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## THE North Star MONTHLY Every Small Town's Newspaper

#### DANVILLE, VERMONT

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## Screaming carrots

#### BY NATHANIEL TRIPP

7hile working in my garden I often recall with amusement the article which appeared in the 70s claiming scientists had discovered that carrots screamed in agony as they were pulled from the soil. It was widely circulated at the time, and it left many vegetarians in tears themselves. For a while, I even believed it myself and fantasized going to the extreme of torturing really bad weeds and listening closely for screams or perhaps even confessions. But I've learned to be less judgmental, even of weeds, since then and anyway the more I thought about it the more ridiculous it seemed. Amidst the cacophony of little sounds which must be emitted

>> Page 15

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

## Recording history with an artists' eye

Peacham's Betty Nickerson documents 26 years of the North Country Chorus

Photos & Story By Sharon Lakey

f you frequent Marty's First Stop, you may have noticed Betty Nickerson. She is a stately, 84-year-old woman with a kind and interesting face. If it was winter, she was likely wearing a plaid tam-o'-shanter with a red pom-pom on top. That, and her quick eye, possibly piqued your interest.

She lives a few miles out of Peacham, on one of the tree-lined back roads. Her house is nestled above a rolling pasture, an old cape built in 1805. Betty is an artist, a writer, an archivist, and a singer. I came to interview her about her work with the North Country Chorus, an organization for which she served as historian for 26 of its 61-year (and counting) span.

I was greeted on the lawn in front and guided through the former carriage shed and into her studio. There, in every nook and cranny and hung from every wall, are pieces of her art world. On the worktable are pages of her newest project: an album of her own life history. She described her art medium as "cut-out, collage and montage." In passing, she shared one of her new album's pages. On it is glued a little Betty, holding a ball and giving the photographer who captured the moment a look at her serious side. The page resembles the scrapbooking craze that was revived in the 80s. The difference is that Betty's is more organic; she is working from no manufactured scrapbooking materials. We moved into her kitchen where she served mint tea. She shared that she lost her husband, Hal, a number of years ago. "That was rough," she said, and then showed me a picture of the two of them in younger times, sitting on a beach at the Cape. They stare out at the camera, all smiles in grainy black and white. "It lifts my spirits every time I look at it," she said.

The couple moved to Vermont in 1970. Hal taught agronomy at Blue Mountain and Betty was an art teacher in the St. Johnsbury schools. She retired from teaching in 1983, after a 30-year career in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Vermont. From her experiences, she wrote and published a book entitled Does a Stone Grow? She describes it as "...not a

\$1.50

textbook, but a book in which I hope to share...the many ideas that prompt Art lessons."

Hal (a tenor) and Betty (a second alto) loved singing with the North Country Chorus. But Mary Rowe, the beloved director of 50 years, recognized that she had more than a singer in Betty when she asked her to be the group's historian. It was easy to see that on the way through the dining room, when Betty pointed to a stack of albums representing the Chorus's history.

We sat to drink our tea in the living room, and, as we chatted, Betty >> Page 22



## **Table** of **Contents**



## 5 features

- The ties that bind by Justin Lavely
- **Remembering the Chautauqua** by Reta H. Morse



## 8 profiles

- 18 'I'm going to enjoy this job for a long time' by Justin Lavely
- 23 Diary of a desk by Lois (Field) White



## 7 in pictures

- **17** Peacham Fourth of July by Jim Ashley
- 20 North Danville festivities by Jim Ashley

## Words that carry weight

lot has been made recently over the confrontation in Cambridge, Massachusetts between Harvard professor Skip Gates and Cambridge Police Sgt. James Crowley. Crowley arrested Gates after he responded to Gate's home

...it's irresponsible to lob opinions... especially when they're aimed at reporters... especially if the President is

This situation started off as a local issue, but it was quickly spreading across the airwaves, due to no shortage of interviews by Gates. The dynamic completely changed after the President's health care press conference Wednesday, when he told reporters, "But I think it's fair to say, No. 1, any of us would be pretty angry," Obama said. "No. 2, that the Cambridge police acted stupidly in arresting somebody when there was already proof that they were in their own home. And No. 3 – what I think we know, separate and apart from this incident — is that there is a long history in this country of African-Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforce-

From the Editor

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### doing the lobbing.

to investigate a reported burglary. When he arrived, Gates, who was locked out of his house, was trying to shoulder his way in through the front door. When Gates was questioned by the officer, the situation escalated and it hasn't slowed down since.

Accusations of racial profiling were quickly being thrown at Crowley and his department and the story spread quickly.

It's hard for anyone to come with an opinion on the actual event. The only information we have comes from Gates, who may have an axe to grind, and the police report, which was written by Crowley, who may be trying to protect himself. Until additional evidence comes to light, it's irresponsible to lob opinions... especially when they're aimed at reporters... especially if the President is doing the lobbing.

ment disproportionately, and that's just a fact."

What makes matters worse is the President prefaced his remarks by stating he was friends with Gates and therefore "biased," and admitted he didn't have all the facts from the incident. When the first statement from someone as important as the President is "I don't have all the facts," I would think there shouldn't be much of a second statement. Obama's people are usually pretty savvy when it comes to media relations, but I think it's fair to say they missed the mark with this one. I think it's also fair to say the President didn't give this issue enough thought before weighing in, which is out of character for him.

Later on, Obama said he was "surprised" his comments created such a reaction. For those who were wondering when his inexperience would cause him problems, look no further. Too bad it may have also come at the expense of Crowley and the Cambridge Police Department.



ers. 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 guide-

**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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## Local railroad company lowers fares from Danville to St. Johnsbury, to the liking of local travelers

#### The North Star WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY'

1807-1889 Est. by Ebenezer Eaton Danville, Vermont



Aug. 3, 1878 Reduced Fare - It is understood that the fare on the whole line of the Vt. Division of the P&G Railroad has been reduced some 20 percent. The fare from Danville to St. Johnsbury is reduced from 50 cents to 40 cents, and in the same ratio along the entire route. Cheap railroad fares are what the traveling public like.

McIndoes - The wife of Mr. W.H. Gilchrist, who has been an invalid since her return from a visit to the centennial last fall, has now become hopelessly insane. R.E. Peabody, after about a year's residence in McIndoes, during which time he contributed much of the growth and prosperity of the place, has moved with his family to Boston, and the extensive mill property that bore his name has been passed into the hands and management of Messrs Merrill and Van Dyke.

Lyndon Fire - The village of Lyndon narrowly escaped a de-

at about 5 a.m. The fire was discovered in the Chase block. The church bells were rung and the people immediately responded. The fire was found to have originated in the basement, near the engine in the union office, and was working in the partition toward the upper stories. Using water freely, the fire was extinguished after about a half hour fight. The building is owned by Henry Chase and not greatly damaged. The principal losers by the fire are McGaffey & Newell, merchants; whose stock of goods was nearly all carried into the streets and was, of course, considerably damaged.

structive fire a week ago last Friday

Lyndon Church - The Methodist Church of Lyndon was dedicated with a sermon from the Rev. W.R. Puffer. The cost of the church was \$1,800 and there is no indebtness.

August 10, 1878

New Parsonage - Nothing definite yet has been done towards buying a new building or erecting a new Congregational parsonage in this village. A subscription paper is now being circulated for the purpose of raising \$1,500 with which to commence work thereon.

Baseball - The baseball club of Peacham and the Eureka club of Cabot played a game in Cabot last Saturday night. The result was a victory for the Peacham club.

Fire at Barton Landing - The fire bandit has again struck a blow at the interests of Barton Landing village. The extensive steam mill of

Nelson Gallup was burned with all its contents, together with the boarding house, 150,000 shingle and 75,000 feet of lumber on Wednesday night. The fire broke out from an unknown cause around midnight and had so far advanced by the time it was discovered there was no way to salvage the building. From the mill the fire soon reached the house by means of the burning lumber and all efforts to save the house were unavailing. The loss is heavy, probably around \$12,000 without insurance. The machinery is ruined. This is the second time Mr. Gallup has a lost a mill on the same site by fire. A new set of box machinery had been put in the mill and Mr. Gallup had just shipped his first batch of manufactured boxes. There is a log stock of logs and shingle timber on hand and the mill may be rebuilt, though no decision has been made.

Polar Exploration - The schooner "Florence" sailed from New London, Conn. one day recently, to establish a base of operations for a future expedition to the North Pole at the north end of Cumberland Island. It is proposed to store supplies at this point for the main expedition, which will sail in July. The plan for reaching the North Pole is substantially the same as Dr. Hall and the preparations are to be more thorough and adequate to the end proposed. The gentlemen, who have sailed in the Florence, are many of those familiar with arctic life and its requirements, and their outfit is very complete, including sets of weather instruments,

balloons, and a curious combination of both life boat and sledge. Esquimaux, sledges and dogs, are to be gathered at the colony during the present year and its hoped that by August, all of the preparations will be finished and the expedition ready to start the journey. So long as the highest point of northern latitude is unreached, we have no reason to suspect that arctic expeditions will cease, though of what practical benefit they will be, we have yet to learn.

President in Vermont - President Hayes and family, along with members of his cabinet, left Bennington for Windsor last week. On Friday morning, the train arrived at Brattleboro station, where a large crowd of people assembled to greet him. Mrs. Hayes stood at the entrance of the train and shared the greeting with the President. While waiting for the train to start the President briefly addressed the assembly, very happily alluding to Brattleboro as the home of his ancestors, and stating that the Hayes family came to Brattleboro about 100 years ago. Sixty years ago, his father left Brattleboro for Ohio and his older brother and sister were born in Brattleboro. The band discoursed airs that were familiar to the President, handshaking was indulged, numerous bouquets were offered by the ladies and the train moved slowly away.

A Grand Picnic - Last week Thursday, a large picnic party visited Joes Pond. It was composed of the Sabbath School children and their teachers, from North Danville and vicinity. The party comprised some 200 and passed through this village in several four-horse and single carriages, nicely trimmed with evergreens, displaying elegant banners with appropriate mottoes, having also good martial music. We learn that the party had a nice time in West Danville, picnicking in the shadowy groves and sailing on the pond. The children and everyone present enjoyed the occasion very much. The company again passed through this village on their return home making for quite a lengthy procession of carriages, more nicely decorated than in the morning, and every occupant showing a joyous countenance.

#### Aug. 31, 1878

Reverend Exchange - Last Sunday, Rev. Mr. Spinney of Peacham exchanged pulpits with Rev. Mr. Wheeler of this place.

New Mercantile Firm - Mr. Geo. Hidden and Horace K. Ide of St. Johnsbury have purchased the stock belonging to J.S.H. Weeks and the business will hereafter be carried on at the same place and be known as Geo. Hidden & Co. Mr. Hidden will have the oversight of affairs. The new firm proposes to offer in addition to the normal stock, a large line of flour, meal, corn and shorts [shortening]. Mr. Ide is already doing a large business in grain at St. Johnsbury and Passumpsic and he will give the people of this town an opportunity at all times to procure this class of goods at his new store.





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## Water, the next conflict?

BY ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

C...Water, water, every where, Nor any drop to drink..." said the old sailor in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, and in some parts of the world in 2009 this is rapidly becoming true. Approximately 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by water. Most of this is ocean water that, in its natural state, is too salty to drink or to irrigate crops. Desalination, the process of removing the salt to make the water usable for crops and people, is complex and expensive, so only wealthy countries can afford to do this. dan River that separates Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan is a constant source of contention. It is the major fresh water resource for that whole Middle East region. The Aswan dam on the upper Nile in Egypt, has affected the regions below the dam, changing agricultural patterns that were based on the river's annual floods for thousands of years. Bilharzia, a water-borne parasitic disease that causes blindness, is also on the rise, for damming the river flow allows stagnant pools to form that are home to snails, the parasite's intermediate host.

In the western states, there are continual arguments between communities that need greater public water supplies and commercial fishermen hoping to preserve a natural environment for mi-

Water has always been essential for human settlement and industry. Vermont is a good example. All of Vermont's towns and villages were located beside fast-flowing streams.

For those of us in Vermont, water shortages are rare, especially in this soggy summer of 2009. In a hot summer we may become more aware of drought: the wells run dry; the gardens and crops begin to droop and dry up, or are stunted in growth; watering lawns and car washing are restricted. This is just a tiny taste of what has happened in the western states of the U.S., and in the desert regions of Africa and other parts of the world.

Some of the world's drinking and irrigating water comes from surface water sources such as rivers, lakes, springs and reservoirs. Other sources are shallow and deep wells that tap into underground sources of water called aquifers. These may be relatively shallow or very deep underground. Aquifers are slowly drained as water is used and will recharge slowly as more fresh water flows into them; but if too much water is removed too quickly, this balancing process does not occur fast enough. This sometimes allows toxic salts to drain into the water, or, near the coast, salt water may infiltrate the aquifer, making it useless for human use.

Water has always been essential for human settlement and industry. Vermont is a good example. All of Vermont's early towns and villages were located beside fast-flowing streams. The first major buildings erected in a community were the sawmill, the grist (flour) mill and the blacksmith's shop, all powered by water. In Danville, in the mid to late 1800's, there were as many as 70 small mills of this type located on Joe's Brook, between Joes Pond and the confluence of the Brook with the Passumpsic river.

Throughout the world, as civilizations have developed and populations grown, control of water resources has become a crucial political issue. The use of lakes or rivers by one group affects neighboring groups that share the resource. Pollution, damming, draining of water for irrigation, all impact those who live downstream. Use of the Jorgrating fish that are their source of livelihood. In Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and in Colorado until June 2009, laws, in effect for a hundred years and more, ban the collection and use of rainwater by private citizens on their own property. Who says the rain belongs to everyone?

One interesting water story that recently caught my attention was a description of the Al Safi dairy in Saudi Arabia. This dairy was built in the 1970's as part of an attempt to help Saudi Arabia become more food independent as the 1973 oil embargo had angered many countries from which the Saudis imported food. The whole project seems to me to be a flagrant abuse of water resources. This dairy houses 38,000 cows and also, until recently, produced corn to feed them. All this in a desert where the daytime temperature is 120° F! Water is pumped out of a very large, deep aquifer beneath the desert. Each cow uses 30 gallons of water per day for misting to keep the animal cool, for drinking and for constantly cleaning the milking parlors,

(30x38,000 = 1,140,000 gals/day). The first aquifer that was tapped has now run dry and the newest aquifer in use is a mile below ground. Because the new water source will also eventually dry up, the Saudi government has decided to close down the grain-growing operation and is beginning to rethink its agricultural plans. These might include buying tracts of land in other countries, such as Ethiopia, where aquifers are still available to drill for those with money. But the local people can scarcely grow enough food to survive because of drought!

As the climate slowly changes, glaciers, that are an important source of fresh water, melt and recede. As global snowfall and rain distribution patterns change, the world's supply of fresh water is becoming a source of concern to international scientists and planners alike. Many of these experts see the supply of safe, clean, drinking water as the next major source of international conflict over natural resources.

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## The ties that bind

Bob Joly does big things on a small scale



#### BY JUSTIN LAVELY

A highly-regimented career as an electrician taught Peacham's Bob Joly one thing: it's nice to work on a project that can fit in your own two hands.

So after a brief and profitable career as a residential and commercial electrician, Bob went looking for a pastime, something artistic. He couldn't draw or paint. He tried pottery classes which didn't take. It wasn't until he came across two books, when everything started to come into focus. He visited a yard sale in his home state of Connecticut and purchased a book by acclaimed book binder Edith Diehl. Its pages were filled with the history of the craft and instructions for prospective binders. Later, he purchased a book of common prayers purely for the aesthetics.

"There was something about the way the



what I was looking for but I knew I was looking for something."

In San Francisco in 1986, they saw an issue of American Craft magazine, which had an article about the University of Iowa's book binding program. The program was just starting up, they had a conservator, a paper maker, a letter press

### It was hard because I really didn't know what I was looking for but I knew I was looking for something.

book felt, the way it was put together, he remembers. "There was a decorative element, you could see the planning that went into it."

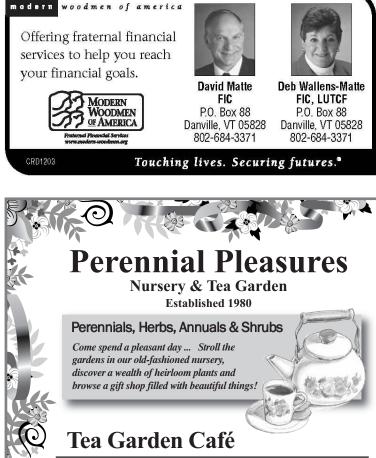
Bob was hooked.

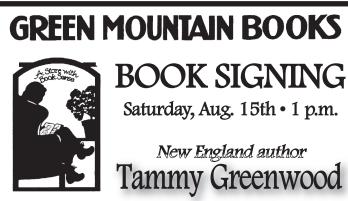
"I thought it was a completely dead craft," says Bob of book binding. "There is something about the scale of book binding. I have done house wiring for years, and that's a certain scale of work and I understand it well and it's very logical the way it works. There were rules to follow and I liked that. But I also like having the entire package right in front of me. You can see all its components, it's full of information, it can be full of design, and it can be a whole presentation. I enjoy having the entire project right in front of me and I can build it with my own two hands." printer and a few others teaching typography. Bob decided he wanted to finish studying there after spending seven years in California.

They thought they'd be in Iowa for two years. It turned into seven.

"We were on the seven year plan, but now I think we're done."

Bob and Jane moved to Peacham in 1999 from Iowa after their son had finished first grade. They weren't sure where exactly they wanted to land in Vermont and Peacham's Elementary School may have been the deciding fac-





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Diehls' book on binding prompted Bob and his wife, Jane Woodhouse, to move to San Francisco where he would look for experienced binders to learn from. Leaving his job behind was not difficult.

"Although it paid really well I didn't really love the work," he says sitting at his kitchen table in his Slack Street home. "I went into it after high school because I really didn't know what I wanted to do. I was making all the money I needed, but it wasn't fulfilling me the way this does. There's something I was looking for and this was it. I don't play music, I can't draw. This was something that I could do."

As the Willow Brook meanders soothingly behind the house, Bob struggles to explain his search for an artistic outlet.

"It was hard because I really didn't know

Jane had lived in Peacham briefly before she met Bob, who had only visited Vermont once for a Bob Dylan concert at the Essex Fairgrounds. The family settled in their home and Bob

The family settled in their nome and Bob took jobs as a librarian at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and the Woodbury Library to pay the bills. His recently added space above Jane's weaving studio for his book binding hobby. Since then, a combination of small repairs and commercial jobs has trickled in.

He always considered trying to make his living at the craft, but he deemed it too risky with a family to support.

