



# THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

JULY 2009

Volume 22, Number 3



a life

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## Spotting a thunderstorm

BY NATHANIAL TRIPP

It starts innocently enough; a puff of cloud over the Kittredge Hills the only blemish in an otherwise perfectly blue sky. By mid-morning the dew is off the grass and those with hay down are getting ready to work it. A gentle breeze begins to waft before noon as the sun's heat grows stronger. Hawks soar in the rising warm air. A weather front is approaching beyond the hills, piling more clouds higher. These are the ingredients for a thunderstorm, and folks in the know will keep an eye out.

We don't get thunderstorms as frequently or severely as places down south; there are some summers when we get hardly any. But

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## Straw Houses Big Bad Wolf beware?

*Lyndon State College professor Alan Boye (inset) has built his Barnet home using a straw bale technique he saw during his time in the southwest. How does it hold up to Vermont's elements?*

*You may be surprised...*

BY NORMAN JOHNSON

"The audacity of an English professor, thinking he could build a house," said the father of a colleague of Alan Boye, professor of English at Lyndon State College.

Boye didn't just build any house. He and his wife Linda Wacholder, director of career services at LSC, recently spent their first winter in an energy efficient straw bale home in Barnet.

"They started building straw houses in my home state of Nebraska about 140 years ago. Some are still standing," Boye quipped. With his and Wacholders' two boys now out on their own, the couple wanted to move from their large house in St. Johnsbury to something more efficient. Boye knew from experience that straw bale homes are warm in winter, cool in summer. He also wanted to live more self sufficiently, taking ad-

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# Looking back at a great year

About a year ago, Ginni and I would have been sitting down with Terry and Kathy Hoffer and Tim and Suzanne Tanner, offering up several signatures to officially transfer the *North Star* from their hands to

## The road was bumpy at times, but it has been very rewarding.

ours.

I find it interesting to look back at what where we were when we started, what we expected, what our future plans were and what surprised us. The road was bumpy at times, but it has been very rewarding.

Over the last year, we've dealt with some interesting and topical subjects. When fuel was approaching \$5/gallon we spoke with locals who were making the move to alternative energy. We listened to Barnet's Taylor Coppenrath talk about his professional basketball career in Europe. We sat down with St. Johnsbury's Catherine Billig and Danville's Dick Diefenbach and chronicled their memories of important St. Johnsbury landmarks, like the Main Street clock and the Arnold Park fountain. We spoke with two Peacham residents living off the grid and creating their form of backwoods Americana music. We watched two Danville students head to Washington D.C. for the presidential inauguration. East Burke's Jack Davis recounted his memories of the Northeast Kingdom

logging industry before mechanization took over. Two Lyndon residents told us about the island they discovered in the North Pole, while Danville's Dan Zucker took us on an avalanche ride down the slopes of Mt. Washington. Lastly, we checked in with North Danville's Casey Carson and his quest to open a successful, family-operated dairy farm while Vermont's once proud agriculture base continues to shrink.

The growing interest in the *North Star* tells us our loyal readers, and a growing number of new arrivals, enjoy these stories about their community friends and community.

Before I wound up sitting in the *North Star's* office, I spent the better part of four years sitting at a desk that faced a wall. In high school, I often talked about leaving the area for bigger and better opportunities around the world. After college, I moved to a different state and spent the next four years sitting at that desk, facing that wall. As time went on, my desk became fancier but the wall in front of me never changed. Eventually, I realized how much I wanted to come back and that I was going to have to do something about that wall, myself.

As Terry Hoffer wrote in his farewell editorial a year ago, we weren't looking for each other but our paths crossed nonetheless. After that initial meeting, the next several weeks were a blur as we discussed whether or not we had the skills and resources to run a magazine.

A little over a month later, we came home, I turned my desk around so it overlooked Hill Street and took my place in the prestigious chain of *North Star* stewards since 1807.

I don't expect I'll be leaving anytime soon.

### From the Editor

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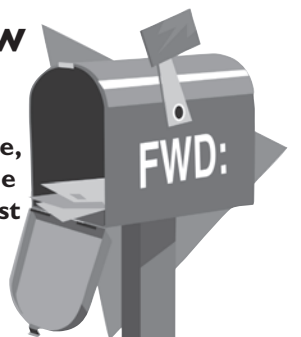
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**ARTICLES:** We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to you sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.  
**PHOTOS:** We'd like to see your photos and welcome them with a story or without. They can be black-and-white or color, but they must be clear.  
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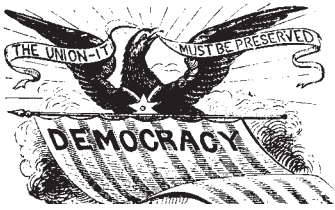
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# Circus comes to St. Johnsbury while the Department of War tests a new weapon: torpedo balloons

**The North Star**

"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"

1807-1889  
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Danville, Vermont



THE NORTH STAR

July 13, 1877

**Heavy Fine** - George Metcalf, of St. Johnsbury, who sold liquor to three young men who drowned recently at that place, fled to Canada, but on July 4, he returned to Newport or Barton to attend the races and was arrested there. He was brought back to St. Johnsbury and placed in jail. At his hearing, he was fined for 13 liquor offenses, with costs. He also plead guilty to a previous charge of assault and battery. For all those offenses, he was fined \$198 and costs and was committed to jail until the fine is paid.

**Burglars Sentenced** - The night before the Presidential Election in November, 1876, the \$99 Store in St. Johnsbury was broken into and a large amount of jewelry, pistols, pocket knives, shirts and gloves were stolen. No certain clue to the perpetrators was obtained until the 5th of the present month, when one

John O'Connor was convicted for being intoxicated, and a knife was found on him that was identified as having been stolen from the store at the time it was broken into. This led to a search of O'Connor's house and other stolen property was found and identified. O'Connor's old comrade Daniel McKay was also implicated. He was arrested in Barnet and lodged in jail. Both men plead guilty and were sentenced to three years in the State Prison. The stolen property was worth close to \$200 and most of it was found and returned to the rightful owner. Sheriff Preston was instrumental in discovering the burglars and he should be commended for his work.

**O'Brien's Show** - This week Friday, O'Brien's Great Menagerie, Circus and Museum Show will exhibit at the St. Johnsbury Fairgrounds. This show is full and complete in all its parts and is in every respect the best exhibition of the kind that will visit the section during the current season. The street parade on the morning of exhibitions is said to form an attractive feature of the show. Admission is 50 cents for adults and \$.25 for children.

