people in India and I think I’ve seen at least 10% of them today!

From the balcony of the octagonal tower of (another) Red Fort approaching Agra, I catch my breath as I realize that the mirage I spot in the hazy distance is the “grail” I have sought so long — my first sight of the Taj Mahal!

After a 15-km. drive to Agra, we wind through its chaotic, dirty, narrow, crowded streets a short distance to a parking area bordering the entrance road to the Taj Mahal complex. It’s either a ¼-mile walk to the gate or a rickshaw ride; I elect the former to give myself a chance to savor the anticipation. After relinquishing the 500-rupee admission fee, I’m through the portal and gazing down the long channel of water, between a double avenue of cypress bushes, to the wide white terrace and “floating” dome of the Taj. I pause to “drink in” the sight of this magnificent white marble monument to love. It’s a wonder. It’s breathtaking! Or is it simply fabulous, incredible, stupendous, majestic, awesome, dazzling, overpowering, mesmerizing, and inspiring? With its ideal symmetry and harmonious proportions, it meets the test of aesthetic perfection, plain and simple, and absolutely lives up to its reputation and every expectation. To people all over the world, the Taj understandably symbolizes India. For me, it already seems well worth the effort and cost of making this “pilgrimage.”

First, another history lesson, compliments of the guidebook:

“While accompanying Shah Jahan on one of his military campaigns, Mumtaz died giving birth to their fourteenth child (of which seven survived) in 1631, after 17 years of blissful marriage. He was

heartbroken. For the rest of his life, his only other love was architecture.

The following year he began building her mausoleum, the masterpiece of his reign. It took 21 years to complete and employed 20,000 laborers and craftsmen drawn from all over his empire and even beyond it...

Once again, the volunteer self-appointed guides are unbearable, but happily no vendors are allowed on the grounds here. My firm “No!” to the guides is grudgingly accepted. I take pictures, of course, from every angle and take my time wandering around the gardens, inspecting the (immense) “guest house” of the emperor and the (disappointing) museum before venturing up the steps to the focal point of this pilgrimage, the mosque/mausoleum itself. I remove my shoes and am glad that I have additional (airline) socks to don since the blinding white marble is red hot (it’s

over 100° here at midday). The Indian visitors are running as if they’re treading hot coals. I gaze up at the sheer marble walls of the mosque, their tracery decorated with verses from the Koran. Every part of the mosque is inlaid with semiprecious stones and various-colored marbles. The cenotaphs of the Emperor Shah Jahan and his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, inside the vaulted chamber, are particularly rich with intricate inlay. Their tombs are below in the dark. Among the few foreign tourists, I stop to rest and chat with two young ladies traveling together, one from the UK and the other from Australia. They describe their experiences on the express train from Delhi and in a “hotel” in Agra (a city not known for its hygiene), making me feel grateful to have been shepherded by Mukul and Jagbir on this leg of my journey. Can’t decide whether they are very brave

or very foolish to be here; this is certainly not a country to explore alone!

But this is a place where you’d like to linger from dawn till dusk — and under a full moon — to fully savor the play of light, color, and shadow on this ultimate of architectural wonders. But I am blessedly fortunate to have been able to enjoy the experience at all for a few hours in broad daylight on a clear day, without rain. Taking my leave, reluctantly, this time I take a rickshaw ride back down the road to the parking square where Jagbir has been waiting so patiently, probably comparing notes (about their fares) with other taxi and bus drivers.

By 9:00 p.m. we’re back at the Connaught safely after another hair-raising drive, mostly in the dark this time. Jag is either the finest driver in the world not just in Delhi, or the most foolhardy. He’s surely earned a generous tip. But I wouldn’t trade

this day for a million rupees. “Mine eyes have seen the glory...!”

Just a quick wash-up and then it’s down to the Bhowani Junction for a fish (h-o-t) curry dinner with a ton of rice and a large bottle of ice-cold Kingfisher beer. (Never drank so much water in one day — over three liters.) The dining room is more alive tonight, with several large Indian families filling the room. All the members of the band sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to a celebrant — same words, but a different, haunting, fascinating Indian beat.

The dessert is a flan-like custard with caramel sauce, but also whipped cream and a cherry. After a soothing brandy, I leave the singsong chants to the Indian clientele and head for the sack. It’s been a long but happy day.



MLS #2753529
Here is a building lot in Barnet. Great views of the valley off Barnet Center Hill. Just across from the Old Nelson Farm. Better views with light cutting. Perked, permitted, surveyed, power on the lot. 4.82 acres of small hardwoods and some softwoods. Sap's running, come on over and take a look! Don't forget your dreams and plans. Broker owned. That's the broker's picture!

\$29,900



MLS#2744677
Is the ice out yet? Willoughby ice lasts a long time. But it is worth the wait! Clear and deep and beautiful, this is one of the most pristine lakes in the kingdom. Sandy bottom, gorgeous views. This seasonal cottage has a waterfront lot that is included. The cottage sits on the road. The 90x20 lot has part of that sandy beach and the views, too. Call, we'll go up and take a look at this vintage camp.

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Waterford Ranch w/Addition
ML2748013 Sited on 3.42 acres. The southern exposure allows the sun to shine in on the L-shaped kitchen & spacious dining area. Master BR suite w/large walk-in closet, jacuzzi tub, 3/4 shower and tons of cabinet space. There's a living room, den, full bath, & 4BRs on the main floor. The lower level is finished with a tongue n' groove mudroom, large family room, and the perfect playroom or hobby room or guest room with 3/4 bath. Attached oversize 2-car garage, front deck, and rear covered porch.

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Must-See Barnet Home
ML2676330 This contemporary ranch styled home sits on 22+/- open & wooded acres w/stonewalls throughout. There's a beautiful mountain and hillside view from the double sliding glass doors to the deck. 3BRs, 2 baths, cathedral ceiling, stone fireplace, partially finished walk out basement. Well maintained.

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Maple Center of the World



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www.stjmaplefestival.org

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