#### A glimpse at book binding

For a new publication, the text block arrives pre-folded and ready for binding. The text block is essentially "the guts" of the book, minus the cover, spine and binding. There can be anywhere from a single section (four pages) to a hundred sections (400 pages), depending on the length of

>> Page 6

#### >> Page 5

the book. Bob sews the sections together one at a time using a traditional sewing frame, which has a design that hasn't changed much in 500 years. When all the sections are sewn together, Bob goes to work on the cover and spine. For these elements, a number of materials can be used, such as cloth, wood or even leather. Once the cover and spine are attached, the book is placed in a copy press, which is essentially a large vice that puts pressure and weight on the book to solidify it. This process is repeated for every copy the publisher wants to distribute.

"Sometimes it's a single book for someone who needs a repair. Sometimes it's 100 copies for an author or organization."

When he estimates a large commercial job, he gets all the specifics from the publisher and does a mock up, timing how long it takes him to finish one book. He then multiplies that by the number of copies to get an idea of what to charge.

"It's like anything you do with your hands. The more you do it the faster you get."

Bob uses an old process that uses a starch adhesive, designed to be completely reversible even 100 years down the road. If the book is valuable, someone should be able to remove the cover materials, spine and the entire adhesive without damaging the valuable text block. According to Bob, all glue used to be made from wheat or animal hide, but now our shelves are largely filled with synthetic glue, which is not reversible.

#### Today's Books

"The books you buy now aren't going to last long because they are not sewn. Mostly book binding now is packaging, not binding. The goal is uniformity and being able to mass produce books quickly, cheaply with basic functionality."

Many large-scale publishers take the sections and groove notches, adding glue up the whole spine. The only thing holding the book together is the



glue. The reader either opens the book too much or breaks the spine or they can't read near the margin.

He feels there is still something to admire about a well made book.

"The thing about a well made book, it will open very easily. You won't be forcing it because of the different components, such as the direction of the paper grain, how much adhesive there is on the Bob explains the craftsmenship that went into binding this book of hymns from 1732, above, which he found in a used book store. The cover is made of beech boards and even after 260 years, the paper is flexible and the binding is still solid. Bob removes a cookbook from a copy press, left, he repaired in his studio.

spine, how it's bound."

#### Value

The most valuable book Bob has ever worked on was a series of 1920s periodicals called "Rapidas," which chronicled Italian motor car racing. Though the publications weren't all that old, they were highly sought after because of the limited printing. They've been estimated at thousands of dollars per volume.



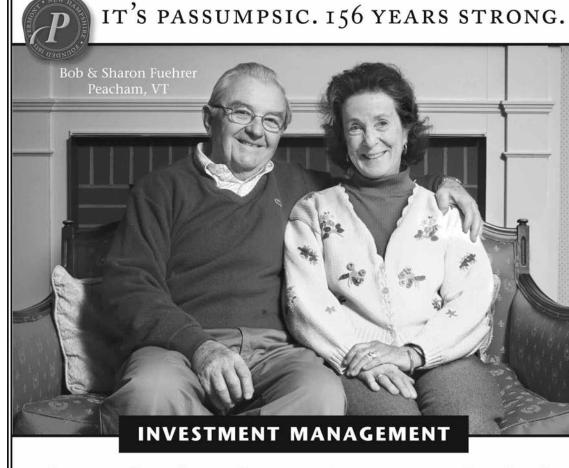
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### Follow the Money

#### **POSTCARDS FROM THE HEDGE**

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



lbermarle County, Virginia, was founded in 1744, just one year after the birth of its famous citizen, most Thomas Jefferson. А mediocre lender and a worse borrower, he died deeply in debt, land rich and cash poor, ruined by inflation and financial panic, and by living a bit too well for his means.

Today, in early July, blueberries and sweet blackberries are already ripe and abundant. There is also a bumper crop of organic farms and the artisanal cheeses, jams, crafts, wines, and roasted coffees that Jefferson's remaining yeoman farmers counted on to stay in business.

There are empty stores on the pedestrian mall, yet plenty of tourists. The hotel maid is from Mexico, the valet from Bosnia. A cab driver, formerly a logistics manager in manufacturing, insulated windows, has been laid off three times in 18 months. The good news is that he's found two jobs in 18 months.

Financial analysts lose their jobs too, and it hurts just as much, even if they are relatively financially secure. After all, they were the experts, now they are consultants. Like the autoworkers of a generation ago, they are seeing a tide turn against them, peddling a product that no longer sells. And like the autoworkers, they now have to settle for less. The bonuses and expense accounts are gone. Clients just don't understand how a losing portfolio, when it beats the market, can be defended as a "good performance." So, networking turns a bit less casual, and routine courtesies are analyzed with the intensity of earnings reports.

Instead of being "those who can't do," academicians are actually envied for their job security in a counter-cyclical industry, with the economy's new emphasis on education, especially for the unemployed. There is much talk of client educaof less government interference in financial markets. After all, that has worked for them, and this is Jefferson's hometown. It is widely believed that professional corruption is the aberration, but government corruption is the norm. There may be a few who cross the line, but eventually, the market will out.

Some people have not come back since last year, perhaps embarrassed. Some are afraid to take time away from the office or markets or clients. Even in this age of instant and varied communication, there is something to be said for showing up.

Mostly the chatter is about spouses, children, grandchildren, about golf, tennis, and running, and the geographies and life styles of various hometowns, small talk and chit chat.

What is striking is what is not said. No discussion of the appalling failure, seemingly on all levels, of colleagues, regulators, or clients to notice that bubbles always burst. No discussion of a 150-year prison term for swindling, of the high percentage of homeowners "underwater" in their mortgages, of the astonishing levels of credit card debt. No discussion of home equity destroyed, retirement postponed, or dreams downsized.

More surprisingly, no discussion of theoretical research that seems to have been more exception than rule, shaking the very foundations of our most treasured statistical truths; just some side conversations on ideas no longer to be taken for granted, especially in bond markets, especially for the auto industry, and a few jokes that tend to fall to the floor, everyone politely pretending not to notice.

No discussion of the stimulus, or the bailouts, or the re-regulation of their industry. But there is financial life beyond Wall Street: out there in the regional branches and banks of America, where the wealthy have always lived lives of quieter affluence, and still do. deacons always nicely but never quite stylishly dressed. Out there, where the banks haven't failed, where the housing markets never boomed, where a credit default swap was highly unlikely.

They may no longer be yeoman farmers, but out there they are still pursuing happiness as best they can. Theirs is the faith that will get us by this market failure, to where the cab drivers are selling windows again and people speak of retirement as a choice. It is the faith that has kept us going through many booms and busts. It is a faith that, like a good martini that no longer goes on the corporate tab, is stirred but not shaken.

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. Siegel recently attended an annual gathering of financial analysts.

## Reader's Thoughts The perversity of inanimate objects

#### BY BETTY NICKERSON

One of my sister's favorite expressions after struggling with a stubborn lid on yet another jar was, "The perversity of inanimate objects."

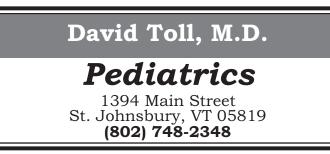
This is one of mine: the second sleeve.

I can get into the first sleeve of my cardigan sweater with considerable aplomb. Only a slight grip on the sleeve that must go underneath the top sleeve allows me to find my way to the opening. Sometimes I leave a bit of the under sleeve showing when it is a favorable color or is, perhaps a bit of lace or a ruffle (the latter, however, has not been part of my style for quite some years).

Now, comes the second sleeve. I aim for the sleeve but where is it? Did I get into the

wrong first sleeve? Is the sweater upside down? More tugs and twists. Then someone offers to help. With a grin he first determines that the collar is right side up. He smoothes it out and then tries to direct my arm into the sleeve. His grin makes me wonder whether he is playing a trick on me deliberately hiding the sleeve opening altogether. No, of course not. It was a friendly grin and with another twist, I can almost see the opening. I'm almost there. Despite my arthritic fingers, I tighten the grip on that fashionable under sleeve. I try to assist. Push. We are there.

If my own determination and skills are lacking, more and more I find the perversity of inanimate objects can better be overcome by the friendly hands of a stranger. I am most grateful.



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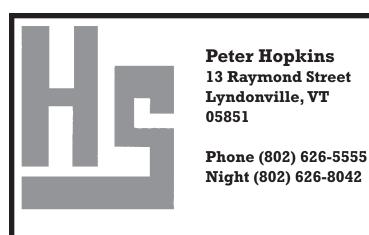
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tion and awareness, of individual responsibility for the economics of personal life.

Financial analysts are, by and large, fiscally conservative advocates

This is where faith in capitalism comes from, from the farther reaches of the Republic, where investment advisers are just the geeks next door, the soccer coaches and



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## Remembering the Chautauqua

### Surrounding towns went out of their way to welcome the assembley

#### BY RETA H. MORSE

**n**tertainment spiced with culture and ed-Jucation comprised the background for the circuit Chautauqua, which flourished throughout various towns and villages during the early 20th Century. Though not to be confused with the original Chautauqua Assembly in New York, where in 1874 the Chautauqua Movement first started, and today continues to provide a great variety of educational summer courses and cultural activities, these traveling tent shows or camp meetings, however just "borrowed" the name, and in most cases, kept it within a comparative Chautauqua viewpoint.

They were widely promoted in 1904 by J. Roy Ellison and Keith Vawter who traveled through Iowa selling and organizing the circuit Chautauqua idea. Managers, however, after a few seasons, realizing the organizations profitable gain, soon left the original promoters, and with similar contracts and programs began Chautauqua's on their own. The Chautauqua idea expanded throughout the United States and Canada and also into Australia.

By 1924, the Golden Jubilee year, however, this era of entertainment had reached its peak and after the advancement of radios and motion pictures and the depression of 1929 the circuit Chautauqua gradually declined, and after 1933 was gone forever. Yet memories linger, and we often recall those bygone years when the circuit Chautauqua came to our town.

Between 1915 and 1933 St. Johnsbury and surrounding towns welcomed this summertime affair. Varied entertainment which included talented musicians and harmony groups, intellectual speakers, and entertainers, often renown personalities, also supervised children participation, lasted from three to seven days.

Several weeks before a show, the Chautauqua advance man would contact a round of towns to make the necessary arrangement for a profitable appearance. Each town varied in the amount of tickets allowed to be sold. St. Johnsbury's allocation was \$1,000 or 500 tickets sold. Lyndonville's was \$1,500, and in some towns the price went as high as \$2,500. The town's local sponsoring committee had to guarantee the amount with at least half the money in the bank on opening day. A deficit would be the responsibility of the sponsoring committee.

The usual price of a season's ticket, which could be used by any family member, and not sold on opening day, was \$2.50. The numbers of season tickets were limited so that the local sponsors would gain only \$100 or just break even if they had a sellout. Whatever was gained by single sales of 85 cents admission at the tent entrance, sometimes amounting into many hundreds of dollars, was the manager's profit. This was indeed a money making scheme and the public knowingly agreed to it.

During 1922, after a yearly show, one newspaper, the Mor-

risville Messenger, wrote an editorial questioning why the Chautauqua should be guaranteed against loss when various businesses and other concerns had to stand their own losses. The Chautauqua contract was clear and precise and those who desired a Chautauqua went along with the rules.

The Chautauqua was the biggest drawing card for almost three decades. The management's strict schedule announced the date of appearance and the towns had to abide by it. Other affairs, such as conventions, circuses, and oldtimers picnics were re-scheduled, when necessary, as the Chautauqua was the most important event of the year.

The Chautauqua's first appearance in this area was in August 1915, when the Red Path Chautauqua, a New York Organization, simultaneously performed at a round of six towns: Saranac Lake, N.Y. Plattsburg, N.Y., Woodsville, N.H., Hardwick, Montpelier, and Lyndonville. Among other nearby places visited that year were Berlin and Lancaster, N.H., McIndoes, Newport and Orleans.

This group managed 13 circuits, owned 8 tents and worked 8 crews. Their method was to have a separate tent set up in each of the 6 towns. The two additional tents were for efficient and practical uses so there would be no delay in program procedures.

Talent, or performers, arranged in advance by the management, would arrive daily for a one's day stand. Each group would entertain for that one day and evening and depart for the next town on the cir-



### The Chautauqua was the biggest drawing car almost three decades

cuit and new talent would appear for the 2nd day's show.

In this area advertising for the Chautauqua was extensive. A Banner reading "Chautauqua is Coming" was strung across Main Street, and more were draped on wagons and drays. Cards in store windows indicated what talent would appear: newspapers published pictures and an account of the forthcoming talent: businessmen, preachers, and interested members attended meetings, all brought worthwhile results. It was also announced in Sunday School that the Chautauqua would soon arrive. And in some towns the children were asked to read the Pansey Books, "Four Girls at Chautauqua" and "Chautauqua Girls at Home."

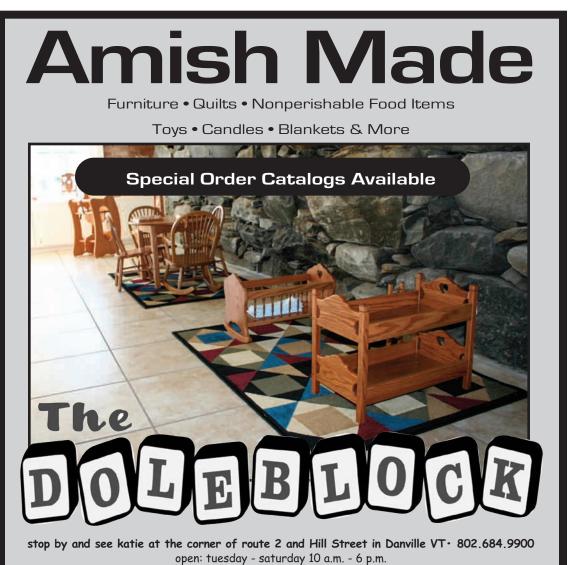
In 1915, ticket sellers using loaned cars drove to outlying areas to promote sales. During that year 32 cars decorated with Chautauqua banners and flags drove from Lyndonville to St. Johnsbury and back in an advertising campaign. As the return of the ticket sales came in, the Lyndonville Congregational Church tolled the amount. Other nearby towns competed in the advertising stint.

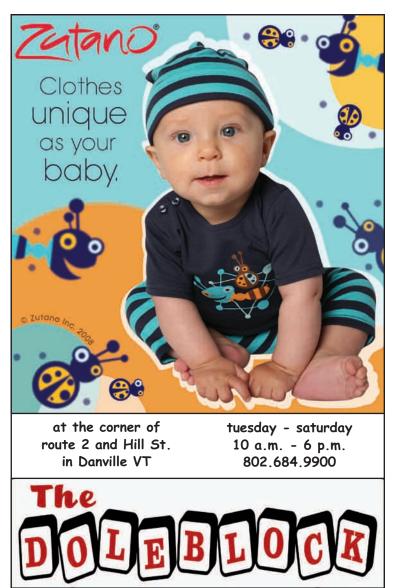
St. Johnsbury's advertising in 1922 included a free outdoor movie describing the 15 coming events and history and expansion of the Chautauqua Movement.

Waiting for the Chautauqua to arrive was indeed exciting. Boys crowded the railroad station as the train approached. Some were permitted to help unload the tent and equipment which were placed on horse drawn drays and taken to the designated tent site. As motor transport advanced some of the management used Ford cars and brought their equipment in trucks.

Other interested spectators were at the tent site watching the huge brown tent being raised and the placing of long green-painted boards for seats. A platform, draped with the American flag, was put at the rear. Beside it was a piano and a small table which held a pitcher filled with ice water to quench the parched throats of lecturers during their lengthy speeches.

Soon everything was in readi-





ness, and soon the talent would arrive. That too was an event. Many people who had listened to their favorite entertainers on their 1915 gramophones were also anxious to get a first hand glimpse of the performers. Usually, the talent was taken to the local hotels for their brief stay.

Then show time-People from all walks of life attended. Farming people, living in outlying areas arranged for someone to do chores for them while they were gone for the day. Out of town people came to stay with relatives or friends during Chautauqua week. Children were scrubbed and wore their best clothes. Mothers and grandmothers brought small pillows and hand fans since the show lasted quite a few hours and the summer heat under the huge tent could be exceedingly warm. This was the outstanding feature of the year and not many wanted to miss it.

Some townspeople might remember a few of the entertainers at Danville's first Chautauqua Festival which was held Sept. 2, 3, and 4, 1918. There was the Potterdepew trio with their pleasing tones; the six Kiltie Orchestra members who were dressed decoratively in rich plaid kilts and leggings---complete with red coats and hats. Their director was J. H. Chambers. Wee McGregor, a youngster of the group, performed the Scottish Highland Fling. Completing the musical sessions were the Woodland Singers in gypsy garb harmonizing in a colorful woodland setting

Other entertainment included the lectures. Irish born Lenora "Mother" Lake spoke on "The Divine Rights of the Child", while Sergt. William S. McBirnie lectured on "Hunting the Hun and Dr. L. E. Follansbee talked on "America and the War." These were the tragic years of World War 1 when such lectures and current event topics helped ease war strain. Warren Harding, then President of the United States, had remarked that the Chautauqua was "an integral part of National Defense."

The children were always an important part of the Chautauqua Festival. In 1922, a play leader arrived eleven days early so that she could prompt Danville area children in a pageant which was put on during a Chautauqua performance. And a gay time occurred that year when 60 children piled in seven cars and traveled to West Barnet and Peacham chanting Chautauqua slogans and yells. The last mention of a Chautauqua in Danville was when the Brown Meneley Co. in the Red Path Festival appeared at the town hall Sept.27, 1929. The first Chautauqua in St. Johnsbury with B. C. McCormick as superintendent was held July 1919 on the Summer Street School Girl's common. The huge brown tent seated 800 people. In 1921 the Chautauqua group was F.B. Jacques, president; Leon E .Carnell, manager; Miss Ellinore Sallinger, play leader; C. S. Clement cashier; and G. K. Whiteside, circuit manager. During the four successive vears that the Chautauqua came to St. Johnsbury they had such entertainment as Charles T. Grilley, impersonator, with his daughter Virginia as harpist; the Russian String Quartette, directed by violist Leon Wellman; a quartette from the University of Syracuse Glee Club; Arion entertainers; Buesh the magician; Campfire singing with banjo interludes; the Newlands and oth-

Some of the lectures included Albert E. Wiggins' talk on "Climbing the Family Tree"; Thomas Brooks Fletcher, a noted newspaper editor and dramatic speaker, lectured on "The Martydom of Fools"; "Quit Passing the Buck" by Sherman Rogers; F. E. Tillemont-Thomason of Liverpool, England spoke on "The War with the Germans" and Dr. Alexander Cairns spoke on "The Goose that Laid the Golden Egg" referring to the development of the intellect and encouragement of more wages for teachers. This last speech received loud applause from the audience.

Among other adult entertainment was the colorful performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado and the Famous Fadettes, a girl's band.

St. Johnsbury area children in July 1920 were happily entertained by a Junior Chautauqua led by a play leader and by other local persons. Miss Flint sold children's season tickets for \$1.25.