**Fire in Walden** - Last Monday morning at 8 a.m., a large brick coal kiln belonging to Samuel Harrington was destroyed by fire, together with 26 cords of wood in the kiln. The kiln had been started that morning, and the wood being very dry

it is supposed the fire inside burned very rapidly, and with such extreme heat as to ignite the plastering, which probably was affected by last night's rain storm. The fire was not discovered until the gable end had fallen in. When the flames were exposed to the open air, it was impossible to save the building.

**Celebration in Lyndonville** - The Grange picnic at Lyndonville Grove was attended by close to 3,000 people. A procession was formed at the depot on the arrival of the train from the south, and preceded by martial music marched to the grove.

**Educated Pig** - Charles Winn, of Danville, who sold his educated pig last fall for \$200 has recently commenced the task of educating a seven-week-old pig. Although Mr. Winn has had him on the drill but a few days, he will answer questions to addition that are really surprising.

**St. Johnsbury Academy** - The catalogue of St. Johnsbury Academy for 1876-1877 shows that the number of students for the year is 298 and the average attendance is 196. From the class just graduated, two intend to enter Harvard, one Yale, one Burlington, and the others who go to college will probably enter Dartmouth.

July 20, 1877

**Liberia** - The black citizens of Liberia have voted down a proposition to allow white men

to own land and become citizens of the Republic, by a large majority. The argument of its advocates was that the country will relapse into barbarism unless the white element is introduced. The freedmen object to working under overseers who carry umbrellas to keep off the sun, after the fashion of overseers during slavery times. The freedmen either consider the umbrella either a mark of degradation or have a superstitious belief that it betokens their return to slavery, and employers have to respect their wishes.

**Wolcott** - For some time past, there has been a series of thieving committed at Wolcott, such as stealing butter and other articles stored at the depot. The Hyde Park News says, "The last of this long series of crimes was committed last Saturday or Sunday night, when the peddlers cart of Jacob Sterns, a gentleman well known in this county as the vendor of rich shawls and dress goods was broken into. About \$500 worth of goods was stolen and no clue has been found. Mr. Sterns had put up at the Wolcott House and the cart was backed into the shed attached to the hotel. The rear end doors of the cart were pryed open with a chisel or similar instrument. No material injury was done to the wagon. Mr. Sterns is offering a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrators.

July 27, 2007

**Torpedo Balloons** - The Department of War seems as fruitful an invention as that of peace. A new and at first thought terrible invention is suggested in the line of warlike operations. It is proposed to float balloons over enemy lines, camps or towns, and drop torpedoes from them by means of electricity. It is claimed that by means of a few torpedoes charged with nitroglycerine an enemy city could be destroyed in a little while or his army completely demoralized. There is no doubt this could work if everything worked the way it was calculated. Balloons were found to be nearly useless adjuncts of the Army of the Potomac. They took up as much transportation, with their furnaces and coal making for gas, and their thousands of indispensable appliances, as a train of heavy artillery and were not nearly as effective. Then, they could only be used when the wind was just right and so on. Next it was found that if kept close enough to the ground to have any view of the enemy's camps, they were in great danger of the artillery or even musketry of the enemy. Shells, it seems, can be thrown from mortars and guns with more accuracy than they could be dropped from a balloon, and balloons could only be used during favorable weather whereas a gun can be shot anytime.

# THE North Star MONTHLY



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## Affirmation

The petals drift like snow flakes,  
beneath the apple trees along the street.  
Two months ago those same trees  
lay blanketed in snow.  
Soft flakes curling down out of a gray sky  
to lie along the branches like blossoms.  
Beauty in muffled silence.

This similarity disturbed now by changes in the light;  
a heady scent; the sound of bees,  
the vibrancy of spring.  
How difficult to imagine this when winter's grip is tight.  
Like visualizing life in death. Impossible.  
But each spring Nature affirms our winter hopes  
with petals drifting in the wind.

Isobel P. Swartz, St. Johnsbury

## Epidemic

By ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

From the Black Death of 1348-51 in Europe to the Great Plague of London in 1666, the 1918 Influenza Pandemic and the Parrot Disease scare of 1930, epidemics throughout history have always caused fear and panic. Ignorance, superstition, religion and, in modern times, the media have created an unholy mixture that has probably caused more people to die from these diseases than was necessary.

Media coverage of the H1N1 (Swine Flu) epidemic has made me think about the many issues and reactions it has highlighted. First, how easy it is to in-

duce panic in a population, and second, how panic makes people behave in irrational ways. Concern for others and our personal and national priorities take on new meaning.

leadership of their minister the village sealed itself off from contact with neighbors. Food supplies from the nearest villages were left in special places for Eyam villagers to collect. There was no human contact outside the village. This selfless decision was designed to prevent spreading the disease. In 1666 such a selfless act worked! Almost 75% of the Eyam population died of the plague but their neighbors remained healthy.

### ...how easy it is to induce panic in a population, and second, how panic makes people behave in irrational ways.

The real underlying issue, of course, is our inadequate health care system. Not the health providers, not the drugs, but the access factor. If people have inadequate health insurance they cannot access the care they need when they need it. In Mexico, the country that has borne the severity, and negative publicity of the epidemic, many people self-medicate for what they believe are minor health problems. They do this because it takes so long to be seen by a doctor or to be treated in an emergency room. Effective drugs (Tamiflu in the case of Swine Flu) are expensive and in short supply. Postponing treatment in some cases of H1N1 proved fatal to people who might have lived with better access to care.

The same situation exists for many people in the U.S. The lack of insurance prevents early detection. Lack of job security for many unskilled workers means that they cannot take time from work to go to a clinic or see a doctor. Many of them have jobs involving the public: serving food, cleaning homes and hotel rooms or providing childcare. Nicholas Kristoff, in a recent Sunday New York Times column, addresses this issue and describes the situation as producing many Typhoid Marys. This is a reference to Mary Mallon, a notorious carrier of typhoid fever who, in the early twentieth century, transmitted that disease to more than 53 people in whose families she was employed as a cook. In her case she was a carrier of the disease but she, herself, never manifested the symptoms. Her nickname has become a common term to describe people who are carriers of dangerous diseases. In the case of H1N1 a person who is exhibiting symptoms, but continues to work and possibly infect others, may be referred to by this name.