Members of the Woman's Club encouraged children well in advance to meet at their Club House to get costume ideas for a marionette parade which was scheduled for the Chautauqua's opening day.

At last the day arrived and 100 costumed children headed by Miss Blanche Taylor as Uncle Sam marched from the Summer Street School grounds to the Academy and back. The parade included a truck driven by Clayton Silsby, Miss Dorothy Walter riding a pony, two pony carts and boys as outriders followed. The children then returned to the tent site to hear stories from the Far East.

Various morning games were arranged by the play leader in accordance to the age groups.

A Toy Shop Pageant, well rehearsed during the week, was given by the children during one of the afternoon Chautauqua performances.

To conclude a Junior Chautauqua playtime day the children were told folk tales and Indian legends and one time had an Indian pow-wow campfire supper.

The Junior Chautauqua was getting organized in 1912. Those who had official duties were; James Cosgrove, mayor; Nathan Ricker, clerk; Ruth Gary, chairman of the service committee; Royce Beck, Elizabeth Ricker, Alice Malam and Thelma Town chairmen of creation committee. Others connected were Edwin Wilkins, Carter Merrill and Ralph Moffett.

During 1912 they had the usual costume parade. The play leader and assistants marched the children down Eastern Avenue and through the principal streets just before the Chautauqua's opening show.

Wearing a historical hat belonging to William Ricker who acquired it from W. S. Brock during an 1872 Greely Presidential campaign, Nathan Ricker attired as a fat man won first prize as best costume.

Edwin Pye, Clifton Murray, Henry Emmons and Elbert Ashbury also won a prize as a band group. James Cosgrove, dressed as the Pied Piper, passed around the prize pie.

A treasure hunt and other games and races were part of and enjoyable time for the children during Chautauqua week.

Although in 1920 St. Johnbury was obliged to make up ticket sales because of a default in the contract, sales did pick up during the next two years. And by 1922 the Community Chautauqua was well organized. They had as executive committee --- Charles E. Beck, F. M. Byl and F.B. Jacques; Chairman of ticket committee - B. A. Palmer; Chairman of advertising committee, Charles A. Shields; ground committee S. A. Atwood; >> Page 10



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#### >> Page 9

Director of the Junior Chautauqua, Mrs. Harold G. Abbott; Assistant Miss Dorothy C. Walter; Secretary F. B. Clifford, and Treasurer, C. V. Perry. But for some reason the year 1922 seemed to be the end of the Chautauqua visits in St. Johnsbury.

The Chautauqua was welcome entertainment to the Lyndonville area for 20 successive years. In August 1915, the Chautauqua made its first appearance there. P.W. Ivey was the superintendent.

During that year ex Senator Frank Cannon of Utah spoke on "The Mormon Kingdom of Today" and Judge "Ben" Lindsey well known for his efforts against delinquency, gave his lecture on "The Misfortunes of Mickey". Sunday Church services were held in the tent with all local pastors in attendance.

Mrs. Elizabeth W. Nelson recalled that she and her husband and college chum drove by team from their home in Burke to attend both afternoon and evening Chautauqua performances.

"They were held in a large tent," she recalled, "seating hundreds of people on the Darling Meadow' at the south end of Main Street. A small red barn nearby served as dressing room for the performers.

"Programs were of the favorite Lyceum type, small groups of musical artists, entertainers, lectures — and what we enjoyed best — Shakespeare plays by the noted Ben Greet Players. They presented "The Merchant of Venice," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Julius Ceasar," and "Romeo and Juliet" — all finely acted with the usual minimum of scenery. This continued for the show's duration in that town.

"The Chautauqua force had college boys as ushers, scene shifters, maintenance men and directors. The sponsoring group always provided the visiting talent with an automobile trip to Lake Willoughby in the time between the afternoon and evening performances.

Miss Dorothy C. Walter, sister of Mrs. Nelson, recalled that the Lyndonville shows were indeed excellent. Along with the Ben Greet Players, she enjoyed Louise Stallings, pianist; the play "Sun-Up", the Welch singers; William Jennings Bryan and others. In her words she recalled, "it was just the sort of talent that came in the old-fashioned Lyceum lecture courses — high class and often famous names". During the August 1916 performance 1,200 people attended to hear the Highland band as well as the plays and lectures. The Chautauqua force for that year was composed of 25 people. J. R. Honley who spoke on the "Crusaders" was indeed impressive. But the famous lecture "Acres of Diamonds" by Hon. Russell H. Conwell kept the audience spellbound. At 73, Mr.

Conwell, rather stooped with age

but with a determined jaw, lec-

tured for two hours with appropriative pantomime gestures. The

crowd was delighted. His theme

— finding happiness right in your own back yard — was exactly what parents wanted their children to hear, and they could apply his message to themselves. During his tour he gave his "Acres of Diamonds" speech more than 5,000 different times.

In 1929, Mrs. Ruth O. Byron spoke on "Opening Doors"— about the advantages of women. During that year it rained so hard that the performers could not be heard so the audience was encouraged to sing various songs until the storm let up.

Among other entertainment throughout the years were the circus stories told by Hugie Fritz; J. Smith Damron lectured on "The Potter and his Clay" and demonstrated his ability with clay. Some other plays were "Skidding" and "Broken Dishes". "At the Foot of the Rainbow" by Roy L. Smith was an interesting lecture.

The most famous and highest paid orator of the century William Jennings Bryan gave a lecture in Lyndonville. Known as the Silver Tongued Orator, Old Dependable and Flower of the Flock, he began touring with the Chautauqua sometime after his "Cross of Gold" speech in 1896. For 30 years he entranced audiences with his delightful, welltrained voice. To hear and see him would be to remember him. He always wore a long-skirted frock over his big frame, string tie and a wide-brimmed hat. One of his well-liked lectures was "Prince of Peace".

A few of the Junior Chautauqua highlights for the Lyndonville area children during the Chautauqua's final years were the Indian entertainers. Chief Tahan in native costume complete with feathered headgear, beads and leather leggings taught the children sign languages, war dances, whoops and games as well as telling them about life among the Kiowan Indians.

In 1931, Indian Chief Whirlwind Thunder told the children of Indian lore. During that year Pamahasha entertained with his trained birds and animals.

Progress really ended the circuit Chautauqua during 1932-1933. Many of the streets and highways were now paved and autos had replaced most of the horse and buggy transportation. The superintendent vainly appealed to the public to support the Chautauqua. Even season tickets were reduced to \$2.00 and the attendance dwindled from 1,700 to 1.200. Progress had given people other interests and the Chautauqua was no longer needed. The circuit Chautauqua, an inspiration to past generations has been sadly neglected by historians. Some have gathered some essence of worth during its hey-day though mostly from the mid-western areas, only local newspaper items during a yearly performance have been written about the circuit Chautauqua in Vermont.



### **BIRTHDAY CAKE**

#### BY LORNA QUIMBY

#### BY LORNA QUIMBY

When you were one of the younger ones in a big family, you found it hard to be "special." Your sisters usually kept you properly humble. An illness brought you Maw's attention, although at a cost. As soon as you were up and about, the older girls made sure you picked up your share of the chores. But nothing spoiled your enjoyment of your birthday.

Maw and Dad made birthdays an event. They didn't spend much money. We received small gifts from each member of the family. Gar's birthday presents, like her Christmas gifts, were always wrapped in used gift paper. I remember clearly some of my Christmas presents. I recall none of the birthday presents. What made the day special was our birthday rituals.

First thing, when you got downstairs, Maw wished you a happy birthday and the Big Girls followed suit. Dad came in from doing chores and wished you a happy birthday. Then came the next step in the day's proceedings. It usually happened after breakfast, before Dad went back out to the barn to finish the day's chores.

"It's time for the birthday spanking," Dad would say and chase after the birthday girl. We'd run, dodge and squeal until, after a suitable time, Dad caught us. He carefully spanked us once for each year we were old and then a last "to grow on." When it came her turn, Mimi fully entered into the spirit of the chase. She would run round and round the house, crying "Help!" or "No!" until she collapsed, helpless with giggles. During all the commotion, Patty, who thought Mimi was serious, stood sobbing, holding on to Maw.

After the spanking was out of the way, Dad went off to his work. The table had to be cleared, dishes done and the floors swept. I don't remember when I opened my gifts. Maw's big contribution to our special day came next, the birthday cake.

Maw usually did baking in the morning. Sometimes she'd enlist the help of Deedee or me to do the stirring "to save her strength." I was so gullible that I'd help without realizing it was my cake we were working on. By the time I came along, Maw had made so many cakes that she didn't need a recipe. She was exact in her measurements—usually she'd tell her helper about taking Gar's "rules" and figuring out the ingredients in cups, tablespoons and teaspoons.

When I was young, Maw was a champion cake maker. She had farm-fresh eggs, pastry flour, and her baking powder didn't stay around long enough to get stale. She was an early convert to Crisco© for cakes. She believed every word of their advertisements. Anything that promised the same results every time won her approval. With the help of our young arms, she whipped up her batter, poured it into round cake pans and put it in the oven. The oven in the wood-burning stove was her greatest concern. The temperature had to be just right, hot enough but not too hot. My birthday came in the summer, so Maw tried to get her baking out of the way before the sun got too high. While the cake was in the oven, we were warned not to run in the kitchen or slam a door. She was afraid the cake would fall if we did and jiggled the oven.

Then the layers were baked and cooled, Maw then made a filling. There again she knew the recipe by heart. Maw always bought seeded raisins at the store. Seeded raisins made a sticky, solid mass in the box. We didn't eat raisins as a snack. They were reserved for cooking and we were willing that they should be. A surreptitious dip into the raisin box brought up a sugary mess that usually had a few seeds that you unexpectedly crunched down on.

I don't find a recipe for the filling in Maw's cookbooks, but Daphne Quimby's (my mother-inlaw) Modern Priscilla cookbook, printed in 1929, has the following directions. Maw would have neither lemon juice nor rind.

1 cup seeded raisins 1 tablespoon flour 1/2 cup water 1 tablespoon lemon juice 1/2 cup sugar Little grated lemon or orange rind

Chop raisins, add water and sugar and cook ten minutes. Add flour and cook until very thick, stirring constantly. Add lemon juice and grated rind. Cook slightly before using.

The final step was making the frosting, which was always a boiled frosting. It was the classic recipe you can find in any cookbook. Again, Maw used girl-power for the egg beaters. When the frosting was ready, we would be sent out of the way while she put the cake together. (It was supposed to be a surprise.) As a final touch, Maw dipped a match stick in melted unsweetened chocolate and wrote "Happy Birthday" and our name.

After the main course at dinner time (noon), Maw lit little birthday candles and set the cake before the birthday girl. How important it was to make the right wish and how vital to blow out all the candles! After that Maw cut generous slices for each of us. We could have seconds and Dad always did. (It makes my teeth ache now just to remember "how sweet it was.")

Birthdays at our house did not cost Maw and Dad a lot of money. Instead, our parents took the time and did the work that made birthdays special for us all.



## Book Review 'The Grass Grew Greener'

Harry M. Rowe, M.D. with Terry Hoffer

#### BY MARVIN MINKLER

Every now and then, a small treasure of a book comes along that introduces the reader to a remarkable person, living a remarkable life, in equally remarkable times. "The Grass Grew Greener," is such a book.

Written by former editor of *The North Star Monthly*, Terry Hoffer, the book is a wonderfully readable biography of Dr. Harry M. Rowe. Rowe's story is an absorbing narrative history of a small Northeast Kingdom town, told through the eyes of a fascinating individual.

Harry Rowe grew up on a hillside farm in Peacham to become a doctor, receive the Bronze Star in World War II, marry the love of his life, raise a family and diligently tend his garden.

Dr. Rowe was, for over 60 years, a family doctor in Wells River and for 61 years was on the school board. Rich with insights, the book perfectly captures all that is special about small town Vermont, and for that matter, small towns all across America. Harry can still be seen greeting generations of Wells River families on his way from his home to the post office in Wells River. He touched and enriched the lives of so many in his gentle compassionate way.

Through page after page of this outstanding book, the author vividly brings the rich history of our region back to life. The Grass Grew Greener is also filled with marvelous historical photographs of that golden time. While 20th century America ebbed and flowed around him, Harry Rowe, one of nine children who lived on a rocky hill farm in Peacham, followed his nose and head, graduating first from the University of Vermont, and then from medical school.

The common thread that flows through Hoffer's book, is the amazing love story between Harry Rowe from Peacham, and Mary Whitney from Northfield. Married in 1940, Mary and Harry's correspondence while he served in the Army medical corps in Europe, where he received the Bronze Star, are worth the read alone.

After the war, the Rowes settled in Wells River, where he began his long and fulfilling practice, a practice that touch the lives of so many, in so many ways. At home they raised a family of six, and Mary gave music lessons, while also working in Harry's office as its manager.

Harry's accomplishments are many, and his impact on Wells River and the practice of family medicine will long endure. As this uncommon man said of his gardens, and perhaps of life itself:

"You plant," Harry said, "you cross your fingers and you hope for the best. With plenty of sunlight and water and a dose of luck you get something pretty good."

So it is with Terry and Harry's book.

We got something pretty good.

Published under the auspices of The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Press, The Grass Grew Greener is available there, from Dr. Rowe in Wells River or from Terry Hoffer in Danville.

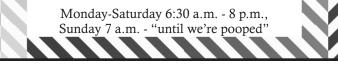


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## Market Musings

### The value of canning by Jane Woodhouse

there is something very satisfying about putting food away for the winter. For some it is an obsession. First-time homesteaders will can every vegetable or fruit in sight only to discover some of them are better preserved in the freezer, or not at all. I learned early on that canned zucchini was not worth the effort but pickled zucchinis were. I have been known to grow 40 pickling cucumber plants and pack away caseloads of pickles that can be enjoyed over a four-year period of time. In my years of rural living, I have found ways to preserve food for the winter or just for enjoyment after the season has ended.

I left Vermont and spent the later part of the 1980s and early 90s living in San Francisco where I made a weekly trip to the Alemany Farmers Market every Saturday morning. Truckloads of produce, flowers, live chickens and exotic mushrooms filled the vendor stalls. Large cargo trucks would back into a stall and open with buckets full of flowers. Another stall brought crates tumbling with varieties of exotic mushrooms cultivated in a South San Francisco warehouse. But my favorite vendor was an organic fruit grower from the Central Valley who brought apricots, nectarines, peaches, and plums to market. The fruit was too ripe to be sold wholesale; it was table ready, and at peak flavor. It was only \$.35 a pound. I would buy box loads of the fruit and spend the rest of the weekend making preserves, fruit butters or just throwing them in a jar with honey and water syrup. We still talk about the canned plums that tasted like cherries. The peach butter recipe from Rodale's Stocking Up book was my favorite. It baked slowly in a glass casserole dish until thick and deep golden brown. It was delicious.

A recent article in the May 27th New York Times, "Preserving Time in a Bottle (or Jar)" reports on the current interest in food preservation among urbanites. It brings together the search for good quality authentic food, slow food, and local food. And along that line an interest in handcrafted foods. People are growing gardens for the first time, expanding existing gardens and looking to their local market to fill their pantries and freezers.

The Times article prompted me to tour

the Danville and St. Johnsbury markets with a critical eye for putting up food for the fall and winter season. What I found were abundant opportunities for customers wishing to extend the season of local food. Each farm in their uniqueness offers a range of foods and buying options. At least 3 CSAs or Community Supported Agriculture farms are represented at the market. This is the subscription model that sells shares for a weekly delivery of food. Old Shaw Farm in Peacham offers a summer season and a separate fall season share. Share boxes are delivered to the Danville market or picked up at the farm. Curtis Sjolander of Mountain Foot Farm in Wheelock offers both long and short season shares to customers. His customers receive a bin that can be filled with the produce of their choice. Tamara Martin of Chandler Pond Farm in South Wheelock emphasizes flexibility in her share offerings and can tailor one to meet the needs of a customer.

The strawberry season has ended but blueberries and raspberries are still available. Berries are in season and probably one of the easiest foods to preserve. Late season and cool season crops are often easily stored without the fuss of processing. Expect to find cabbages, winter squashes, onions, po-

tatoes, beets, carrots and garlic. Several vendors are happy to supply storage crops in bulk. Acquaint yourself with our local farms. Most have more than you see at market and are happy to bring you a special order or arrange a farm visit. Elizabeth Everts, from Too Little Farm in West Barnet will work with customers looking for food to can, freeze or store. While the cool start to summer was challenging, she expects to have corn, emphasizing that it is easy to process for freezing. Her farm can also supply canning tomatoes as well as most of the fall season storage crops. Bill Half of Harvest Hill Farm in Walden supplies fall storage vegetables and bulk basil. Jill Rebillard of Gourmet Gardens in Lyndonville specializes in herbs, cucumbers, basil, Asian vegetables, and a variety of tomatoes. As the name "Gourmet" implies, she offers several types of basil and both Japanese and cornichon cucumbers, perfect for pickling. Annette Hyder and Chris Goss of Little Way Farm in Barnet Center expect to have a good supply of garlic this year and currently have maple syrup to sell. The Gadapee Family of Danville specializes in maple sugar products. Nicholas Pandjiris is new this year to market. He is a young farmer working a piece of rented land in Newbury called

Dr. Richard Leven Dr. Stephen Feltus Dr. Rebecca Hogan Dr. Andrew Ishak

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Protecting Families & Businesses in Vermont and New Hampshire for over 100 years 970 Memorial Drive St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 802.748.1010 800.639.1010 800.639.1010 www.kinneypike.com Crashed Wagon Farm. I spied a large, dense cabbage at his stand that would make a nice supply of sauerkraut. He too will have fall storage crops later this season.

It is a pleasure to see the abundance of grass fed, pasture raised meat for sale at both markets. It is typically available by the cut or by the animal. Koren Worden of Worden's Grass Fed Beef in Barnet brings beef (by the cut), pastured chickens and pork sausage to the market. She takes orders for chickens and turkeys and expects to have pork later this summer. Chandler Pond Farm has pastured chickens as well and the Lemmon Sisters Poultry of Danville are new arrivals with organic chicken. Barb Levin of Hope Farm in Charleston brings her elegant sheep cheeses and lamb to market. If you would rather eat fish, Curtis Sjolander raises trout that are available at market. Check with farmers for availability. All of these farmers are happy to help you stock a freezer with fresh locally raised meat.

The market tour ends with some inspiration for putting away a supply of food for the winter. Small efforts that are uncomplicated and time efficient offer everyone the opportunity to save some of Vermont's spring and summer on your pantry shelf.

#### **Freezing berries**

Freezing simply means placing the berries into a container and into the freezer. No blanching, cutting or liquids. If you plan to package in bulk, place your berries on a cookie tray long enough to freeze and then pack in a plastic freezer bag or container. This will allow you to remove what you need without using a sharp instrument to pry them from a clump. They will instead be frozen individually. Should you decide to make a fruit preserve later, simply take them from the freezer and

cook them down when the weather is cooler.

#### Storing winter vegetables

Onions, garlic and squash do best in a cool, dry environment. The other root crops need some humidity to hold through the winter. While a root cellar is great, some simpler techniques work quite well. Recycled five gallon buckets can store vegetables in a cool basement. An old towel on top of the bucket, kept damp with a spray bottle, will keep the vegetables hydrated and in good shape. Check and spray weekly.

#### Pesto

Pesto is another, simple to freeze, food. I put cleaned, dry basil leaves with a good olive oil in the food processor, blend and then freeze. For pesto, process the frozen basil oil with fresh garlic, pine nuts or walnut, and a good grated cheese. The basil flavor is captured in the oil and the additional ingredients provide

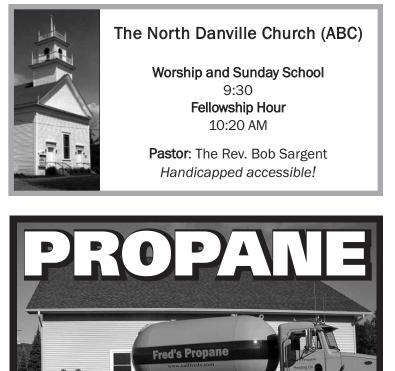
e freshness.

#### Making sauerkraut

• ood storage cabbages are Gtypically large tight heads with thick leaves that hold some moisture, keeping them crisp and juicy. They need cold storage at home but don't keep forever without more involved techniques. Lacto-fermenting the cabbage, by making raw sauerkraut, increases both nutrient value and digestibility. It is full of Vitamin C, which is in short supply in the winter months. It can be made in a crock or in small batches in jars. Measure enough cabbage to fill several quart jars. Shred by hand or in a food processor. Don't grate the cabbage or shred too fine as it will ferment too rapidly and spoil. Weigh the shredded cabbage and use 2% of that weight in salt. For mixing I put the cabbage in a bowl or small bucket and sprinkle it in layers with the salt. The brining process brings out the liquid

in the cabbage. To further encourage the juices, I pound the cabbage with a blunt wooden stick. A short hardwood dowel is perfect. I work it for a while and take breaks until the cabbage is soaking in a fair amount of saltwater. The cabbage is repacked in the jars and the juice is divided among them. It should cover the cabbage to ferment properly. If it does not I continue pressing and pounding in the jar pushing the mass of shredded cabbage below the surface of the brine. To hold the cabbage below the surface, I make a simple weight by placing a small plastic food storage bag in the jar and fill it with water. If you are concerned about leakage, use doubled bags. The jars are left on my

counter for about 5 days or so bubbling away. Check to make sure the cabbage is covered. Then remove the weight, cap lightly to allow air to escape and place in the refrigerator. If the cabbage loses its juice, a scant tablespoon of salt in one cup of water can revive it. The sauerkraut can be eaten any time but will continue to ferment and improve in flavor if kept cold. A small amount with meals is a digestive aid. My favorite is red cabbage sauerkraut for flavor. For more information on lactofermented foods see Wild Fermentation: The Flavor, Nutrition, and Craft of Live-Culture Foods by Sandor Katz available in local libraries or visit http://www.wildfermentation.com.



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## The tradition of potluck

### No Small Potatoes with Vanna Guldenschuh

Termonters, especially those in the Northeast Kingdom, don't give up. They continue with party plans (family reunions, memorials or block parties that encompass 10 square miles) in spite of - or maybe because of the adversity of the weather. 'Rain or Shine' is something you add to invitations as well as 'Potluck'. The potluck is alive and well in north country and deserves to be discussed as a food tradition.

Etymologists differ on the origin of the term potluck. Some feel the word has English origins in "food given away to guests", probably derived from "whatever food one is lucky enough to find in the pot" when traveling. I like the derivation from the Native American (northwest) tradition of the 'Potlatch'. The potlatch is the reciprocity and redistribution of wealth, a true sharing of what you have with friends and neighbors, where wealth is judged not by what you have but by what you share. Go to the Wikipedia definition of potlatch for good advice on party going and sharing.

Wherever the word comes from it is a fun tradition used at big family get-togethers, church suppers and celebrations of all kinds. Let us all embrace it and enjoy the camaraderie of the moment at these parties where we all do our part by bringing our potluck - rain or shine!

All that said, I believe there are some rules to remember when cooking for a potluck. Rules that allow you to have a successful covered dish without adding to the workload of your hosts.

Know your audience -Bring a dish you can predict most everyone will like. If you are not sure of what folks will like err on the side of ordinary. Don't bring a smoked salmon platter or chicken liver mousse to folks who are not very adventurous when it comes to eating. A well prepared quiche will be more appreciated. A simple dish like deviled eggs are always a hit and can be made and garnished elegantly. Call your hosts to find out if they would like anything special - they might know what items might be in short supply. If you are bringing a pasta or potato salad it is always good to call ahead and see if there are going to be too many of these types of foods.

Plan your schedule: Give yourself enough time to prepare what you are going to bring so that you can do it well. If you have to rush, even the best recipes can suffer. Keep it simple and elegant if you lack time.

Presentation is key: Spend time with presentation of the finished product. It should not only look good but be easy for your host to serve. Don't bring anything that needs a lot of work once you reach your destination. Your hosts have enough to do without worrying about cooking your covered dish.

You should be able to take it from your car and place it on a table all set for party goers to dig in.

If it is something that needs to be cut on site - try to supervise a little. All the better to cut it ahead of time. A crowd can really make a mess of a special dessert or quiche.

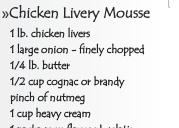
Your dish should also look festive - something special for friends and relatives. Don't be afraid to get creative with a few garnishes on your platter. Parsley, dill and cherry tomatoes for savory dishes - Mint and berries scattered around sweets.

Final Touches: A little extra touch takes a dish from ordinary to extraordinary. A special sauce or accompaniment can make your offering memorable. I have often bring a special wine to go with a chicken liver mousse. An ice wine (an aromatic sweet dessert style wine) is a wonderful foil to this mousse. Make sure you bring very small paper cups to serve it in.

Bring a complimentary sauce to go with smoked fish, meatballs, egg rolls or even a dessert. It adds to a dish and makes it memorable. There are some great Asian sauces that go great with many recipes.

Cook for a buffet table: Make a dish that works well at room temperature and can stay on the table for a few hours. If they are freshly made, most foods will be safe on a buffet table for a few hours, but will they taste good. Some dishes are only good fresh from the oven or stovetop and will not attract an audience.

Be on time: If you are making a hors d'oeuvre, you will have to be there when the party begins or you will miss the happy hour. If you know you will be a



1 package unflavored gelatin 1/2 cup water or chicken stock

little late, make a dessert. You get the idea.

Look in your back issues of the North Star for some great potluck suggestions:

July 2009 – Potato Salad /

April 2009 - Quiche / March 2009 – Smoked Salmon platter / December 2008 - Tourtiere and fresh String Bean Casserole / October 2008 - Ratatouille (I think this is the perfect potluck dish with cut bread next to it) / November 2008 - Cutlets and meatballs (can use pork or chicken in place of the venison) See - you should have saved

all those papers.

The following recipes are two of my favorites to bring along to a potluck. Remember, bring what you make well - show off your cooking skills and share and redistribute your wealth of culinary experience with friends and neighbors this summer in the true spirit of potlatch.

#### **Chicken Liver Mousse**

This mousse is lighter in texture than traditional pate and heavenly to eat. It is easy to make and easy to bring with you to any gathering. Thin dry toasts, mini black bread or crispy breadsticks go well with this rich mousse. I found a great iced cider 'wine' at the farmers' market last week that would be the perfect foil for this mousse. I can taste it now!

1 lb. chicken livers

1 large onion - finely chopped 1/4 lb. butter 1/2 cup cognac or brandy

pinch of nutmeg

1 cup heavy cream

1 package unflavored gelatin 1/2 cup water or chicken stock

Split each chicken liver and remove any fat or membrane. Set

Sprinkle the gelatin over 1/4cup of cognac or brandy to soften. Set aside.

»Scallopped Tomatoes 8 fresh tomatoes - peeled and cut 3 cups fresh bread crumbs\*\* 1/2 cup sugar 1/2 lb. butter - softened 1/2 cup heavy cream 1 onion - chopped 1/2 onion thinly sliced

fully combined.

Spoon into containers and refrigerate overnight. The container should be the one you are going to serve it in. You can keep the mousse in the refrigerator for another 2-3 days.

Remove the mousse from the refrigerator thirty minutes to an hour before serving. It should be near room temperature. Display on a platter with mini dark bread rounds. If you are serving a sweet wine with this dish - remember little cups for everyone to use. You don't need big glasses – just a sip.

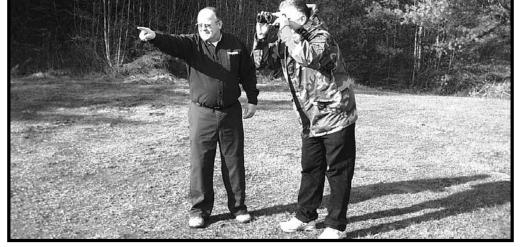
#### **Scalloped Tomatoes**

This old fashioned tomato dish is good beyond imagination. Everyone will ask about this delightful side dish when it's served. It is a real American tomato recipe. Make sure you let this dish set after it is baked. It needs this time to meld all the ingredients making it perfect for potluck. I know I give you this recipe each year, but it is one of my favorite dishes and you can only make it when fresh picked local tomatoes are easy to get.

8 fresh tomatoes - peeled and cut into thick slices\* 3 cups fresh bread crumbs\*\* 1/2 cup sugar 1/2 lb. butter – softened (you may not need it all) 1/2 cup heavy cream 1 onion - chopped 1/2 onion thinly sliced

Butter a large glass pie plate (a regular baking dish will do) and place a layer of tomato slices on the bottom. Sprinkle with some of the chopped onions, a tablespoon of the sugar and 3/4cup of the breadcrumbs. Dot with butter, salt and pepper and about a tablespoon of the cream. Repeat this process two or three more times depending on the depth of the dish. Put sliced onions on the top and dot with butter. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes or until it is bubbly. After removal from the oven let this dish sit about 45 minutes before serving. \*Peeling tomatoes: Get a pot of water boiling and dip red, ripe tomatoes into this water for about 40 seconds. Take the tomatoes out and put them in a colander. Run cold water over the tomatoes so they stop cooking and simply slip the skins off. It yields a ripe tomato with only the thin skin removed. A thing of beauty! \*\*Make breadcrumbs in either a food processor or blender. I like to use English muffins or a toothsome white bread. You can use store bought crumbs but the homemade ones are superior.





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Meanwhile, melt the butter slowly in a medium sauté pan and add the onions. Cook the onions on medium heat until soft and transparent. You do not want to brown the onions. Add the chicken livers and sauté until well cooked. Remove from the heat.

Dissolve the gelatin and cognac mix in the water or stock over low heat. Pour this mix into the chicken livers with the remaining cognac, a pinch of nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Puree all of this in a food processor fitted with the steel blade until very smooth. If it seems too thick add a little more water. Place in a large mixing bowl and let cool.

Whip the heavy cream until it forms soft peaks. Fold into the cooled chicken liver puree until

## **Killer tomatoes**

### Beware of giant vegetables

By Peter Dannenberg

A Monday holiday froze some of our tomatoes. I usually wait until Memorial Day to plant tender vegetables, but I also worry about leaving them in pots too long. They can become root bound and sickly.

This year, Monday holiday officialdom decreed that Memorial Day would be May 25. I decided that was near enough to May 31 and transplanted our tomatoes outside. Sadly, Mother Nature didn't get the memo. It's a chilly wet summer; night temperatures plunged into the upper twenties between the two Memorial Days.

To save the tomatoes, Bonnie, my wife, constructed individual nightcaps for each young plant from brown paper sandwich bags inside plastic baggies. Most made it through unscathed, but the more tender varieties look like Jack Frost seared them with a blowtorch.

Out of pity, cousin Joanne brought us a tiny peat pot sporting three sprigs, each almost a half inch tall. Joanne told us these were mail-order giant tomatoes that grow very tall and handed us a printed sheet of instructions.

We read that the tomatoes could be up to three pounds each and the plants would thrive year round indoors. As tempting as this is, I worry about three-pound tomatoes splattering down on the carpets, especially while I'm on my seat's edge watching a horror movie on TV—too gory.

I settled on outdoor planting. But given the Memorial Day frost fiasco, I decided to keep the biodegradable peat pot in a sunny window for a spell. The instructions said that was ok, if I didn't delay setting them out in the garden too long. There are paragraphs about the need to support each sprig with stakes or cages and provide plenty of space for spreading branches, which, the instructions implied, might double as shade trees.

I wanted to plan properly and avoid more garden disasters. After a week on a sunny windowsill, the sprigs shot up an inch. They doubled in size the next week. The instructions state the plants must grow for ninety days before harvest. That's just about thirteen weeks. Figuring the sprigs would double in size each week, I calculated the mature giant tomatoes would tower up 5,376 inches, or 448 feet.

This raises a few problems. My tomato cages are only five feet tall. I could probably stack two and lash them together, but beyond that, they might topple. I need to hire someone to weld the cages into towers; I'll have to pour concrete footings. Moreover, three plants, at 448 feet each, totals 1,344 feet of caging. That's 269 tomato cages; I need to hire a tractortrailer and take out a farm loan. Maybe economic stimulus money could help. Plus, 448-foot high towers of tomatoes could pose navigational hazards to small aircraft, hot-air balloons, bats and migrating waterfowl. Air traffic bureaucracy might demand that I top my tomato towers with flashing red lights. That would annoy our neighbors and spark hearings and protests.

Then there's the threat of overripe three-pound tomatoes plummeting from clouds. It could be deadly for unwary passersby, especially those allergic to tomatoes or wearing "dry clean only" fabrics. I'm not sure if my homeowners' insurance covers attacks by killer tomatoes. Do they fall into the exotic household pet category?

Will towering vines attract children, armed with saltshakers, who scale them seeking Guinness record book tomatoes? (The world record tomato topped seven pounds.) Is there a germ of truth in that Jack and the Beanstalk story? And if I fend off poachers, how many heads of lettuce must I plant? It seems like a lot of work for a BLT sandwich.

I'd better plant them in a remote part of the garden and put up "Beware of giant Falling Tomatoes" signs, maybe in neon for nighttime strollers. Those programmable highway signs would do the trick. And I'll hope for an early frost.

#### >> Page 1

when a carrot is pulled; root hairs snapping, soil shifting; I'm sure one could imagine hearing almost anything.

The original study has been completely discredited and yet the story persists, having taken on a life of its own because for many of us it still fits in with the more spiritual side of gardening, which is a microcosm of life in the broader sense. Science, religion and superstition can all find a place in the garden, with the "bio-dynamic" followers of Dr. Rudolf Steiner at one end of the spectrum and the Monsanto salesmen at the other. I prefer science untainted by salesmen, and believe good science can have deeply spiritual roots. It's true that plants are alive, and they do communicate using various chemicals, just as insects and even microbes do, and Buddhists are on to something about being "one with everything." This is clear to me while working in the garden. It's not just the vegetables and the weeds on the grand scale, or the bees and the deer flies, the earthworms and the root maggots, but also all the microbial life; the tendrils of fungi, the nitrogen fixing bacteria of my legumes, the viral pathogens, which compose this

great symphony of my garden. And when one instrument is out of tune, the others falter.

Looking more closely at the worlds within worlds, even the border between my garden and myself becomes blurred. Scientists now report finding ten times as many microbial cells within our bodies as our own human cells. And that's on a good day, when we feel fine. Most of these are in our gut, where they help with nutrition among other things but they're everywhere else, too, in every organ. The ten to one count of foreign organisms is deceptive, because microbial cells are so much smaller than human tissue cells, but the point is that our body is a garden, too, where both life and death walk hand in hand. But back to the carrots. They lack a central nervous system, not to mention the lungs for a scream, but it seems to me potato bugs must feel something beyond fondness of potatoes or towards other potato bugs. They fear my shadow and try to escape. Perhaps they scream. Some people capture them alive and carry them a long way away before releasing them, which makes them really hungry by the time they get back, but I kill them, crush their egg clusters, poison the fat little grubs and inflict other unspeakable mischief. I even enlist slave armies of other microbes such as Bacillus thuringiensis, which liquefies the guts of caterpillars and grubs. It seems like a horrid way to die but this way of killing bugs is accepted by "organic" growers while killing insects with manufactured toxins is not. I'll go along with this to a certain extent, but there is too much dogma in the organic movement, too, and

### CABOT GREENHOUSE AND NURSERY

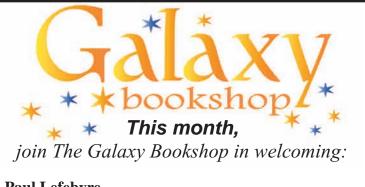


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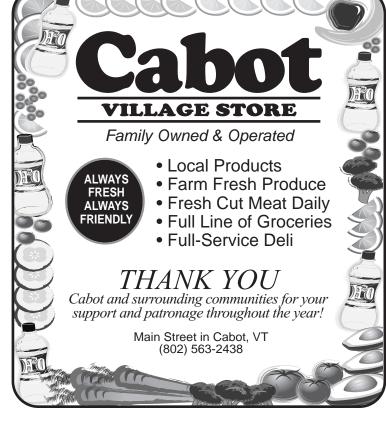
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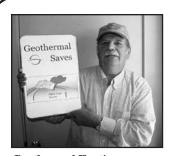
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the underlying thinking is often deeply flawed. I prefer instead the words of Albert Schweitzer, which came to him while observing a herd of hippos in the vast garden of Africa. It is simply "reverence for life."

My garden may look serene, but make no mistakes about it. like the plains of Africa it is just as much about death as it is about life, from the bone meal and composted manure to the beloved carrot which I will drag, screaming, to the kitchen while my own internal flora dance with delight. Once there, it will join a chicken soup. Actually it will be a rooster soup. The rooster will audibly object to this idea, no doubt about that. But when this is done with reverence, the soup will not only taste great but will also nourish both body and soul.







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## August days

The top of Burke Mountain is a cool retreat



#### BY BRUCE HOYT

Tow come those sultry  $\bot$  N days of August, when all who work outside or who come home to outside chores, dream of cooler places. Perhaps the beach at the north end of Lake Willoughby comes to mind, or a motorboat on the Moore Reservoir or even an air-conditioned mall. One place of respite from the heat, however, lies in plain sight to much of the Northeast Kingdom, and it beckons with a promise of cool breezes and grand vistas. At 3,200 feet of elevation, our own Burke Mountain stands well above the lower terrain and benefits from the 3 degrees per thousand feet cooling ratio as well as unimpeded cooler air out of Canada. It receives fewer summer visitors than it deserves.