Disease organisms such as the flu virus know no national borders. This is especially true in the 21st century because of modern methods of transportation. Even in 1666 during the Great Plague of London it was true. In her novel, Year of Wonders, based on historical details, Geraldine Brooks describes how

During the recent flu panic it seemed as though business interests came before all other concerns. When Vice President Biden made a remark about discouraging his family from traveling by air, the aviation industry descended on him like a ton of bricks. Why? It is common knowledge among frequent fliers that colds and other airborne diseases are rapidly transmitted in the confines of an airplane. If this is not the case why do other countries scan airline passengers for elevated temperatures during times of epidemics? Visitors to China, traveling on a plane with a passenger later diagnosed with the flu, were quarantined for several days in their hotel rooms. In Mexico the tourism industry was upset that visitors were staying at home instead of coming in droves to Cancun while, at the same time, Mexico City's health services were inundated with sick people. Who is behaving irrationally here?

If we are to protect our country from the effects of a pandemic we must have affordable accessible health care for all, and the right to obtain it without losing a job. We must educate people about regular health precautions such as washing hands, foods and dishes thoroughly, and being thoughtful when coughing and sneezing around other people. Surgical masks, so popular a few weeks ago, are not the solution. In fact, most types do not work against airborne viruses but give the wearer and the public a false sense of security. In other words we need to get serious and not hysterical. We must make the media aware of their responsibility to inform the public, but not to stir up unnecessary fear in order to sell newspapers or increase TV ratings. In times of all national crises we have a responsibility and desire to help each other. Fear-mongering by the media should never go unchallenged.

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## Thank You

The Family of the late Marion Sevigny would like to extend their gratitude to the many friends who gathered to celebrate Marion's life.

We thank Reverend Hank Cheney of the Danville United Methodist Church for planning and leading the memorial service, the Church Choir who ably shared their gift of song, complemented by the talent of organist Steve Cobb.

We are indeed grateful to the Danville Fire Department for furnishing the tent, chairs and tables on the Danville Green for the luncheon following the service.

Steve Cobb and his staff from the Danville Inn served an incredible luncheon with the help of the ladies from the church who baked desserts. To all who were involved in helping, and supporting us on this solemn day of celebration, we extend our sincerest thanks.

The Town of Danville, which Marion and Paul Sevigny always loved, is a community that comes alongside its residents in both life and death, being known for its generosity of time and talent.

## BROWN'S MARKET *Bistro*



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10. "Local food, local music and home-town friendly."

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# A life remembered

## The life and times of Danville's Marion Sevigny



A lovely photograph of the dashing globetrotting couple.

“Sev and I were in Florida, retired in a nice, clean development. Every morning, we would sit at our breakfast table and watch the ambulance go by—in for someone and out with someone. We looked at each other and knew this wasn't for us. That's when we decided to come back to Danville and give the time we had left to our own community.”

That's how I remember Marion's story about how she and her husband Paul—who she often referred to as “Sev”—felt about retirement. We were on our way back from a library meeting in Montpelier, chatting in the car. She was dressed in her usual attire—a skirted dark suit, white blouse and heels. Not a hair out of place. When I dropped her at the library, she took her powder blue file box from the back seat, and we said goodbye.

That's the most intimate conversation I ever had with Marion. Her veneer could be intimidating, but under that impeccable surface lived a thinker and a doer, and that conversation helped me understand why this woman and her husband were at the epicenter of all things Danville.

Marion was the first of five children born to Howard and Alice Calkins: Marion, Roy (Deke), Paul, Leland (Gus), Carmen and Zana. “Marion was A+, you know,” points out her brother Deke, “I was down the alphabet some.” He also went on to explain that while Marion was hitting the books, he was doing the chores, something he says he didn't mind doing.

Her penchant for neatness probably came from her mother, Alice. The family still tells of their mother's memorable trip to school to fetch daughter Zana, who had failed to make her bed! Carmen laughs, telling a story about her sister Marion's neat-

ness. “She was watching me as a baby, and I dirtied a diaper. Horrified, she plunked me into a pillowcase to avoid the mess but waited for my brother Paul to come home and change me.”

True to her studious nature, Marion was named the Salutatorian of her class in 1940. Classmates and

BY

SHARON LAKEY



staff were already in awe of her organization and ability to keep books. From the yearbook Danville Hi-Ways classmate Nathan Morrill wrote in the class gifts: “To Marion Calkins I present this law book, hoping it will give her the exact points she can prove her arguments by.” Classmate Frances Roberts wrote in the class will: “To the next School Comptrol-

Paul, top, with one of the gliders. He wrote an article once entitled “Like Flying a Stick of Dynamite through the Gates of Hell” of his WWII glider pilot experiences. Above, Paul and Marion being interviewed by CBS in 1964 at the International Grand Prix in Japan.

>> Page 6

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## Life and times

&gt;&gt;Page 4

ler, we will Marion Calkins' ability to keep books—alone!" Principal Manning added: "All class treasurers will please meet Marion Calkins after school so she can check up on your bank books."

And in class epitaphs:

"Marion Calkins,  
Here we see,  
Passed away,  
When she got a D."

Classmate Donald Douse, in the same yearbook, wrote an interesting essay that questioned our country's ability to remain neutral in the European war. Just over a year later, after Marion graduated from Champlain College, it was no longer a question, and her life would take a new direction.

Her boyfriend at the time, Paul Sevigny, had joined the Air Force and was determined to fly. In his memoir, he writes, "In May, 1943, I wound up back at Sheppard Field, Texas, to learn how to assemble the new gliders we would get overseas in five crates. While there, my girlfriend from high school days asked her parents if she could come to Texas to see me. Her dad said, 'Sure, go ahead, but don't marry that little Frenchman. He will never amount to a tinker's damn.' Well, she came down and we got married the day she arrived."

That was the beginning of Marion's life as a military spouse, who traveled the world with Paul throughout his 24-year career. Sister Zana explains, "She was an involved military wife. While Paul was away, she never complained, and she always worked." That life had its high points, especially in the 50's when Paul got into racecar driving.

From Paul's memoir, he writes of the couple's trip to Los Angeles, "We [he and Marion] went to the sales place and saw this beautiful XK-120 M Jaguar, bright red, and it had been clocked at 142 miles per hour at a trial in Belgium. Well, we...drove out with this Jaguar. When we got to the race ...we ended up in the pit area where all the race drivers were...We had a ball there with many people looking over our new Jaguar. One movie star, Paul Newman, who was racing said, 'Hey, take it around a few laps!'"