The toll road (\$5 per carload) is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and leads to the parking lot just below the summit. This switchback road winds up the north side of the mountain, alternating between relatively moderate inclines to dauntingly steep grades. Bicyclers who challenge it, usually go back to East Burke for a cold beverage after a few turns. The temperature drops as the vehicle ascends as if driving to more northerly latitudes, and the plant life along the roadside also changes as if driving into Canada's boreal forest. Poplars, hemlocks and maples of every sort give way to birches and firs. Sweet clover and bracken give way to tall interrupted ferns and mossy outcrops. A picnic site and parking lot at about the half-way mark allows a view, not only of the distant terrain but also of the Big Dipper ski trail. This trail, which in winter seems quite inviting, appears much steeper and more ominous in summer garb. Further up, the perilous pitches of Doug's Drop and the bony face of Lou's Leap give an impression of being impossible to



#### ski

Once at the top, the visitor will be rewarded with fresh, cool air. Breaks in the tree line surrounding the parking lot open out to a spectacular view of Mt. Pisgah (on the right) and Mt. Hor (on the left), cradling Lake Willoughby. An aptly named mountain further to the

tains. The old radar station at East Haven Mountain is a feature at the north end of this range.

A bit southeast and well into New Hampshire, the Presidential Range lies as a distinct series protruding above the horizon north to south with Madison, Adams (The pyramid shape), Jefferson (a broad

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right is called Mt. Haystack.

A few steps up the maintenance road and a short hike through the woods will bring the visitor to the base of the fire-watch tower. Anyone with unsteady legs may need a walking stick or a helping hand over short sections. Because the summit is ringed with firs, the panorama is best enjoyed on the second level of stairs or higher.

A cluster of microwave relay towers lies to the west, thereby indicating north, east and south clockwise. The north view takes in Willoughby Gap and, slightly to the left, Jay Peak with its prominent gondola station. The east view takes in the nearby "twin" of Burke, called Umpire Mountain. Further around, in the middle view, Victory Bog stretches out to a horseshoe shaped range of moun-

shoulder leading to Mt. Washington, and Mt. Washington itself (The 6, 300-foot summit of New England). A good pair of binoculars will reveal the cog railway winding up the left flank with smoky engines pulling trainloads of tourists to and from the top.

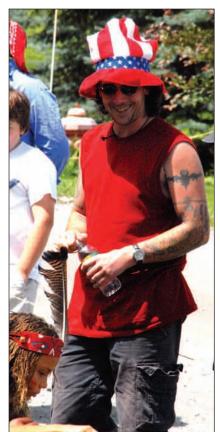
The south view shows the rims of hills hiding our valley towns and the ribbons of interstate highway. Though partially obstructed by

the transmission tower, the forehead, nose and chin of Mt. Mansfield can be seen to the west. Camels Hump lies south of Mansfield and looks more like a resting lion (Lion Couchant) than a dromedary.

Take time to enjoy the sandwich and chips you bought down in East Burke. Use your car's lowest gear to descend, in order to keep the brakes from overheating.

## PEACHAM FOURTH OF JULY PARADE









Photos by Jim Ashley (Reprints are available at www.northstarmonthly.com)



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## 'A job I'm going to enjoy...'

### Jody Fried takes the reigns at Catamount Arts

#### By JUSTIN LAVELY

Titting in traffic, waiting in airports, and being away from home were the norm for Jody Fried only a few years ago. Working for a large pharmaceutical company in Florida and Colorado, much of his work week was spent traveling. A native of the Northeast Kingdom, Jody returned in 1999 to raise his children, Molly and Rian. He spent

another year in the air and on the road before he decided to make a change.

Since then, Jody's career path seems to have veered off the highway and onto the rural roads of the Northeast Kingdom. Several small business ventures, including East Burke's Bailey's & Burke and the former Black Bear Tavern & Grill, helped him make a name for himself as a local entrepreneur. There was also a stint in the food and beverage department at Burke Mountain and several roles helping



local travel and tourism groups and chambers of commerce.

In April of this year, his career path made another, less drastic turn when he took over as the executive director of Catamount Arts, the region's premier community arts center. Previous director Reg Ainsworth recently retired, leaving behind the newly-renovated building the organization moved into last fall. According to Jody, the \$1.3 million renovation of the Masonic Temple on Eastern Avenue in St. Johnsbury serves as Ainsworth's legacy after many years at the helm. Prior to the move, Catamount existed for 23 years in the building next door.

Carrying on the growth and development of Catamount is Jody's primary goal.

"This organization plays such a large role, along with other arts establishments like the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Fairbanks Museum and St. Johnsbury Academy's Morse Center for the Arts," Jody says while sitting in his dimly lit and well-organized basement office. "All of those places are huge draws to this area."

His experiences in small businesses across the region also allow him a unique perspective, as he



Jody Fried, behind the counter, has had a diverse career in the Northeast Kingdom. He has always been a fan of Catamount Arts' mission and now he's helping with the implentation as the organization's new executive director. He will be working closely with Jerry Aldredge, right.





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puts it, "having seen firsthand how important these establishments are to the local economy."

Catamount over the last 10 years, according to Jerry Aldredge, who mans the office next to Jody, has pumped \$250,000 into the local economy through salaries and the purchase of goods and services. According to a formula from Americans for the Arts Association, the organization produces another \$500,000 of revenue for other local businesses. The new facility is projected to pump \$1.25 million into the economy going forward.

Between his business interests and childhood — he grew up in Newark and attended Lyndon Institute and the University of Vermont — Jody has seen a lot of the regional economy he speaks of. He's also seen the effect this area has on childhood development, one of the main reasons he came home to raise his own kids.

"I have traveled across the U.S. and there's no place like the Northeast Kingdom when it comes to kids. There are more freedoms and more safety, and that plays a big role in their development."

During his childhood, Jody grew up in a family that valued the arts. His experiences and interest have stuck with him through the years as he still spends time painting, printing and sculpting with his own children.

His primary goal in his new position is to help Catamount grow into its new space, which is significantly larger than their previous building. Specifically, Jody is leading the charge on a "1,000-member challenge." The organization began the year with about 350 members, which has grown to 600 members to date.

"The big task is getting new people to come through the door," Jody says. "Once they step in here and see what we have to offer, memberships really sell themselves."

Catamount Arts was founded in 1975 with a mission of enhancing the cultural climate of northern Vermont and New Hampshire through the integration of the arts into community life through a diversified schedule of film, music, theater, dance, and the visual arts.

The former site opened with a 100-seat film theater, galleries, instructional space and offices and has evolved into the focal point for the arts in the area. The organization, under Jody, has also altered its approach to funding. Instead of seeking donations from local businesses, Catamount now offers a variety of partnership options that, in exchange for their support, businesses receive discounts on the organization's offerings, advertising opportunities and the use of the building's cabaret and theatre spaces. The process is very important, according to Jody, as Catamount is still in the process of raising the remaining \$300,000 needed to finish paying for the renovation.

Another important initiative that Jody has been spending significant time on is branding. Working with Aldredge and Catamount's board of directors, Jody has build and organized a branding campaign with local media.

"We want people to recognize us immediately when they see our materials. [Branding] is a good way to help that happen."

Aside from those specific goals, Jody wants to continue to grow and enhance the quality and frequency of Catamount's programming through continued partnerships with Lyndon State College, Kingdom Productions, and St. Johnsbury Academy. He says his biggest surprise so far is "how passionate everyone is about Catamount."

"This is a job I'm going to enjoy for a long time."

The Catamount Art Center is open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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On the street level, the new facility offers two movie theaters, to-150 taling seats, with state-of-the-art digital sound and projection systems. The Video Library contains over 3800 rental units with titles ranging from the classics to contemporary works and documentaries covering a wide range of subjects. Local artists are supported through exhibits in the gallery - now the largest in the Northeast Kingdom. The basement level, complete with exposed brick columns and load bearing walls, was renovated for office space, prep kitchen, and a separate, 100-seat live performance space called the Catamount Cabaret. To go along with the new additions, Catamount transported some familiar items and services, like the 4,500-title rental library and the old, wooden box office counter.

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## North Danville's Holiday Celebration

Photos By Jim Ashley









The human mind is by nature joyous, calm and very clear. In shamatha meditation we aren't creating a peaceful state – we are letting our mind be

as it is to begin with. — Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche

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## A vision of natural resources and protection

### Collaborative efforts are beginning to take shape

#### BY ALAN PARKER

The Danville Conservation L Commission is beginning to shape strategies that will help the whole community find thoughtful ways to protect the town's most important natural resources. The group is committed to a collaborative approach to such efforts, in the belief that wise land conservation is a companion, not an opposing force, to intelligent development of the Town's residential and business-related land use needs. The members of the Commission invite conversation with all citizens of Danville to make both its work and the operation of the Conservation Fund an expression of the Town's diverse dreams for the natural and human landscape.

Some years back, a group of Danville citizens gathered signatures and placed an item on the Town Meeting warning to establish a Conservation Commission. After a lengthy debate at the meeting, the article was passed, authorizing the Town's Selectboard to create the commission at its convenience. The people of Danville, proud of their heritage as a farming and forestrybased community, left the particulars of the matter in the hands of those charged with town government; when the time was right for doing so, a formal, town-wide commitment to the principles of conservation would take shape.

Three years ago, at the suggestion of the Town Planning Commission, the Selectboard created the Conservation Commission and invited its founding members to assume an advisory role on questions of natural resources and conservation in the community. State law permits the formation of such commissions either by vote of the



citizens or by an act of the Selectboard. In the years between the original vote and the Selectboard's action, a new awareness has grown in the community; we have come to understand that the lands, farm fields, forests, and waters of this town deserve a thoughtful commitment to assuring that the vibrant natural world we cherish here will remain as the basis of our landscape.

This past March, at Town Meeting, the Conservation Commission and Selectboard placed an item on the warning asking for authority to create a Conservation Fund. The Commission spent many hours researching the legal issues governing creation of such a fund and drafted guidelines for its operation. With unanimous support from the Selectboard, this fund was established by unanimous vote at Town Meeting. The Commission didn't request any funds from the Town in this vote; only the ability to create a framework that would allow for the receipt and expenditure of funds that might come to the fund from a variety of sources.

What is a Conservation Fund? In short, it's a formal means for a town to receive and spend funds that are designated for any of a number of land conservation strategies. Money from such a fund could be used to help purchase conservation easements on land that a town wants to protect from development; it could fund mapping of important natural areas, wetlands, unique forest types, or prime farmland; or it could endow an ongoing effort to pay for stewardship of town-owned forest lands or recreation areas. A conservation fund could also provide matching monies for an effort to acquire public land that the town might decide requires special conservation attention.

Nancy Jones, a native of Danville and now a resident of Bradford, has been an active member of that town's Conservation Commission for several years, and was instrumental in establishing a Conservation Fund in that town.

The Bradford Commission has worked over the past four years to raise funds for conservation purposes. The Town of Bradford has voted, by special appropriation, to commit \$5,000 each year to the Fund over that time. In addition, the Commission has raised money privately, through direct mail appeals, an annual auction, booths at fairs and festivals in the area, an annual calendar supper, and sales of a conservation-themed calendar. In addition, the fund receives between \$1,000 and \$1500 every year from people who make bequests in their wills for the Fund. The group has been imaginative in their fund-raising efforts; Nancy reports that, "We've placed benches in some of the Town's parks with commemorative inscriptions to those who make contributions of over \$500; the benches are locally made, so we help local businesses, raise funds to further our goals, and honor those who support this work."

Recently, the Bradford Conservation Fund made a contribution of \$30,000 toward the conservation of 275 acres of land in the town, in a joint project with the Upper Valley Land Trust. The project placed a conservation easement on the land, sold a portion of the land with the protection easement in place, and left the remaining land protected for public access and conservation.

The Danville Commission's belief in collaborative approaches to conservation is embodied in one of its first community outreach efforts, related to its work to create a management plan for the Town's two publicly owned forests. In January, all Danville property owners received a questionnaire asking for their input on what public values should be attended to in creating this management plan. Those who completed the survey offered thoughtful views on issues relating to everything from public access to watershed protection, timber management and harvesting and appropriate recreational activities on these lands.

In a future article, the Conservation Commission will summarize this public input on how citizens think these commonly-held treasures should be managed. We will proceed with respectful caution, and with a bedrock belief that only the collective wisdom of the community will shape a future wherein the lands, waters, and wildlife of our town are nourished in the future, as they have been in the past.

We also hope many townspeople will join us on Saturday, Aug 1, for an excursion out on a local public resource - Keiser Pond in Danville and Peacham. The Commission, local residents and a number of other conservation groups will be celebrating the protection of remaining undeveloped the lakeshore around Keiser Pond, which is now largely owned by the State of Vermont. The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., so you'll want to bring your lunch, water, and sunscreen. If you have a boat and binoculars you'll want to bring those as well. This event is being co-sponsored by the Passumpsic Naturalists, Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, and Vermont Coverts and the Danville Conservation Commission.





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Catamount Arts

<<Live Performances>>

<<August Films>>

»SAT.1: Cabaret Singer/Songwriter Showcase, 8 p.m.
»SUN.2: Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, 4 p.m.
»SUN.9: Opera North – Cabaret, 7:30 p.m.
»SAT.22: Cabaret Series – Mark Shelton, 8 p.m.
»SUN.23: Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, 4 p.m.

<<Special Events>>

**FRI.7:** Artists' Reception, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. **SAT.15:** Vermont Mountain Bike Association
Celebration for "Freedom Riders," 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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»Oils by Ann Young / Photography by Pat Seay

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#### >> Page I

moved about the house to gather things about which she was speaking. She set up a display rack that was made expressly for the albums. Because the albums are heavy, this rack allows them to be viewed more easily. Most of the albums are loaded with 24 pages. "The new Chorus board has talked about putting them on computer," said Betty. Showing her generation's comfort level with computers, she added seriously, "but I don't know how they do that."

Each page is made of illustration board cut to 15" x 20" at Ross Business Center in Wells River. The design space for each page is actually 15" x 17", leaving the three-inch blank space in the left for binding. "I use principles of design, color and shape when planning each page," she explained. Upon the pages she has glued photos, news clippings, images that she created or clipped,



and other memorabilia. After completion, both front and back, the pages are taken to Sharon Reimer at the Framing Format in St. Johnsbury, where they are encased in protective plastic. Noreen Crane makes the cloth outside covers according to Betty's direction, and the finished album is assembled by punching two holes in the binding and tied with string or ribbon to hold it all together.

In these albums resides a remarkable history of a remarkable organization. The North Country Chorus was formally established in 1948 by a group of music lovers in Littleton, New Hampshire. They set the precedent for the type of commitment they expected from their members from the beginning. At a meeting of the board on September 13, 1949, it is stated, "... The necessity of perfect attendance at rehearsals was discussed and the responsibility of each member of the Chorus to learn his notes was felt to be of the greatest importance."

A few years later, in 1951, Mary Rowe of Wells River, VT, became the director. Her husband, Dr. Harry Rowe (a bass) joined the Chorus, too. It was more than a bit of good fortune for the group. Throughout the years, members have practiced once a week and given local performances during Christmas, spring and fall. A Madrigal Dinner was added in 1982, and, beginning with a trip to Ireland in 1977, the Chorus has made trips abroad about every four years.

Sat. 7 a.m.-3 p.m.; Closed Sunday

In a memorandum to the Chorus before their trip to Austria and Hungary in 1986, Mary wrote: "...and we must be ready for spontaneous outbursts of song, but always remembering that we are representing America in the best possible way. Sing with joy and good feeling, communicating friendship and respect... Through our music and through our contacts with the people we will meet, we can create a positive image that could have important influences on events in the future."

Betty reflects on that trip to Hungary. "When we went there, the country was still under Russian rule. As we sang their national anthem in their language, tears streamed down their faces. We felt the emotion of the moment." Later, in 1990, Betty remembers singing in Poland in the church that houses Poland's most holy relic: the Black Madonna. "There had to be a special dispensation from the Pope enabling Mary to direct the chorus with her back to the icon," said Betty.

Knowing that I was coming for the interview, Betty had searched through the albums and found an article I had written about the Chorus for the North Star in 1991. As I read through it, I vividly recalled the first time I heard the Chorus - Mary, so small in stature but supremely focused, directed the many voices into one beautiful sound. In the article, I described that sound as "holy." Betty understands that description. "There is a tremendous

Fri. 'til 6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



sense of comradeship in the group. It is bigger than each of us, a celebration of the blending of many voices into a single voice. It is a spiritual experience," she said. She attributes much of this to the character of Mary herself. "She had a deep concern for each of us and the creation of beautiful music together."

Mary passed away in 2002. As with all long-lived organizations,

Mitchell. A new round of rehearsals are set to begin on September 1.

And, by the way, Dr. Rowe is still singing bass at 95 and Betty will be singing second alto this coming season.

For more information on the North Country Chorus, including information on joining and performance schedules, go to http://www.northcountrycho-

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the reins of leadership have passed to others to carry on the tradition. Alan Rowe, Mary's son, is now the able director, and Betty has turned over the historian's duty to Cindy

rus.org/index.html

For this article and more photos related to it, go to http://sharonlakey@blogspot.com

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## Diary of a desk

### It began with Benjamin Bickford

Tam just an old desk. It is now nearly 200 years since I was fashioned from boards cut from a pine tree. I am called a "half-desk", made to sit on a table or bureau. My first owner was Benjamin Bickford, born October 19, 1793 in Thornton, N.H. He moved to Peacham and married Bridget Keyes, born May 21, 1794 in Plymouth, N.H. The couple married May 9, 1820 and set up housekeeping in Peacham. I was one of their possessions.

The Bickford couple's first child was a girl, Emily Jane, born February 16, 1821. Five other children were born to them: Albert Galatin, born June 18, 1824; Russell K., born in 1828; Caroline (Carrie), born June 2, 1832; Harvey, born in the mid-1830s, and Charles, born June 3, 1841.

When Emily was a scholar at the Penny Street Schoolhouse (Peacham District #5), she and her friends began exchanging notes. The girls scribbled messages back and forth and asked passersby to deliver them. Emily tucked the notes she received into my pigeonholes. She also put her school work, essays, poems, a report card, and her license to teach school into my recesses.

Emily completed her education at Caledonia County Grammar School (Peacham Academy) and was certified to teach school in 1846. She continued receiving letters from schoolmates, cousins and a few from James Richardson Kinerson, a neighbor. Emily married James on March 4, 1847 and the couple set up housekeeping on a nearby farm.. Albert stayed home until he married in 1862, then bought a Penny Street farm and moved there. He and Emily were the only Bickford children who lived out their lives in Peacham.

One by one the younger Bickford children grew up and began leaving home. Russell was the first to go; he went to Lowell, Massachusetts to work when he turned to Peacham for a few years; then she and Harvey moved to Marshalltown, Iowa where they spent the rest of their lives. The four Bickford children were among the many Vermont natives who went west to seek their fortunes. They all became prosperous.

Bridget Bickford died November 14, 1869. It is said that "she would not take to her bed but clung to her chair. They got her to the soffer (sic) at last". Benjamin then went to live with James and Emily, taking me with him. Benjamin died April 18, 1871 and I then belonged to Emily and James. Emily's Western siblings continued writing to her and James. Carrie especially was a faithful correspondent and wrote from 1846 to 1903; she died in 1904. James and Emily's son Jerome, a traveling salesman, also wrote to them.

Invitations to weddings, anniversary parties ("at home")s, letters from friends and other documents arrived and were added to my store. James and Emily took me with them when they moved from their farm to the Corner in 1892. Emily kept her 1890's diaries in one of my corners. Eyeglasses and wallets were stored in me.

After James and Emily died I was taken back to the farm and was passed down to succeeding generations. Ledgers, newspapers and other items were added to my collection. Over 100 years passed.

In 2007, one of Benjamin and Bridget Bickford's greatgreat-granddaughters was researching early Morgan horses in the Caledonia County area. She found that her great-grandfather, James Richardson Kinerson owned Morgans. She started contacting her cousins to ask if any of them had Morgan horse materials. She found my present owner, described her search, and was invited to visit and look at my contents.

The visitor arrived, I was brought from a back room and my lid was opened. The cousins discovered the many treasures that I held and realized these should be preserved. For two years they met, opened my lid, donned white cotton gloves, removed, unfolded and read each document. These were placed in acid-free plastic sleeves, then in loose-leaf notebooks. Explanatory notes were attached and the whole carefully stored. I was a receptacle for records of five generations of the Bickford and Kinerson families. I hope that when families discover boxes, files, and desks with contents such as mine that they won't just discard them as "that old stuff!"

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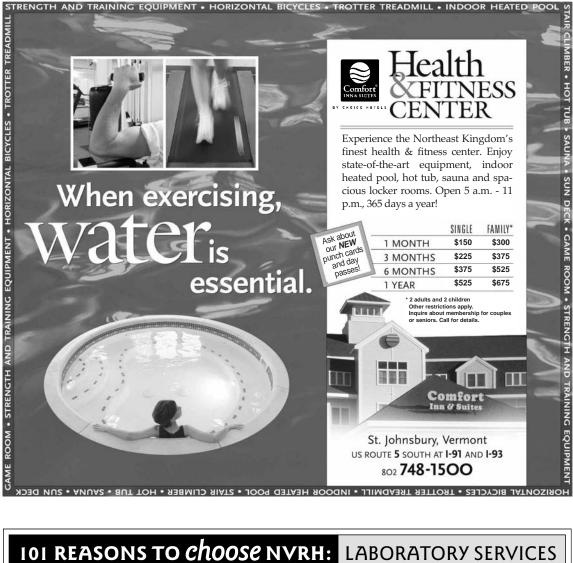
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was only 19. He eventually tired of city life and moved to Illinois. Next Carrie followed Russell and stayed with him and his wife while teaching school in Chicago. Then Harvey went to Chicago and worked for Russell in the mill vard. Charles left Peacham and enlisted in the 15th Vermont Regiment, Company F, during the Civil War. He served from September 16, 1862 to August 5, 1863; he then went to Chicago, Leavenworth, Kansas and Montana Territory.

These four Bickfords who went West wrote home to their parents and their sister Emily from 1846 through 1903. These letters described their careers, businesses, families and Charles' Army service. All the letters were stored in my pigeonholes. Carrie married Harvey Varnum and re-

This story was relayed by the hand of Lois (Field) White, a Danville resident who came across the desk while researching Morgan horses in local homes.



online



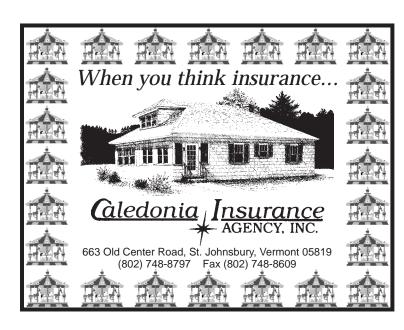
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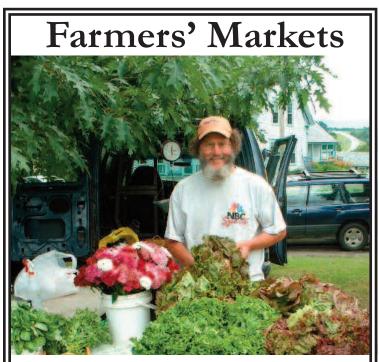
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Bill Half (above) of Harvest Hills Farm in Walden, is one of many vegetable vendors offering the best of locally grown fresh produce at both the Danville Farmers' Market (Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the Danville Green) and at the St. Johnsbury Farmers' Market (Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., behind Anthony's Diner.) Both markets are packed with vendors selling fruits and vegetables in season and other locally-grown agricultural products including eggs, meat. trout, honey and maple syrup. Bakers stay up all night to bring fresh goodies to market from strawberry-rhubarb pies to chocolate-almond biscotti. Visitors can enjoy a freshly prepared meal while walking around the markets. Bouquets of all kinds are available, as well as plants, crafts and wood products, soaps jams and jellies. Support your neighbors by visiting one of these fun events!



Sunday, August 9th • noon - 7 pm (Gate opens at 11 am) North Haverhill Fairgrounds, North Haverhill, NH

## On display

## 'Clear Visions' at the the Guild



**G**Clear Visions," a new exhibition at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, will feature work by prizewinning Vermont artists: photographer Jon Olsen of Norwich, and glass blowers Harry and Wendy Besett of Hardwick. The show opens August 21 at the Guild, 430 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury.

The work of these artists shares an invisible bond, which is evident in their response to beauty and in their ability to unite technical ability and aesthetic expression. According to Olsen's Website, www.jonolsenphotography.com, he has "always been an amateur naturalist and a student of the visual arts. . . . I am drawn toward the pastoral and simplicity in design."

Wendy Besett, for Vermont Glass Workshop, speaks of "the calling to pause a moment and breathe in." The Besetts' Website, www.vtglass.com, like Olsen's, is a source of much information about the artists' styles, honors and affiliations.

The Besetts' ability to design and reproduce a line of functional glass vessels enables them to replenish stock for customers,

but their art glass explorations allow them to fulfill their desire to "push the limits of the material or present techniques in a way they haven't been presented before." Such explorations led them to the creation of their magical landscapes on the inside of blown glass vessels.

In recent years, Jon Olsen has made the transition from a traditional wet darkroom to digital desktop processing and printing. He says that the "current set-up allows me the greatest creative control over all aspects of my workflow from conception to final print. . . . I use a watercolor paper coated to receive pigment inks on a digital printer. These two combine for the best print quality that I have ever been able to achieve and a highly stable archival print, more so than I could attain with traditional color print processes."

For the Besetts and Olsen, technical ability is the means to an end, and in the end it is the beautiful results that catch the eye and hold the attention of the viewer. Glasswork is so much about color, as the material admits and transmits light with immediate and powerful evidence. But in Hardwick at the Besetts' studio, mastery of form is the

vehicle that allows color to become such a transforming element in their work.

The power of light and shadow to reveal form is as clear in the delicate details of Olsen's botanicals as in his monumental landscapes. In the "Water" series, fog and reflection reduce the detail and organize a serene and abstract space. He knows where to go to get the best shots, and what time to get there. "It's the light," Olsen says, but it is clearly the inner vision of these artists that make their results so much more than is first apparent.

"Clear Visions," opening at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild on August 21, will run through September 29. A wine and cheese reception for the artists will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Guild on Saturday, August 22, and the public is cordially invited. Open hours at the Guild are between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with the work of over one hundred Vermont artisans on view. For more information visit the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild at 430 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, on its Website, www.nekguild.com, or by telephone (802) 748-0158.

## Thinking organically

#### **By VAN PARKER**

Two months ago, the **I** North Star featured the story of a new organic dairy farm in Danville. Every year farmers' markets, such as the ones in Danville and St. Johnsbury, seem to feature more organic fruits and vegetables. There are strict rules for a garden or farm to be deemed organic. Perhaps the most basic is that the grass cows eat or the vegetables grown in gardens cannot be treated with chemical fertilizers. Other recent North Star articles have cited statistics on the growth of farmers' markets, both in Vermont and all over the country. People increasingly want local food, and they like to talk to the people who are growing it. I don't know the correlation between the organic

movement and the multiplication of farmers' markets, but I'm sure there is one.

atively small garden, who uses a mixture of organic and non-organic seeds and who is learning to avoid using chemicals, the produce from my vegetable garden could not yet be certified as organic. Nor have I ever seen a sign proclaiming that this or that garden is "semi-organic." At any rate it appears to me that the word "organic" goes beyond what we grow in gardens to the way we think. A few years ago an independent presidential candidate named Ross Perot made quite an impressive run for the highest office in the land. Perot claimed that neither of the major political parties had it right. They weren't focusing on the real problems of the country. All you have to do, Perot claimed, is to "get under the hood" and fix what is wrong.

Perot was thinking mechanically rather than organically. A huge, complex nation, with a va-As someone who tends a rel- riety of interest groups, with a mixture of prejudices and ideals and with traditions that both drag us down and lift us up is more like an organism than even the most complicated machine. But the beauty of organisms is that they aren't static. They don't hold still. They are, in a sense, alive. Perhaps you were as moved as I was by the sights and sounds of the Iranian protesters. The courage of so many ordinary people was awe-inspiring. It gave us a rare glimpse of the people of Iran, especially the women. Who could forget them, marching with the men, urging their husbands and brothers to stand firm? One woman, interviewed by a member of the press, said the movement we were seeing on our TV screens and YouTube was organic. It



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>> Page 25

# Word play

#### By WOODY STARKWEATHER

Words give us pleasure in many ways. Beyond literature, or perhaps beneath it, are the many forms of word play. Many jokes are based on word meanings and pronunciations, as are puns, double entendres, and mondegreens. Mistakes in the use of words can be funny, especially when intentional. And then there are riddles and puzzles, conundrums, and anagrams. Yes, words are fun.

Puns, called the "lowest form of humor" by Samuel Johnson, seem to run in my family. When my father made one, my mother would often say, "Don't laugh. It only encourages him." And we would all remain stubbornly silent. Today, my wife does the same thing with me. Some puns - apparently not mine - actually are funny: "Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now." Or "I was wondering why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me." Or "A hole was found in the wall around the nudist camp. Police are looking into it.

The best of writers use puns, or at least used to. Shakespeare made thousands of them. Richard III begins with "Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer by this sun of York." Richard III was the son of the Duke of York. This pun was not intended to be funny but rather to ennoble Richard by comparing him, through the pun, to the sun. It would not be written today because puns now are the lowlives of humor and would debase rather than ennoble any person, including the author.

A pun must be deliberate. When it's a speaker's mistake, it's called a malapropism. Really good malapropisms have the ring of truth to them. My grandmother often produced such gems as "You could have knocked me over with a fender." Or, "He was just sitting there like a bum on a log." I think she may have borrowed them from Gracie Allen. If so, they were intentional, not malapropisms, but they did seem to be improvements on the original sayings.

Another play on words is the mondegreen. Mondegreens are words, usually in songs, that are misheard, but the mishearing is, often, better -funnier, wiser — than the original. Like the child who wanted to buy a pair of glasses for Gladly, the cross-eyed bear (Gladly the cross I'd bear). Or hearing "one naked individual" for "one nation indivisible" in the pledge of allegiance. The word mondegreen comes from a mishearing of an old Scottish ballad. The lyrics are "They hae killed the Earl a' Murry and laid him on the Green," but the last five words were misheard as "Lady Mondegreen. Today, you can find mondegreen in the dictionary, alive and well.

Spoonerisms are named after the Reverend William Archibald Spooner, a Warden of New College, Oxford, who produced more than his fair share of them. In the Reverend's case, and often in others, the spoonerism is unintentional, a form of speech error in which one part of a word is transposed with a similar part of another word, as in "I'm not as drunk as some thinkle peep." There's humor in that. Peter Sellers delivered three spoonerisms at once in "A Shot in the Dark" when he declared that a suspect had killed a victim in a "rit of felous jage."

Much word play in English is based on the double meanings that most words have. When a word is used in a way that makes both meanings simultaneously possible, it's amusing. For example, "Did you hear about the hunter who's inattention cost him his life? He was reading between the lions." Or, "The cartoonist's drawings were stolen. Details are sketchy." English, as I have written in previous articles, is rich in words that can mean more than one thing. "Rich," to seize the nearest example, can refer to personal wealth, the fat content of food, or the load of humor in a statement. This richness enables double meanings and the puns that exploit them.

to understand the second, often salacious, meaning. Shakespeare is full of them, and a quick reading of any of the comedies will reveal many. Few, however, are suitable for this publication. Mae West, another blonde bombshell, was a master of the salacious double entendre, but they too are a little racy for the North Star. A tame example is Marilyn Monroe's oft-quoted saying that she "Had nothing on but the radio." A funny thing about double entendres is that once you begin to hear them, you hear them all the time. Eventually, you can hardly say anything without provoking a reaction. I am so cursed.

Another kind of word play altogether is the puzzle – most notably the crossword puzzle — a form of entertainment so popular that it has become a minor industry. The New York Times puzzles, which increase in difficulty as the week progresses, are immensely popular. Personally, I don't feel as if the day has begun until I have solved the Times puzzle for the day, and on Fridays and Saturdays, my day often gets started behind schedule because the puzzle has taken me so long to solve. And then there are the anagrams, double crostics, and diagramless puzzles. Beyond the New York Times are many more word games — hangman, scrabble, and Yahtzee.

Here's one a friend of mine made up. Think of a pair of words, usually an adjective and noun, that rhyme but are not usually said together: "hung lung," "skinny whinny." When each word has one syllable, the pair is called a "hink-pink," with two syllables, you have a "hinky-pinky." Two three-syllable words are a "hinkety-pinkety." Then, say to your companion, "Here's a hinkpink." Then provide the definition. "What's a bodily organ that was out drinking the night before?" Answer: a hung lung. Or, here's a hinkety-pinkety: "What's a food you can believe in?" Answer: a credible edible. When you think of the long winters here in Vermont, the possibility that this word game might be amusing seems tenable. "Hmm, let's see. What rhymes with "tenable?"

## Stuart V. Corso, D.M.D.

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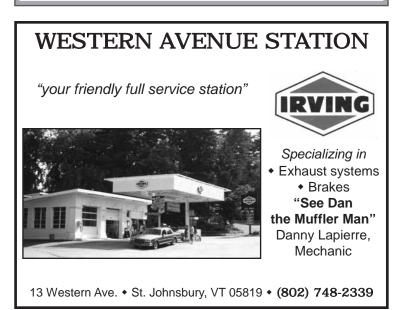
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True double entendre is a little different from these punishing examples. In double entendre, the first meaning is written, but the author wants us

#### >> Page 24

came from the people, not from outside countries like Britain or the U.S. This movement, she implied, may seem to disappear for a while but it will re-emerge.

There is another organic movement afoot in our country right now.

It's emerging in story after story of people who have been denied health care or never had it. They are joined by others who worry about rising costs and wonder whether they can continue to afford the care they now have. Men and women are citing chapter and verse as they recount their experiences. Deep down they know something is not right, something is unfair. Vermont's former governor, Howard Dean, speaks of this discontent and yearning for something better. He then reminds those who feel this way that they need to speak up, to rally, to write to their representatives in Congress. That's how change happens.

Healthy organisms have a way of correcting themselves. The organisms could be as big as the whole world or as small as your family.

Corrections always seem to begin right at home. I suspect living organically involves allowing and encouraging the corrections to take place.



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By Lynn A. Bonfield valuating student behavior and the subsequent diplomatic efforts with parents seem ever a challenge for educators who desire the best for their students. In 1847 the principal of the St. Johnsbury Academy, only five years after its founding, faced such a challenge. In a letter to the father of one of his students, James K. Colby (1812-1866) explained his reason for not granting a certificate for Alphonso F. Tilden for his entry into the Boston Latin School, the nation's first public school, founded in 1635. The issue was not Alphonso's grades but rather his "unexceptionable moral character." In fact, Alphonso did achieve entry into the Boston Latin School in 1847, according to the school's archivist, but she found no record of his graduation. In the school's directory published in 1886, there is a hint of the distasteful behavior the Academy principal noted; Alphonso Tilden is listed as "Actor."

Principal Colby was eulogized by his Dartmouth classmate of 1838, Judge James Barrett of the Vermont Supreme Court, at the Dartmouth College Alumni Association's meeting in 1867. The remarks, published in The Caledonian, are excerpted here:

After leaving college his life was but a fulfillment of the promise which his character and conduct during his student life had given forth . . . The village and town of St. Johnsbury, large and flourishing, had long ago cast their educational interests almost entirely into his control and management. The County and State recognized him for years as one of the most potent and beneficent agencies in helping forward the cause of education, as depending on common and graded schools and academies.

Teachers who treat a student, as did James Colby, hope their actions help shape the student's character and "make him a better man for the discipline." In the nineteenth century, this was a goal of education.

> St. Johnsbury Vt Aug. 27th 1847

Dear Sir

I have just recd a line from your son Alphonso reiterating the request made by yourself a few weeks ago respecting a certificate requisite for his admission to the Latin School in Boston. As I conclude that he writes with your knowledge it [is] necessary that you should learn particularly my reasons for sending you such a certificate as you recd. I regretted very much that your sons deportment in our school was such that to speak the truth of him I must needs wound the feelings of his parents. But I judged that it would be better that you should know his faults before it was too late to correct them and better too that he should feel that there are penalties for youthful delinquencies; and that a good character is something to be earned before it is obtained. After repeated admonition and promises of amendments I was obliged to remove him from his class instruction by one of our assistant Teachers. I do not suppose that he had any other motive than a desire to furnish sport for others while annoying his Teacher and wasting the time of the class. But I would have him feel that his estimate of such deportment is incorrect-that there is a right and a wrong pertaining to such



By the early fall the recommended teacher arrived. An onlooker gazing upon the large-framed, grave-faced man as he stepped down from the stagecoach remarked, "That man is real estate." On December 13, 1842 Principal James K. Colby (right) started teaching his first class of 23 pupils including six members of the Fairbanks family.

#### James K. Colby, first principal of the St. Johnsbury Academy. Photograph from Richard Beck's "A Proud Tradition, A Bright Future: A Sesquicentennial History of St. Johnsbury Academy."

things. From another class reciting to another assistant I removed him at her request—with the assurance that he hindered the improvement [of] his associates. I found moreover in him a disposition to prevaricate somewhat in my intercourse with him. This habit I am confident he is not aware of himself but I think a careful inquiry on your part will show that it exists.