Two of Marion's siblings credit the globetrotting couple as instrumental in their own careers. Zana, the youngest said, "They were my mentors. One trip back home, they took my friend and me to Boston to see the Ice Follies. It was my first trip to Boston. And as I neared graduation, they convinced my parents that I needed to go to college. After college, they convinced them I needed my masters." She did both, with an undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont and a graduate degree from the University of Michigan in the field of special education. Carmen credits Paul and Marion with encouraging her to join the US Air Force, where she worked as a nurse.

Paul and Marion were thinking about a future in Danville when Paul wrote: "In 1954, I was promoted to captain and my wife and I had a chance to purchase Diamond Hill Cabins in our hometown of

Danville, Vermont. [We] drove the Jaguar back to Vermont and purchased the 14 acres and 12 cabins. It was a summer business, so we planned on Marion running the business in the summer and joining me in the winter."

The couple continued to manage the cabins for a few years after Paul's military retirement. He left the Air Force with a rank of major. After their short attempt at full retirement in Florida, they returned to Danville with their newfound goal of "community" before them. Marion went to work for Bruce Corrette at his accounting firm, where she remained for 40 years. During off-hours, Marion joined Paul in their dedication to community. As her good friend and co-worker Irene Trudholme said, "I never saw Marion and Paul socially, because they were so civic-minded. I think that defined their life together."

One cohort in her activities was Steve Cobb, who owns and runs the Danville Restaurant and Inn. He called his relationship with them as a "close friendship," one they developed over 30 years. Paul and Marion became two of his best customers. Stories of their selfless gifting abound, and Steve shares this one. As chair of the building committee for the Danville Methodist Church, she would ask him yearly to be thinking about something the Church really needed. "When we were working on our handicapped accessibility remodel, Marion ordered a dozen donuts from me. When Paul came to pick up the donuts, he handed me a check for \$2,000, written to the Church. They did things like that," said Steve.

Marion offered him advice, too, in his own role as community volunteer. When he was President of the Pope Library, she told him, "Always choose your helpers by what they can offer either physically or financially." It's a piece of advice I've often thought about."

The "neat thing" never left her, either. Steve remembers Marion showing up on a Sunday for a library cleaning in a blue blazer, matching pants, white-collared shirt, heels, and yellow rubber gloves. Former Town Clerk, Ginny Morse, remembers going on a cemetery clean up with her in a similar outfit, and Carmen and her daughter, Chelle, still laugh about Marion gardening in pantyhose and pumps.

This joy of tidiness is best described in Marion's own words. Carmen shared the story of how Marion reacted when she showed her older sister how she had fixed up a basement room for her young daughter. When she beheld Carmen's handiwork, Marion stopped mid-stair and exclaimed, "Oh, Neat!"

"Neatness was one of her bugaboos, alright," said Ginny. "She would order a dozen donuts and pound of coffee from Steve for the town garage crew every once in a while. It gave her an excuse to down there to see if everything was in order. She didn't like to see a lot of spare parts lying around. Marion took a lot of pride in the Town and wanted it to be shipshape."

As a Town Selectman for 18

years (Selectman being the designation she preferred) Ginny said, "She was a peacekeeper, but very firm. If she had an issue, she held to her position—very calm, very determined and very steely. She was one of the most delightful people I've ever met. Danville is going to miss her in so many ways."

In 1993, Marion and Paul celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Danville Restaurant and Inn. It was a joyous occasion for the couple, and Paul lived another seven years before passing away in 2000. After his death, Marion continued in her service to the community and her job. According to family members, she and Paul had decided that upon their deaths their legacy of community service would continue. Always well prepared, Marion made plans that the estate would be divided up and given to community organizations in percentages that she and Paul had previously identified.

Over the last several years, Marion's health began to deteriorate, though she was able to work through it. Her eyesight was difficult and there was a circulation problem in one of her legs. A stint, put in to improve circulation, brought on a staph infection that complicated her recovery. Her doctors told her an amputation was a necessity.

Though she had fought long, she made a decision at that time that "enough was enough," said Zana, who was honored to spend the last week by her side. "She never wavered in her decision. Dartmouth Hitchcock was outstanding in meeting her request to be kept as comfortable as possible. There was no fear of death on her part, no delusions. She and Sev had talked this over. She said it was her time to go, and she was ready to rejoin him. Whenever Marion set a goal, she went for it." She died with dignity on May 29, 2009.

Marion's eulogy was read by her niece, Marion E. McHugh, Zana's daughter from Raleigh, NC:

"Being her namesake has come with responsibility, and I am honored to rise to the occasion. My prayer is that the legacy of Marion E. Sevigny transcends time. Here is what I believe MARION stands for:

M is for Mighty in spirit and work—no one can deny that Marion was a hard worker.

A is for Always generous and kind—with her possessions and time.

R is for Right choices—doing the right thing. The things we learned when we were young still apply when we are old.

I is for Integrity and accountability.

O is for Oath - she was a woman of her word.

N is for Negotiator of peace - Jesus said on a hill long ago...blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the sons and daughters of God (Matthew 5:9).

On this day, we have the peace of God that passes all understanding. We love you Marion E. Sevigny!"

To see this article and a link to photos go to <http://sharonlakey.blogspot.com>

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# Bucket Lists

BY DICK BOERA

In an earlier travel article I referred to the best seller "1,000 Places To See Before You Die" and noted that I was running out of time with 90 percent of those places still not checked off. This past weekend Julie and I watched a Netflix DVD that most moviegoers surely viewed some time ago. The Bucket List has a great premise: "When corporate mogul Edward Cole (Jack Nicholson) and mechanic Carter Chambers (Morgan Freeman) wind up in the same hospital room, the two terminally ill men bust out of the cancer ward with a plan to experience life to the fullest before they kick the bucket. In a race against the reaper, the new friends hit the tables in Monte Carlo, down obscene amounts of caviar and tear up the road in supercharged cars."

Some of the things they saw and did fell into that 10 percent of experiences that I've had the good fortune to savor, not all of them places, e.g. skydive (over Hawaii), camel ride among the Pyramids, marvel at the cenotaphs of the Emperor Shah Jahan and his beloved Mumtaz at the Taj Mahal, and tread on the Great Wall of China. Unlike the odd couple - Nicholson and Freeman - I haven't (yet) Land Rover-ed the Serengeti or become enamored of race cars. Everyone has their own check-off and to-do lists. For the record, here are some I've checked off.