I regret, Sir, thus to write but you will do me the justice to believe that I do this from no feelings of unkindness to your son or want of regard for yourself. I regret it on several accounts. I know it will wound your feelings, and may prevent his admission to the Latin School for a few months. But I do not think it would be kindness to him or justice to you if I should wink at his youthful delinquence and send a certificate of unexceptionable moral character. I deem it better to withhold such a certificate in the present circumstances though it may delay his admission to the Latin School for a few months. If he should be sent to school for any purpose of earning a certificate of good character I doubt not it would be more for his profit than any other course. Let him feel that he has been in the wrong and that for such wrong, trifling as it may now seem to him, there is a penalty in the forfeit of a good name and I am confident that under judicious parental care with the blessing of Providence he will be a better man for the discipline.

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#### Yours truly JK Colby

A copy of the original of this letter is preserved in the St. Johnsbury Academy Archives. The editor is grateful for help from Joanne Bertrand, archivist at the Academy, and Cynthia Curtner, archivist at the Boston Latin School. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Brackets enclose words added by the editor.

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## A break in the rain

### Walden Hill Journal with Jeff & Ellen Gold

#### Aug. 9, 2008

We finally have a dry day. Continuous rain from the end of July until today has left rivers very swollen and in many cases overflowing their banks. Roads have washed out and those that remain are very rough driving with too many potholes. I was finally able to sun-dry my laundry and give the dryer a well earned rest. Much of the lawn is too soggy to mow but I managed to cut most of the front. I had to rehill some of the potatoes and need to weed the overgrown asparagus bed to give it its midsummer fertilizing. The only thing that continues to thrive are the wild blueberries. We've been out in between showers, harvesting what we can.

#### Aug. 10, 2008

Two days in a row with sunshine and on the weekend to boot. We took advantage of the good weather to continue mowing, start weeding the asparagus bed and harvesting some more basil for pesto. We had fresh pesto tonight and put away 10 more double servings into the freezer. Snow peas complimented the meal nicely. I picked our first zucchini and will probably cook it tomorrow. Clouds have moved in so no chance of stargazing tonight. Last night was mostly clear and good for seeing a few meteors. Best of all was the cooler weather that kept the mosquitoes away.

#### Aug. 13, 2008

Danville Fair usually marks the beginning of the end of summer but this year it has also marked the start of Fall color. Trees in wetter areas are stressed over the excess water and are shutting down about a month ahead of schedule. Color also prevails in the form of rainbows, especially in the late afternoon. Singles, doubles and spot light prisms shine out against the dark sky. I guess that's one positive in all our daily downpours. The





Wheeler Mountain

other is a profusion of wildflowers everywhere. On the minus side are the size and quantity of mosquitos that have hatched. They and the slugs put a damper on the joys of weeding my overgrown asparagus bed. I've had two lengthy sessions out there so far and one more to go. Wildlife sightings continue: Dan spotted a huge bear in the wildlife crossing lane just down the road and Jean and I had a good view of a doe and fawn crossing Walden Hill Road just where the pavement begins. The fawn was still quite small but had outgrown its spots and was the same soft tan as its mother. Twilight is ending perceptively sooner. Our St. Jay concerts are no longer over by dusk. We definitely needed the gazebo lights this week and suffered with the bugs that were attracted to the lights and feast of human flesh.

#### Aug. 20, 2008

After two days of sun when rain was forecast and rain when sun was assured, I finally had a sunny day, as predicted, to hang out the laundry. It was a bit chilly with overnight temps showing a low of 44° but a gusty wind helped the sun to dry the wash. So now it's not only looking like Fall but beginning to feel like it as well. Jeff even turned the heater on in the car. Hopefully we'll see a bit more of summer before the Autumnal equinox rolls around.

#### Aug. 27, 2008

Clear, cool weather is bringing on the color. It's just in time for stu-



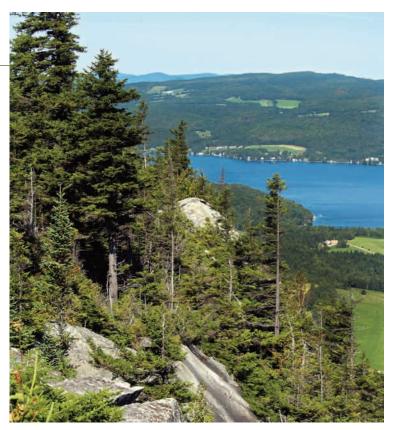


Mt. Pisgah

dents heading back to school. There's the usual talk of an early Fall and lamentations over Summer being over before it had a chance to get started. All I know is that I needed to don a sweatshirt yesterday morning to hang out the wash and I was still chilly even in the bright, full sunshine. Our view this morning shines with Fall clarity. Majestic calm prevails as a thick sea of fog flows throughout the mountains over the CT River. Breakfast was a feast of cereal with wild blueberries and our lunch yogurt drink rich and tangy with the addition of succulent blackberries. Zucchini is producing well and snow peas are still plentiful. I've dug a few potato plants, eating the smaller ones now and storing the bigger spuds for Winter. Dahlias are actually blooming this year before the frost arrives. Giving them an early indoor start did the trick.

#### Aug. 28, 2008

We took advantage of yesterday's beautiful weather to finally hike Wheeler Mountain. Jeff complained about the midday sun being too contrasty for pictures but the rest of us enjoyed the crystal clear view from high points along the way. A welcomed lunch stop at the



#### Lake Willoughby

first rocky expanse gave a wide panoramic vista over to Burke Mountain, Camel's Hump and Mt. Mansfield as well as a view back to Wheeler Pond. Red and orange foliage occasionally interrupted the rolling valley of green in all shades of summer fullness. More rock scrambling and forest ramblings finally brought us to the magnificent view at Eagle Cliff. A sign-in book and laminated map indicating the major peaks and lakes was unobtrusively tucked away in a peaked wooden box. "Welcome to Eagle Cliff" graced the inside of its door. Whistling broadwing hawks could be heard off in the distance and gradually grew louder as 3 magnificent birds came soaring overhead. It was quite a vigorous climb for our "senior" group but definitely worth the effort. A well-earned stop in Barton for ice cream revived us all and fresh picked Danville sweet corn for dinner capped a beautiful summer day.

#### Aug. 31, 2008

We're ending August with a burst of sunshine and a plague of mosquitos. Picking berries, digging potatoes or just hanging the laundry, I'm constantly being bitten. Jeff has been chased back inside too. There's little opportunity to enjoy the beautiful weather. I'm almost tempted to bring out my bug baffler attire. I've never known the mosquitos to be such a problem, especially this time of year. While making a quick pick through the blackberry patch I came upon a huge paper wasp nest. I marked a nearby tree with hanging yellow tape to be sure and give the wasps a wide berth. Jeff has been mowing perilously close to the nest but fortunately didn't alarm the inhabitants.

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## What's happening at town hall

#### **Barnet**

Town Clerk: Benjamin Heisholt Board: Ted Faris, Gary Bunnell and Jeremy Roberts

June 22, 2009 **Defibrillator** - Appearance and letter presented by Louis Bushey on behalf of the Barnet School Board stating the School Board's desire to install an automated external defibrillator at the Barnet School, and the School Board's request that its cost be shared equally by the School Board and Board. Total cost of the AED installation is \$2,450. After brief discussion, motion made by Roberts for the Board to pay for one-half of the expense of the AED (\$1,225). The Board approved.

**Road Paving** – The Board read a proposed contract from Pike Industries for paving project on Town Forest Road in the 2009 paving season. This proposed contract is amended from a previously-submitted proposed contract. Project includes reclamation, compacting and fine-grading the road and paving a 2" base course. Total cost of construction is \$34,275. After brief discussion, contract signed by Faris with Board's approval.

Sheriff's Department – The Board read a contract for term of July 1, 2009 to July 1, 2010 for the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department to provide the Town with police services including the aggregate amount of six hours per week from June 1 to October 31 and four hours per week from November 1 to May 30. Town expense for contract includes officer time at the rate of \$30 per hour, and court time at the rate of \$30 per hour. Contract signed by Faris with Board's approval.

**Zoning** – an appearance was made by Zoning Administrative Officer Shirley Warden to request that the Board waive the standard fee of application for a zoning permit for Wallace Thrall regarding Thrall's donation of land to the McIndoe Falls Cemetery. The

#### July 13, 2009

Invoice – The Board read invoice totaling \$120 for repairs to a hitching rail in the town right-of-way in front of Duncan McLaren's residence, which was damaged by the town Road Crew during winter plowing. Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs confirmed that the hitching rail was damaged by the town Road Crew. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to not pay the invoice. Barnet School – Three invoice were read detailing costs of adding a lane along the side of the driveway to the Barnet School. These included an invoice from Richard Stevenson for \$7,481 and two from Calco Inc., for \$1,381 and \$464 respectively. After brief discussion regarding whether the Town or School District is responsible for paying these invoices, the Board agreed that Jeremy



Roberts will contact the School Board to discuss the matter.

**Tax Rates** - Correspondence from Department of Taxes setting the town's Education Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2010 was presented. The non-residential tax rate to be \$1.3385 per hundred and the homestead tax rate to be \$1.2684 per hundred.

Dump Truck - The Board reviewed the current status of financing for the new truck the town ordered. Total cost of truck is \$116,281. The loan from the State of Vermont for \$60,000 has already beenobtained. There is a current balance of \$35,068 in the truck fund (not including State of Vermont loan proceeds or 2009 appropriation of \$50,000). After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to finance onehalf of the remaining cost of the truck (\$28,140.50) through a oneyear loan from Community National Bank and pay the other half from the truck fund.

#### Cabot

Town Clerk: Tara Rogerson Board: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and Ted Domey

#### Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett Administrative Assistant Dan

Hill Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Kevin Calkins and Kermit Fisher

June 22, 2009 Velco Substation - Ken Mason, from Lyndonville Electric, discussed the proposed substation planned for Hill Street. The Board prefers the easterly most of the two proposed accesses.

Excess Weight Permit – A motion was made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Kevin Calkins, to approve the excess weight permit of Ditech Transportation, Inc. with the usual conditions and to authorize Dan Hill to sign the permit on behalf of the Board. Motion carried 3-0.



**Fire/Rescue Truck Bid** - Sixteen bids were received for the 1987 GMC 3500 truck. Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Kevin Calkins, to accept the high bid of \$3,155 from Ron Faufaw. Motion carried 3-0.

**Gymnasium Update** - Three borings were taken to a depth of 51 feet and showed that the structure is sitting on sand and clay. The Board would prefer to address the issue of the water draining off of the roof into the gymnasium rather than the movement of the floor.

Aerial Fire Truck Update - After dropping some of the options discussed at the prior meeting, the price for the new truck has come down to \$500,000 after the trade-in of the old truck.

Bridge #6 Construction Bid - Three bids were received for reconstruction of Bridge #6. The Board accepted the low bid from Kirk Fenoff at \$41,875. The project is scheduled for completion before the start of school.

#### Peacham

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

June 17, 2009 **Dump Truck** – The Board discussed financing and payments schedules with Community National Bank for a new 10 wheel dump truck.

**Road Review** - Ha'Penny Road culvert plan from V-TRANS was reviewed. Drawings are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Existing stone work for culvert facing will be used at the site.

**Plow Truck** – The Board authorized the Road Foreman to accept a reasonable bid for the sale of the 1995 International plow truck. Browne seconded.

**Roller Barn** – A proposed renovation and cost feasibility were discussed. McKay moved that the Board conduct a site inspection of the Roller Barn.

Grant Policy - A draft of a proposed Town Grant Policy was presented by Town Auditor Jan Eastman. The policy was reviewed and edited by the Board. A grant cover sheet will be drafted by the Town Auditors which will accompany each grant application and contain grant details and requirements for review and approval by the Board. Revenue and expenses generated by the grants would be reflected in budgetary line items presented in the annual Town Report. The Board approved the policy as edited.

were reviewed. The Board discussed the Post Office space requirements.

#### July 1, 2009

Access to Town Land – A tour of Peacham Fire District access road leading to the old Town reservoir was held. The Fire Department will be contacted regarding any road work to be done at that site.

Roller Barn – A site visit to the Town Roller Barn and surrounding landscape was conducted. Consensus of building professionals present was that the roller barn could be restored at a reasonable cost. The proposal would include an historical facility for a snow roller replica and also serve as the trail head for the Peacham Town Trails project. Necessary tree work will be discussed with Peacham Tree Warden Neil Monteith. Sources of funds for the rehabilitation project were discussed. The Board urged that coordination take place between the Tree Board, Trails Committee, and the Conservation Commission regarding the Roller Barn Project proposal.

**Zoning** – Bob Hansen, zoning administrator, reported on two zoning developments. A failed septic system in East Peacham was reported. Town Health Officer Sharon Mc-Donnell viewed the site and Steve Rebillar, an engineer from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, has been contacted. The Board will be kept informed as

### August 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.

**Aug 4** - Lemon rosemary chicken, rice pilaf, peas, carrots, whole wheat rolls and V-8 juice.

Aug. 11 - Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, peas and carrots.

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**Town Hall Renovations** - Drawings of various Town Hall floor plan layouts and State Building Codes



**Aug. 13** - Apricot and shallot stuffed pork loin, brown rice, cranberry sauce, California vegggis and lemon bars.

Aug. 18 - Liver, bacon, onion, peppers, hamburgers, mashed potato, whole wheat rolls, california veggies and V-8 Juice.

Aug. 20 - Grilled chicken breast, fettucini alfredo, garlic bread, broccolo and carrots.

Aug. 25 - Macaroni and cheese, kielbasa, peas and carrots, V-8 juice, whole wheat rolls and fruit crisp. Aug. 27 - Meatloaf topped with tomatoes, peppers and onions, mashed potato, carrots, whole wheat rolls and oatmeal cookies. to any developments regarding this potential hazard. A non-compliant house construction on Green Bay Loop was discussed. The height of the building is currently in violation of Peacham's bylaws. The Peacham Town Attorney has been contacted and has encouraged the Board to proceed with enforcement. An attachment to the deed regarding the non-compliant status of the building was discussed. Action by the Zoning Board of Adjustment is also planned.

Road Foreman Report - Martin's Pond box culvert installation is scheduled to begin next week. The road will be closed all week. The Fire Department will has been notified. Architectural plans have been returned to the Town for the Ha'Penny Road culvert. In addition the State Agency of Transportation has informed the Town that the Penny Street culvert design is complete and is also being sent. Quotes from Calco Company for the manufacturing costs of these two culverts were discussed. Drawings for the Ha'Penny culvert design are available for public review at the Town Clerk's Office.

#### St. Johnsbury

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

June 8, 2009

**Town Wide Police** – Kimbell reported that the Finance Committee was looking at the possibility of instituting town-wide police coverage, only in the very preliminary

#### August 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.

Aug. 5 - Beef stew, fruit salad, biscuit, raspberry, cream cheese squares. Aug. 7 - Buffet

Aug. 12 - Salmon-pea-

stages. The reason behind it was a report from the State of Vermont that indicated State Police coverage could be discontinued in certain towns depending upon size and other police coverage available. St. Johnsbury was mentioned several times in the report. Kimbell said this is a controversial topic, saying he has heard from many local citizens both for and against expanded police coverage and it seems to be a divided issue. Kimbell reported over 10,000 calls just in St. Johnsbury for 2008 for combined state and local police. Bruce Corrette and Stan Wilkins both indicated they were not in favor of expanded police coverage. Board member Jim Rust reiterated that the Board is not planning any change soon, but felt they needed to examine the issue because of the report from the State. High Voltage - John Goodrich, president of Weidmann Electrical Technology (WET), presented their plan to erect a substation and run High Voltage Transmission Line from the New Boston Road to the new substation. Goodrich pointed out that Weidmann is a global industry that needs to stay competitive in the global economy, and electrical power is one of its largest expenses in Vermont. He indicated that the company could save conservatively 15 percent in energy costs with the construction of the substation. Tim Upton and Ryan Johnson were available from CVPS to discuss the proposed positioning of the power lines, and the reasons for their location. Chris Martel questioned other possible locations for the lines and how property owners would be compensated for the easements. Martel was under the impression that once a property owner signed permission for a survey, they would be locked into a certain price to be determined by the Utilities Board. He was assured by

St. Johnsbury Development Fund. John Goodrich asked for the support of the Board for construction of the substation and transmission lines. On a motion by Gary Reis, seconded by Jean Wheeler, the Board voted (4-0) to write and sign a letter of support for the project. Bryon Quatrini recused himself from the vote.

Junk - Priscilla Messier reported that she has reviewed several areas of town that have been reported as having an excessive amount of visible junk and trash that needs to be cleaned up. Messier has been working with Health Officer Tim Angell in several cases because of possible health issues involved with garbage that may attract rodents. In some cases Messier said she is working with mental health facilitators, and trying to take into consideration the financial situation of the offenders. Messier plans to send letters to some property owners in the coming week to notify them of violation, and they will be given 30 days to clean up the area. After the allowed clean up time, violators can be charged a fine of \$100 per day or an immediate fine of \$500. Reis asked how that would be determined and Messier said that there are specific guidelines in the State Statutes as to how fines are meted out. Messier distributed pictures of some of the offending sites, located on Sunset Drive, Rabbit Plains, Crepeault Hill and Duke Street. Nancy Cohen asked if people could be fined for dumping trash, garbage, or household debris on other people's property along the roadside. She was informed that they could be fined, but there would have to be some very definitive proof of who did the dumping. Jay Wood asked about living conditions inside the home, and Messier said her department has no control over that.

#### June 22, 2009

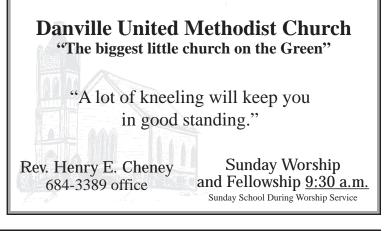
**Breezy Hill Site Visit** - Chair Daniel Kimbell chaired the site visit. Hychalk reviewed his concerns with the members of the Board. Hychalk feels that the roadway was elevated at least 6 inches when it was reconstructed in 1992. he said if the Town paves Breezy Hill – this will raise the road up even more and cause him additional problems in his driveway. Others present expressed concerns about vehicle rates of speed, and being unable to see vehicles as they come out of their driveways. Larry Gadapee said there are no immediate plans to pave Breezy Hill Road. Danny Scott said there would need to be a large amount of material removed to reduce the elevation of the roadway - as you would need to excavate the poor material. Following the site visit, members of the Board returned to the Municipal Building for the regular board meeting.

School Zone – Welch presented the members of the Board with the results of a speed and traffic study conducted by the St. Johnsbury Police Department, in the vicinity of the St. Johnsbury School on Western Avenue. A total of 560 vehicles were monitored with speeds ranging from 19 mph to 43 mph in the vicinity of the crosswalks. The average speed, depending on time period monitored, was between 31.07 and 32.87 mph. Werner Heideman, a member of the school board, asked the Board to consider a reduced speed limit of 25m ph, during the peak periods, when school is in session. Members of the Board agreed that they should take all precautions to make this area as safe as possible.