## The good life:

Having loving parents who introduced me to honesty, right-and-wrong, thrift, reading, golf, fishing, and traveling;

Seeing Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig play at Yankee Stadium; watching Hagen, Sarazen, Snead, Hogan, Palmer and Nicklaus on the links (and admiring Jones and Woods); a hole-in-one at 77;

World's Fairs in New York, Expos in Montreal and Seattle;

Scouting my way to Eagle and escorting the widow of my hero Theodore Roosevelt;

Having "crushes" in graded school and high school...who turned out to be life-long friends;

Joining the Navy and learning responsibility and skills while seeing part of the world...at least ports in South America, Africa and Europe; hoisting sail off the coast of Dakar; dropping anchor off South Africa's Capetown as the morning fog lifted to reveal Table Mountain;

Having tea and crumpets with Einstein for a half hour...alone;

Commuting on the Staten Island Ferry;

Being part of the space program when the Jet Propulsion Lab consisted of a shack at Cal Tech...eight years before Sputnik;

Meeting the right girl for a lifetime partnership and having seven children - each different, each accomplished - who get along with one another;

Working with my dad for nine years, the

best business partnership possible;

Giving up smoking; surviving colon cancer;

Watching our children raising their children;

Hosting the Chief Justice of the United States as my guest speaker at Rotary;

Meeting Kennedy and Clinton, corresponding with Truman and Nixon; repartee with Bob Hope;

Pinning a general's star on a son and a command pin on a daughter;

Staying young by working at colleges among the young;

Always having jobs that I loved and having good and capable people to work with;

Being with my parents when they died...37 years apart;

Inheriting a good reputation in the community and earning it on my own;

More recently, being recognized by my community as a citizen of worth.

## Been there, done that...

Acapulco (in 1938), when it had just one small hotel, and my mother, dad, and I had the beach all to ourselves; it was a long drive from Staten Island;

Florida, before Disney World, when Sarasota had the population of St. Johnsbury, and Naples was about the size of Lyndonville; Disneyland and Disney World later on with kids in tow;

A month-long trip to nearly every major national park in the country with six children in a station wagon - the best month of my life...excluding our honeymoon;

The first of a dozen visits to Spain - land of my forbears; Granada's Alhambra and Capilla Real (holding the coffins of Ferdinand & Isabella), Sevilla (during Feria) - its Cathedral and Alcazar...and an evening with the American matador/painter John Fulton; Montserrat; Barcelona's port, Montjuïc, Tibidabo, and Gaudi's La Sagrada Familia; Santiago de Compostela; Burgos and the tomb of El Cid; Villa Dolores in Castellon de La Plana; the Lovers of Teruel; the royal pantheon of El Escorial; Madrid and my first bullfight; visiting the sepulcher of a 16th century ancestor, Don Miguel de Boera, Capitan-General of the Fleet under the Emperor Charles V and Knight of the Golden Fleece; Toledo's Alcazar and reminders of El Greco;

Great Britain: Big Ben, the British Museum's Elgin Marbles and Rosetta Stone; 84 Charing Cross Road, Cambridge, Mildenhall, Edinburgh, Loch Ness, and standing on the first tee at St. Andrews' Old Course;

Italy: Venice and St. Marks, Rome and the Vatican; Florence and its art treasures; Pisa and its Leaning Tower; Capri, Naples and Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast;

Switzerland; Austria; Luxembourg and Lichtenstein; Monaco; Amsterdam and Delft; Lisbon and the Algarve; Paris' Tour Eiffel and Napoleon's tomb, bateaux on the Seine - on my 65th birthday; Andorra; Belgium; Berlin, Frankfurt and Hamburg; getting lost in Alsace-Lorraine; Denmark; Norway's fjords and tunnels; Finland and

Sweden; St. Petersburg and Catherine's Winter Palace; Athens' Parthenon by day...and night; the Chain Bridge joining Buda and Pest;

Istanbul - spanning two continents - its Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace, the Hagia

Georgia Island; and the Falklands in the aftermath of a little skirmish with the Brits.

Also leaving a mark on the retina:

The Louvre, the Hermitage, El Prado, Uffizi Gallery, Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum, Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, Dali's

## ...Life is either a daring adventure or nothing...Helen Keller

Sophia, the Blue Mosque and Suleyman's Mosque.

Japan: Mt. Fuji at sunrise above the clouds, inscrutable Tokyo and the more hospitable Misawa; Korea's overwhelming megalopolis, Seoul, and its tense DMZ;

Jerusalem: the Wailing Wall, Dome of the Rock and Church of the Holy Sepulchre - most sacred sites to three religions and separated by only a few hundred yards; Nazareth, the River Jordan, Sea of Galilee; across the Sinai at night to Cairo;

Across Canada by rail (plus more of it by auto) and a sampling of all 50 states;

Russia: Moscow's Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral; across eleven time zones through Siberia and Mongolia: with compatible companions, unlimited vodka...and a memorable picnic on the shores of Lake Baikal while the Trans-Siberian Railway train rested;

Bora Bora: (aka 'Bali Hai'), Moorea, Raratonga, and Tahiti, Wake Island and Guam... in the wake of James Michener; Hawaii - "Paradise" - often; the Road to Hana on Maui to visit Lindbergh's peaceful resting place; the Big Island's active volcano Kilauea.

"Splendiferous" Hong Kong and Singapore; the Andes, the Alps and the Grand Tetons; Glacier National Park, the Giant Sequoias, Crater Lake and Lake Willoughby;

Stepping stones in the North Atlantic, Iceland and the Azores;

Train up through Malaysia to Thailand and on to Bali;

Across Australia from west to east by bus; Lucia di Lammermoor under the "sails" of Sydney's Opera House; a separate visit to Tasmania; Samoa's Pago Pago;

Beautiful, friendly New Zealand...the only other place I'd settle for as "home" - either island.

Cruising the west coast of South America and through the Panama Canal to the Caymans; the Inland Passage to Alaska;

Visits to Parliament in Singapore and Australia; awed by a session at our own Supreme Court;

Again and again to Crete and hiking the Samaria Gorge; the other Greek islands...Santorini - its black sand beaches and the green sunset seen from Oia, Mykonos and Rhodes;

The journey to a very special place on this earth...Antarctica, with its glaciers, penguins, seals, whales, albatrosses and other soaring species...and its silent splendor; a toast to Shackleton at his grave on South

surreal collection in Figueres, the Guggenheim and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; The Huntington and Chicago's Art Institute; The Egyptian Museum, Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum, NYC's American Museum of Natural History, and Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry; the Monterey Aquarium; the Hearst Castle, the Chrysler Building; the Lincoln, Vietnam and USS Arizona Memorials; St. Louis' Gateway Arch; the lines of the SS Normandie and the China Clipper.