Recreation Board - The Board reviewed the minutes from the Recreation Board meeting held on Thursday, June 11. Tracey Verge, former chairman of the Recreation Board has resigned. The Recreation Board has recommended that Thomas Viles be appointed as a Regular Member to fill the term vacated by Verge, and that Dale Urie be appointed as the Recreation Board alternate member. Jamie Ryan has agreed to serve as chairperson of the St. Johnsbury Recreation Board. The Recreation Board is also seeking a student representative.

Public Works Director– Welch announced that Danny P. Scott, will become St. Johnsbury's director of public works effective July 1. Scott has served as the superintendent of the water and sewer department since 1981. All public works responsibilities in St. Johnsbury including water/sewer and highway will fall under the supervision of Scott.





wiggle, crackers, pickled beets, grape nut pudding. **Aug. 14** - Roat beef, mashed potato, mixed veggies, rolls, vanilla pudding and mandarin oranges.

Aug. 19 - Macaroni salad, cottage cheese and fruit, sliced cold meat, homemade bread, peaches and cream.

Aug. 21 - Hamburger meatloaf with gravy, mashed potato, broccoli, carrot and raisin salad, dark bread and pears.

Aug. 26 - Chipped beef and egg gravy, boiled potatoes, buttered beets, biscuit and fresh fruit.

Aug. 28 - Baked stuffed chicken breast, mashed potato, summer squash casserole, rolls, cake and ice cream. spoke in support of the project were: Stan Wilkins, Nancy Cohen, Chamber of Commerce Director Darcy McCann, Steve Paterson from NVDA and Peter Crosby from the

the CVPS representatives this

would not be the case and the prop-

erty owners would be contacted

soon to negotiate property values

and set appointments for surveys.

The project must post a 45-day no-

tice before going before the State

Public Service Board, and the Pub-

lic Service Board will be consider-

ing the public good and input from

local citizens and the Board. Joel

Schwartz pointed out that the creation of this substation will benefit

the area in that other industries

might be able to tap off the line, and

could also benefit the Industrial

Park. Others in the audience who



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ur Sunday Concerts on the Green are off to a great start. The season kicked off with a concert by the Danville Town Band. This concert was dedicated to Janet Wakefield, who passed away in June. Janet was our longtime friend and attended most of our concerts and "passed the hat" for the library. We all miss her.

The concert schedule for August is "Mr. E and Friends" on Aug. 2, Bob Amos Band on Aug. 9, Skip and Debbie Gray on Aug. 16, Cold Country Bluegrass on Aug. 23 and the Danville Town Band on Aug. 30. There will also

be a homemade pie auction at the last concert to benefit the Senior Meal site. All concerts begin at 6:30 pm. It's a lovely way to spend a summer evening with friends and family.

**Pope Notes** 

with Dee Palmer, Library Director

There is still time to buy raffle tickets for the beautiful glasstopped accent table handcrafted by local artist, Joe Hallowell. The table is on display in the library and tickets can be purchased here: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will take place at the Danville Fair on Aug. 8. You do not need to be present to win.

The Vermont "Check Out the Parks" pass is available here! You can borrow a pass which allows one vehicle holding up to

eight people into any Vermont State Park Day Area for free! We also have Library Echo Pass for the Echo Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington. This pass allows two adults and three kids in for \$2 each.

We have many new books available for summer reading! A few of our newest acquisitions are: Resilience by Edwards, Mom and Pup by Buckley, Olive Kittredge by Strout, The Reliable Wife by Goolrick, The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo by Larrson and Finger Lickin' Fifteen by Evanovich, The Shadow of the Wind and The Angels Game by Zafon. Come in and check them out!



## 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.

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

Ist & 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 Tuesdays: Caledonia Right to Life will meet at St John's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1375 Main St, St Johnsbury, VT at 7:00 pm.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.

Wednesdays: Danville Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon, on the green.

Wednesdays: Peacham Farmers Market at the Union Store, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Bandstand Park Concerts in Lyndon, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

PEACHAM CAPE

Built in the 1850's, this 4-bedroom, 2 bath Greek cape still retains all it's charm, yet has been tastefully updated. Soothing soft colors, wideboard floors and 6 over 6 reThursdays: 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.

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

Fridays: Lyndon Farmers Market, 3 to 7 p.m., Bandstand Park on Route 5.

Fridays: Hardwick Farmers Market, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., between Greensboro Garage and Aubuchon's

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

Saturday & Sunday: Ben's Mill Museum

in Barnet through October. (802) 748-8180.

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

Saturdays: Caledonia County Farmers Market, St. Johnsbury, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., behind TD Banknorth on Pearl St.

Saturdays: Craftsbury Common Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

ML#2784408

and cross country skiing.

Ist & 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

2nd Saturdays: West Barnet Grange community breakfasts from 8-10 a.m.

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

Sundays: Groton Growers Summer Market, Veterans Memorial Park, 9 a.m. to noon.



#### Danville

10.1 ac of usable land on route 2B in Danville. It's partially open field with good soil and plenty of room for horses and/or a house with views. The wooded part of land has a unique trail system already in place for your motorized and/or non-motorized recreational use. The trails allow access to the VAST trail system and abandoned railroad tracks that could bring you to Joe's pond, Wolcott, and beyond. Power is at the road and ready for someone to buy and enjoy. MLS #2784998

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



Take a look at this 3 bedroom, 2 bath log home on 11.8+/- acres

located in a private location walking distance of Joes Pond. There is

a custom cherry kitchen, wood floors, 1st floor master bedroom with

walk-in closet & front porch overlooking a private yard. This is a great

horse property with fenced pasture, barn with electric, water and hay

storage. There are extensive trails for horseback riding, snow shoeing,

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This is a work in progress. The builder is local. He will finish this house to your taste. But he is finishing it as you read this. Pix of his previous works in Barnet and Peacham are available. This future upscale home is located in Littleton. Just out of town and near the hospital. The views of the Presidentials will step right into your home. Sited with full southern exposure. Presently \$399,000



#### #2742255

This custom built log home enjoys total privacy. Long curved drive keeps the house invisible from the road. Manicured grounds, plenty of garden space, gorgeous views that are unobstructed by other houses. All day sun, rise to set. Custom cupboards and a big stone fireplace. 10+acres of fields and some woods \$375.000



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sitting on one of the porches overlooking the apple trees and absorbing the peace and quiet of this large yard.

it character. Picture yourself

placement windows give



Added features are attached barn and school choice, plus this home is certified "Lead Free". Move-in condition.

\$289,000

#### CAPE WITH 37 ACRES

New to the market, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath cape is perched high on a hill, facing Mt Washington, surrounded by 37 acres of woods and open land. From the deck



panoramic views of the White Mountains will absolutely take your breath away! An open floor plan for the kitchen, dining area and living room is inviting, and there is a 4th bedroom or home office . plus bath on the 1st. floor. Upstairs is a spacious master bedroom w/bath and 2 more good-size bedrooms. The walk-out basement will make a great familyroom and you'll still have plenty of storage

\$297,000



Situated on 99 picturesque acres with clear views of the Green Mountains this beautiful estate is now waiting for its next owner. This elegant 1800's cape code style home couples old style charm with modern convenience and has been carefully maintained for the last 27 years by the current owners. The old charm includes wide softwood floors, hand hewn ceiling beams, plaster walls, a large artist studio with a great stone fireplace, a beautiful wood cook-stove. Modern conveniences include, updated electrical system, furnace, water heater and UV water treatment system, newer metal roof, renovated bathroom and heated cellar. There are about 2 acres of cleared land around the house with fruit trees in the back. There is also a two car detached garage with a workshop and toilet. With potential for subdividing, this property is an uncommon treasure. Offered exclusively by Century 21 Winn Associates, Littleton, NH 03561 Tel: 603-444-7781 Sales agent Clif Muller at 802-274-6306 MLS# 2608938 Price: \$550,000







## **Events** in the **NEK**

#### SAT.I:

- »Fair Trade Craft Sale, purchase beautiful and affordable fair trade handmade items by artisans in developing regions at the Greensboro United Church of Christ's semi-annual sale in the church's Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. Call (802) 533-2223 or gucc@guccvt.org for more information, or visit www.serrv.org for a preview.
- »Opening Day at the Great Vermont Corn Maze in North Danville - find your way through pathways of corn, 10 a.m., weather permitting, 1404 Wheelock Road, North Danville, VT. (802) 748-1399, info@vermontcornmaze.com, www.vermontcornmaze.com
- »12-Strings perform at Stillwater State Park in Groton, 7 p.m., acoustic guitar duo, Joe &

Mike, will entertain park visitors with soothing sounds from the 1960 to 1980's. Call (802) 584-3822 for more info.

- »Avi and Celia perform at the Tamarack Grill, 8 p.m., a raucous washboard, sliding steel guitar, and two resounding voices bond together to deliver gritty, original music. Call (802) 626-7300. or visit skiburke.com for more info.
- »Annual Airshow at Lakeview Aviation in Newport, located five miles south of downtown Newport, Vermont on the shores of beautiful Lake Memphremagog. Call (802) 334-5001 or E-mail: dan@lakeviewaviation.com for more information.

#### **SUN.2:**

- »Keiser Pond Conservation Celebration. Celebrate conservation with a field day on Keiser Pond from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the Keiser Pond boat access.
- »Vermont Cheese and Wine **Tasting,** 4 p.m. The Highland Lodge and Greensboro Histori-

cal Society invite you to sample nationally acclaimed Vermont Cheeses and wines. Please call Highland Lodge, (802) 533-2647 for reservations.

- »Plum Island Shore Bird Trip with the NEK Audubon. Join us at the Mass. coast as we look for migrating shore birds, some still in their breeding plumage. Meet at exit 44 rest stop off I-93 at 6 a.m. Call Tom at (802) 626-9071 or email blackpoll@myfairpoint.net.
- »2008 Danville Summer Music Series, featuring Mr. E. & Friends.

#### TUES.4:

»Rug Hooking, 10 a.m., with Carolyn Buttolph, held at Catamount Arts. Call Catamount (802) 748-2600 for more info.

#### THURS.6:

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»Bringing Local Foods to Market: Linking Producers and Consumers with Melissa Bridges, St. Johnsbury Food Co-op, and Peter Griffin, Old Shaw Farm, 7 p.m. at the Peacham Library.



Photo by Vanessa Bean LUNENBURG—This moose stopped to stare at passersby.

#### »Experimental Theater Lab

on Thursday mornings at Bread and Puppet theater, 10 a.m., Call (802) 525-303 l or (802) 525-1271, breadpup@together.net, breadandpuppet.org for more information.

#### WED.5:

MLS # N2766486 >

\$425,000

MLS # N2786291 \$71,000

≪MLS # N2786289 \$103.000

tains. Apple orchard, meadows

and choice of High Schools.

Two adjacent parcels of land in Wa-

terford with outstanding views of the

Connecticut River and White Moun-

woods, stone walls, power roadside

Beautiful 1909 Arts and Crafts home on

large professionally landscaped lawn in

St. Johnsbury. New custom built kitchen,

hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, 5 Bdrms,

2 Full Baths and 2 add/l 1/2 baths. Mas-

ter Bdrm suite, Family room, Large cov-

ered porch. High School Choice.

»Black Bird Singing: A Celebration of Ravens and Their





#### AMLS # N2788243

1875 Plank home located on the banks of the Water Andric in Danville. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Large screened porch overlooking the water. Original floors & exposed beams. 2 Fireplaces. 2nd floor attic. Separate Barn with attached 2 car garage on 9+/- acres. \$195,000

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#### **Perfect Post and Beam**

ML2787653 This beautiful timber frame home is sited on 3.12 acres in Danville. It's the perfect post and beam family home with an open kitchen/dining area, a cozy living room with wide pine floors, 4 bedrooms, three floors of finished space! Beautifully landscaped with a brand new gazebo so you can sit outside and enjoy. Plus 2 sheds for storage. Don't let this one pass you by ...



#### Must see home

ML2775948 Spacious four-bedroom, 2-acre lot, farmer's porch. Home features large eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, 1st floor laundry with 3/4 bath, brand new roof, siding, and windows. The sunroom faces directly south and showcases spectacular 180 degree mountain views.



#### **SAT.8**:

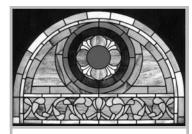
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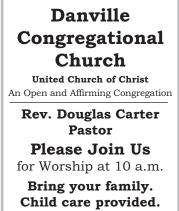
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**BEGIN REALTY ASSOCI.** 

»The Danville Fair, the tradition goes back further then most of us. This is truly a good ole country fair, starting with a street dance on Friday night. Saturday will begin with the parade starting at 10 a.m. through town, then followed by the Grand Horse Pulling as a major event drawing the best teams in the area.Visit www.danvillevt.com for more info.

»SummerFest - Downtown St. J, 9 a.m., train rides, free events located all over downtown St.Johnsbury. Come and enjoy downtown!





(802) 684-1151 www.danville-ucc.org

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\$259,000



#### Joe's Pond Waterfront Home

ML2732770 100 feet +/- of water frontage on the 3rd pond at Joe's Pond is but one of the assets of this property. The style - in and out - the quality of materials and workmanship, the unique features such as the gazebo built as part of the deck, the cozy breakfast nook overlooking the water all add up to make this one of the premier homes on Joe's. Extra lot across the street included and great for parking.

\$450.000



#### **1847 Brick Cape Home**

ML2703026 Three bedrooms, 2 3/4 baths, original wide softwood floors, country kitchen with pantry, formal dining room, huge living room, detached Carriage house. High school choice.

Just reduced to \$149,500 ... a great price for this home.

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# Friday Evening, Aug. 7 & Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009

## Annual DANVILLE **Y FAIR** COMMUN

Sponsored by: Danville Chamber of Commerce

## **Fair Day Events**

10ам	Children's Parade
10ам	Craft Sale & Floral Hall
11am	Grand Street Parade
11:45ам	Danville School Band
Noon	Maple Leaf Seven
Noon	Antique Tractor Show
1рм	Bingo
1рм	Live Auction
1рм	Horse Pulling
3рм	Best of Friends
5:30рм	Barbeque
7 <sub>PM</sub>	Bel Aires
9 <sub>PM</sub>	Prize Drawings on the Bandst

### **Sponsored by:**

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Sat. Afternoon

1-5 PM

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tand

**Begin Realty** Danville Restaurant & Inn **Danville Service Station Diamond Hill Store** 

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**Buy a \$2.00** tag to support the fair for a chance on drawings for \$250 & \$100 cash prizes! Drawings held at 9 PM Saturday. Fri. Evening Your ticket must be present to win!

## Honoring 2009 Citizens of the Year: **Danville's Dairy Farmers**



**Theme: Celebrating our** Agricultural Heritage

Rides! Food! **Friday Night Dance on The Green** Featuring NOMAD



#### **Sponsored by: Creamery Restaurant** John Larrabee Construction Larrabee's Building Supply

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Marty's 1st Stop Sawyer-Ritchie Agency Sugar Ridge RV Village & Campground

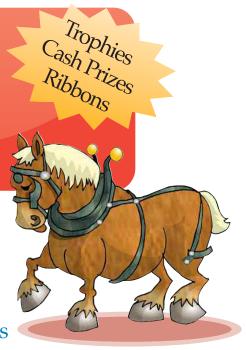
Pony Pull Friday 6рм 1800 lb



8PM Free-For-All

Horse Pull Saturday **1PM 3300 lb Class Free-For-All 3**PM

**Sponsored by: Crosstown Motors** Littleton Chevrolet Maple Hill Horse Farm Marty's 1st Stop New England List Services Gilmour Ford



Country Styles, Rowell Brothers Ford, Optical Expressions

»Colin McCaffrey performs at the Tamarack Grill, 8 p.m. Mountain music, Quebecois fiddle tunes, Cajun, Country, and Bluegrass. Call (802) 626-7300 or visit skiburke.com for more information.

#### **SUN.9:**

- »2008 Danville Summer Music Series, featuring Bob Amos.
- »Sheffield Old Home Day, located at the "Baptist Church on the Hill" at 10:45 a.m. Luncheon served following service.

#### SAT.15:

- »Swimming to a spring-fed **pond** followed by a free-range chicken and corn BBQ and bonfire, presented by the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium at 9 a.m.
- »Rik & Bec at The Music Box. 8 p.m., Craftsbury. Rik & Bec draw from the deep well of American music that spans the gap from the traditional ballad, blues, and cowboy songs to the folk revival of Guthrie and Seeger, to their own roots based in original music. More info at www.themusicboxvt.org or (802) 586-7533.
- SCHOOL OF HUMAN SERVICES IEIC COIES ST. JOHNSBURY CAMPUS

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Springfield College is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

- »Circus Smirkus, 7 p.m on Sat.; I & 6 p.m. Sunday, I Circus Road, Greensboro, VT 05841. Vermont's acclaimed, non-profit international traveling youth circus ends its 22nd annual season at home in Greensboro ! For tickets visit www.smirkus.org or I-877-SMIRKUS. For information, call (802) 533-7443, or email info@smirkus.org
- »3rd Annual Woodbury Old Home Day, 9 a.m., This year's Woodbury Old Home Day celebrates the theme of Woodbury Veterans, and includes a variety of activities. Contact Carolyn Stewart at (802) 456-8108 for more information.

#### SUN.16:

- »2008 Danville Summer Music Series, featuring Skip & Debbie Gray.
- »How to appreciate Black and White Photography, Sunday afternoon lecture series, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Rosie Prevost, a local photographer and in-coming chairperson of the Fine Arts Department at St. Johnsbury Academy. Call (802) 748-260 for more info. www.catamountarts.org
- **»The Dirt Cheap Money** Circus and Pagaent at Bread and Puppet Theater in Glover, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The shows will either be in the Circus field or the Paper Mache Cathedral depending on weather. Call (802) 525-3031 or (802) 525-1271 for more info.

#### MON.17::

»St. Johnsbury - Concerts in the Park all summer, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. At the Bandstand, Monument Square (Main Street) in St. Johnsbury. Call (802) 748-8891 or visit www.stjohnsburyband.org for more info.

#### **SAT.22:**

- »Fundraiser to benefit Northeast Kingdom Habitat for Humanity, Home and Garden Tour I-5 p.m. Social Evening/ Picnic catered by Elements/Music by Skip and Debbie Gray/Silent Auction at Joes Pond Pavilion. Call Sara Heft (802) 274-0102 or Mary Swainbank (802) 748-6239 for tickets.
- »Burke Mountain birding with the NEK AUdubon.We'll hike up from lower lodge area to the top. Meet at 6 a.m. at White's/Agway parking lot, exit 23 off I-91. Call Tom at (802) 626-9071 or email blackpoll@myfairpoint.net.

#### SAT.23:

»2008 Danville Summer Music Series, featuring Cold Country Bluegrass.

#### SUN.30:

»Old North Church Lamplight Service and Hymn Sing, 7:30 p.m., North Danville. Host pastor, the Rev. Dr. William L. Schutter, South Congregational Church.

»2008 Danville Summer Music Series, featuring Danville Town Band.





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