About 90% of the destinations and experiences on the above "brag list" were compiled after the bout with cancer and retirement. This all leads to the conclusion that I have to be - like Lou Gehrig - "the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

## My current bucket list?

Kenya and Tanzania (Serengeti and Kilimanjaro); Zimbabwe (Victoria Falls)... Tibet... soar in a hot air balloon... Petra... Easter Island... Galapagos... Malta... Czechoslovakia and Poland... Newfoundland and Labrador... Key West... helicopter over Greenland and (the most far-fetched of all) the North Pole...write that book... beat my age at golf... and live to 92 (in good health) in order to fit it all in.

Recognizing that not everyone would choose far-flung travel destinations for their dream lists, we should grant that any worthy aspiration can be good therapy for the body and mind. Our wants need not be material things, either; they could be simply the desire to seek or form new relationships with family or friends. Personal accomplishment targets might top many lists...learning to play the piano or guitar, painting, learning Russian or sign language, qualifying for an airplane pilot's license, having a baby, finding your family roots, body-building (wanna look like Charles Atlas?), joining the Peace Corps, finishing a quilt, giving up smoking. "According to the New York Times, of the 1.2 million people who have posted their personal lists on the website 43things.com during the past three years, the top goal is losing weight."

Perhaps the ultimate in "to-do" goals is some few individuals' expressed desire to change the world! I'd settle for leaving it just a little better than I found it.

What are your fantasies for the future of your life? What 43 (or four) things resonate with you? What's on your Bucket List? The *North Star* editor just might be interested.

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## A man and his Harley

Ask Joe Benning ('79) how many miles he rides his Harley in a year, and this is his response:

"Depends on the year."

In the summer of 2007, Benning and his bike ate up 17,575 miles on a trip that took them from Lyndonville to Southern California and back – by way of Alaska, the Canadian Rockies, the Bonneville Salt Flats and Yellowstone.

Wife Deb often accompanies Benning on long-distance rides, but not this 44-day journey. "Knucklehead" did. Benning strapped the stuffed animal to the back of the motorcycle and brought it along on the continental odyssey.

Benning tells all about the trip in "Knucklehead's Big Adventures" during Family and Alumni Weekend (8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, Room T202).

"When you ride any distance on a bike and you pull into any parking lot, any gas station, any restaurant, it's like a magnet," he says. "People come up and talk with you. To me, there's no greater way to expose yourself to society in general."

Benning was student body president at Lyndon during his senior year and went on to become an attorney with a practice in Lyndonville. He discovered motorcycles when one of his first legal clients gave him an old Kawasaki 450 in lieu of a fee.

"My intent was to take it down to the repair shop, fix it up and sell it," he recalls. "I made the mistake of riding it home. Realizing I could go uphill without pedaling was like an epiphany to me."

His sister-in-law saw him on the Kawasaki. "She said I looked like a trained bear on a bicycle, and the next day I was off to the Harley-Davidson dealer."

In the 1990s, Benning sued to overturn Vermont's helmet law. The catalyst was a trip he took to Maine with a group of biker friends. Returning on a sweltering day, the group rode without helmets – legally – through Maine and New Hampshire. Then they arrived at the Connecticut River and the border with Vermont.

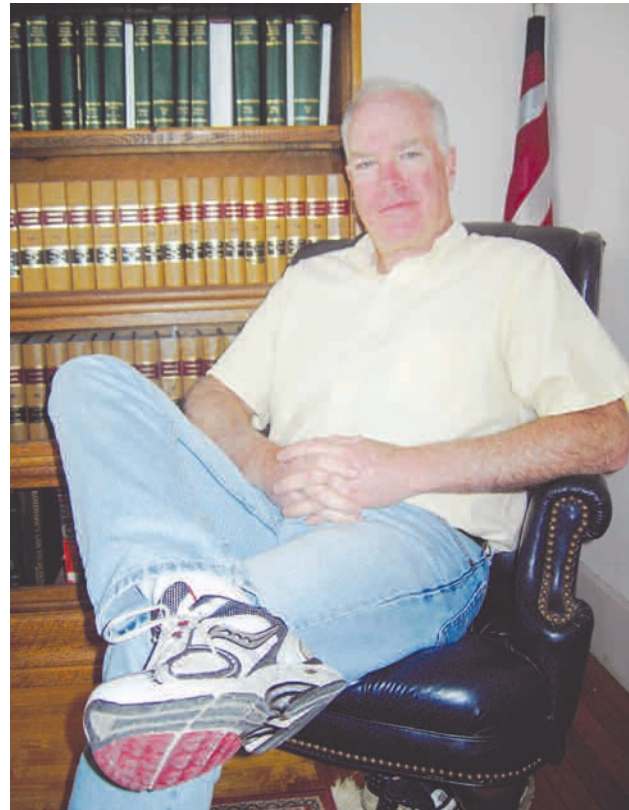
"As a historian, I realized that this was the land of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain boys and I was required to wear a hat on my head as soon as I crossed the river," he says. "That didn't sit very well with me."

The state Supreme Court threw out his case, but ironically adopted some of his helmet arguments in a 1999 ruling that paved the way for Vermont's civil union law. At that time, Benning considered himself a "radical" opponent of civil unions.

# The conversion of Joe Benning

PHOTOS & ARTICLES

BY DAN WILLIAMS



**"I**f you appreciate Vermont history, you know this is not just the right thing to do, it's the Vermont thing to do."

Vermont Human Rights Commission Chairman Joe Benning at a House Judiciary Committee hearing in March 2009

To understand how Lyndon State College alum Joe Benning ('79) became a leading advocate for same-sex marriage in Vermont, it helps to know the name of his most influential professor: Graham Newell.

Benning grew up Catholic in a middle-class neighborhood in Middletown, N.J., and landed at Lyndon for two reasons: he enjoyed "the best night of sleep I'd ever had" while camping in the area and his parents wouldn't pay to fly him to Oregon.

It didn't hurt that the director of admissions gave him a personal tour of campus.

Benning wishes all incoming students could receive the same introductory speech Newell gave to his freshman class. He quotes from memory: "Here in the Kingdom, we are all on a first name basis, and we say hello to each other even though we are complete strangers. That's what community is all about."

Benning took history classes from Newell on his way to a Social Science degree. Newell died last year at age 92.

"He had a unique ability to take young people and give them a spark," Benning says. "There are very few teachers who have that kind of skill that can instill in a person a true desire to learn."

Page forward to 2000, the year Vermont

passed the nation's first civil union law. Benning is a successful attorney in Lyndonville, a leader in the Republican Party and the Rotary Club, a Harley-Davidson rider, a husband (married to Deb, LSC Class of '83) and a father of two.

"I was opposed to civil unions because I had literally grown up in an environment where the words 'queer' and 'faggot' were used as derogatory terms and we accepted it as part of the cultural norms. I was still of that same mindset."

**If you take the time to listen, there is wisdom in virtually every one of those arguments. I think that's what Graham Newell would appreciate most.**

His change of heart accelerated two years ago when the governor appointed him to the Vermont Human Rights Commission, which he now chairs. What purpose is served, he wondered, by denying someone the right to make medical decisions for an incapacitated long-term partner? If same-sex couples have the right to adopt children, why should the state deny other rights that serve to protect those children? If same-sex marriage is the threat that opponents claim, where is the damage caused by civil unions?

Benning says his LSC education laid the groundwork for his conversion. He describes the "cultural shock" of taking classes with people from other back-

grounds: blacks, Jews, Protestants, and students who followed no religion. Benning says Lyndon State's small size forced him to expose himself to other cultures, ideas and beliefs.

"That's tremendous education."

Benning drafted the Human Rights Commission's forceful statement in support of same-sex marriage, and he testified at a House Judiciary Committee hearing in March. The commission's debate kindled memories of a certain history professor.

"If you take the time to listen, there is wisdom in virtually every one of those arguments. I think that's what Graham Newell would appreciate most."

Benning is proud of the role Vermont has played in America's same-sex marriage debate. "Vermont was the first place that had a legislature make the decision, and that's an important distinction in my head. It's quite interesting that New England, the place where the Puritans were planted, has made the first real change in the discussion."

*This article will also appear in the fall edition of Twin Towers, Lyndon State College's alumni magazine.*



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# Market musings

## What's happening at the Farmers Market

Several years ago, the Fairbanks Museum brought Bill McKibben to St. Johnsbury for a talk in Fuller Hall at St. Johnsbury Academy.

The house was packed on this winter evening. Bill, known for his long time involvement with the issues of Global Warming is also a strong and steady advocate of Local Economies. Of course the notion of buying local is part of the larger pic-

ture of reversing the warming of our earth. His comments regarding the fast growth of farmers' markets—"energy-efficient local food, and the average shopper has 10 times as many conversations as a supermarket shopper" struck me. "No wonder they're the fastest-growing part of our food economy." Vermont holds the distinction of having more farmers markets per capita than any other state. Sixty-four markets are now active in this state. That represents, since 1996, a growth of 135 percent.

Today the market takes place in St. Johnsbury every Saturday starting in mid-May and continuing through late October. The Danville market starts a bit later in early June and continues through early October. It happens every Wednesday morning. While both markets are attended by many of the same farmers and vendors, they are unique in character. Both locations offer bright open spaces with room to shop and to socialize. It's interesting to watch the crowds as friends meet or relationships, that have been dormant over the winter, are renewed. Early markets are a buzz of conversation catching up with customers and vendors who are old friends, and scouting opportunities to find something new.

St. Johnsbury offers the added attraction of amplified entertainment, as electricity is available on site. This venue has showcased many local artists over the years with diverse selections of music. The market is busy as patrons drop-in as part of their weekend routine of errands. The earliness of the St. J. market means that it starts small and grows in size over the course of the season. Those with greenhouse capacity are the first with produce at the market. It is more dependent on the whims of the weather. The start of the 2009 market was slow due to a long, cool spring season.

In contrast, the Danville market happens in the center of town. The flavor of the market on the green is definitely festive, pastoral and relaxed. It provides a central area where children are seen playing and dog owners bring their companions for socialization training. Shoppers linger to visit, and enjoy a snack or meal in the picnic area. Summer folks at Joe's Pond and nearby towns frequent the market. As a vendor, I look forward to catching up with friends I haven't seen for a year. Some of the most loyal fans of the Danville market are summer residents.

Early farmers' markets provided basic produce to customers. Perhaps that is one area where we have seen enormous change and growth as food education and our palates have increased in their sophistication. Food handling is an art as well as a science. Great market displays depend on solid knowledge of picking fresh and careful handling, as well as a presentation that is visually dynamic. A vibrant farmers' market is a joy to the eye and to the taste buds.

Furthermore, the Caledonia Market provides a one-stop local shop-

PHOTOS & ARTICLES  
BY  
JANE WOODHOUSE



ture of reversing the warming of our earth. His comments regarding the fast growth of farmers' markets—"energy-efficient local food, and the average shopper has 10 times as many conversations as a supermarket shopper" struck me. "No wonder they're the fastest-growing part of our food economy." Vermont holds the distinction of having more farmers markets per capita than any other state. Sixty-four markets are now active in this state. That represents, since 1996, a growth of 135 percent.

Long active in the Northeast Kingdom, the Caledonia Farmers Market in its 33rd season, give or take a year. In 1974, Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA-VT) encouraged groups to start markets and provided them with a piece of artwork by Vermont artist, Mary Azarian. This art still graces market posters around the state

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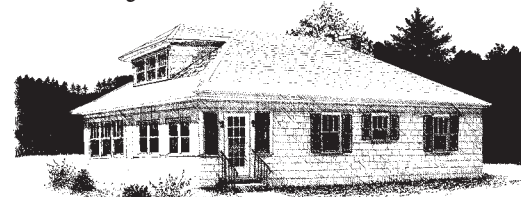


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# Market musings

**Page 9** In its diversity of products. We are not limited to fresh produce, but also other farm products, handmade crafts and other items. Over the years a number of gardeners and nurseries have brought annual and perennial plants to the market. Fruit trees and small fruit plants are available in Danville at the Walden Heights Nursery. Along with the plants come a personal connection, trees and plants acclimated to our locale, and most important good solid advice. It is

the freshest you will find in the Kingdom. Vermont Kingdom Coffee Roaster roast beans on-site each week. I witnessed one customer questioning the owner Yves Morrissette and roaster, Robert Larabee as to the freshness of some of their coffees. They answered that it had been roasted within the hour, pointing to a grill behind their booth. An added attraction to the bags of coffee beans is the fresh brewed hot or ice coffee they sell each week. For customers lingering or

## We see food vendors with a commitment to buying local food to prepare.

handy to return to the market with questions after the initial purchase. Amanda's Greenhouse and Perennials offers flowering and landscaping plants throughout the market season. (Amanda also offers good conversation and a keen sense of humor.)

We see food vendors with a commitment to buying local food to prepare. The Market Cafe tours the market early to secure fresh food for the day's menu offerings. They bring items complimentary to in-season produce and pick up the local fare to use in their wraps and salads. In giving thanks for the produce they display a list of farms whose vegetables or fruits are being served that day.

A sign at Auntie Dee Dee's, crafter of exquisite pastries and other baked goods, illustrates her commitment to using local products when possible. While the ingredients do not come from the local market, they do support a local economy and keep dollars in our region.

For those localvores who practice strict standards in their food purchases there is always the Marco Polo rule and the "wild cards" that allow for some imported spices, as well as coffee, olive oil and chocolate. At the St. Johnsbury market we have coffee

working the market they provide real coffee cups that are comforting to the hand and do not end up in the trash. They comment that all have been returned to them. Ice coffee is a treat when made with frozen coffee ice cubes. It continues to provide good strong flavor even as the cubes melt.

Derrick Samuels greets his customers with a big smile and good food. Genuine Jamaican brings prepared Jamaican dishes along with sauces and pickled vegetables. His tent is always busy. He takes pride in growing many of the hot peppers he uses and rumor has it, from Shellie Samuels, that he recently planted 125 Scotch Bonnet pepper plants.

As the summer moves forward vendors return with the abundance of produce, cheese and other items that are seasonally available. The spaces will fill and the crowds will swell as Vermont summer hits its peak. The Caledonia Farmers Market not only provides good, fresh, local food at a reasonable cost, it provides an opportunity to catch up with friends and acquaintances, relax and enjoy being in Vermont. It might also provide the opportunity to meet someone new.

# Follow the Money

## ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



**“H**ow could they? How could they sign a mortgage they couldn't afford? How could they let their credit card debt become larger than a year's take-home pay? How could they stand in line hoping that an obvious swindler would take their clients' money? How could they write credit default swaps? How could they expose their firm to risk exponentially greater than capitalization? How could they?

The financial mess in which we find ourselves is often blamed on "hubris." In modern behavioral finance parlance that translates into "overconfidence," relying too much on egotistic intuition and too little on consideration of the salient facts. Having neither gathered nor analyzed the data, we "go with our gut" and if we get lucky, are convinced of our superior skills.

We pretend to knowledge with news. We love news. We love financial news. We have it 24/7. The proliferation of invasive media has made news unavoidable. In public places where we used to have muzak, now we have newscak. Have your flight delayed or your car serviced and you will become an expert on the day's events and all their interpretations.

This should bode well for increasing the efficiency of the financial markets, that is, the efficiency with which capital is distributed to those who can make best use of it, ultimately making the economy itself most productive. That efficiency is achieved when investors can pick out the best—most productive and profitable—companies or assets,

achieving the best returns. We can make the best choice when we have the most information, so the more information we have and the faster we can have it, the better the investors we should be. The better we invest, the less likely we are to see prices so way out of line that bubble after bubble overestimates our economy, as they have over the past two decades.

Except that our news is filtered, chosen for its entertainment as much as for its informative value. It is delivered in repeated snippets allowing us to get the news while multi-tasking, believing in our personal efficiency. We pop news like an addict pops pills. We delegate delivery and digestion of news to the media that is fastest and most convenient, and not just public news either; we Twitter and Facebook to abbreviate real human contact, while getting more news of friends and family.

That news is not knowledge, which requires concentration and reflection. In our zeal for efficiency or in our desperate attempt to keep up, we have delegated our thinking to the few. In fact, our addiction to media coverage bespeaks our under-, not over-, confidence; not hubris but humility.

Anxiety encourages "herd" behavior, under-confidence, a tendency to find "safety in numbers" or to rely on the opinions of "experts." Informal communication or "word-of-mouth" reinforces herd behavior to the point where it can become epidemic. It may not be mere coincidence that the stock market bubble of the 1920s happened as radio and telephone access became universal in the U.S., or that the stock boom of the 1990s coincided with the proliferation of mobile phones and email, or the real estate bubble of the 2000s with our creation of the blo-

gosphere.

When investors substitute reliance on others for their own analysis and decisions, it decreases market efficiency. Market efficiency assumes that investors act independently and that therefore the market reflects the consensus of their independent judgments, the wisdom of the crowd, its value proved by its very consensus. Instead, the market may be reflecting the opinions of a few to whom others defer. Although there seems to be lots of market participation, only a few of those participants are actually participating. The rest are simply following. The market then reflects not the consensus of the many but of the few, and the probability of misjudgment rises.

Then when information became so public and participation so widespread that there were investments for the common man, the pros created the shadow markets, searching out darker corners where gains could still be had. They traded in unregulated securities so complex that they were beyond information, so private that they were beyond market scrutiny, but not, as too many of us have learned, beyond market consequences.

An efficient market is based on the integrity that comes from everyone keeping an eye on things and thinking hard and trying to make good decisions. When we stopped doing that, we had a market where all news all the time was no news at all. Was it hubris or humility—or have we just been numbed by newscak?

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

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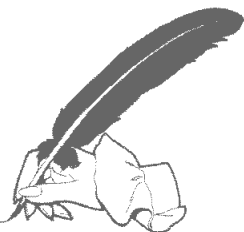


Copy from an 1852 daguerreotype of the youngest Watts children: Alice, on left, with her brother, Isaac, and sister, Ella. From the Roberta Garry Trunzo Family Collection.

## Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

By Lynn A. Bonfield



Scattered from west of the Green Mountains to California by mid-19th century, family members bridged the miles with letters, the only means of communication available at the time. In 1858, thirteen-year-old Alice Watts wrote her half-sister, Sarah Walbridge Way, who had joined the westward movement in 1855 with her husband and children by moving to Northfield, Minnesota. Alice described the family activities of the joint Watts-Walbridge family on Peacham's East Hill, reporting on the comings and goings of their brothers, Lyman Watts, Dustan Walbridge, Augustus Walbridge, and Charles Watts, and incidents from her own life including attending school in Danville and describing the town's 4th of July celebration.

Three years earlier, the young Watts children, Isaac (born 1842), Alice (born 1845), and Ella (born 1847), attended Danville's Independence Day celebration, going by carriage alone. Their mother, Roxana Walbridge Watts (1802-62), wrote with pride of this event in a letter to Sarah dated July 27, 1855: "We all staid at home on the 4 except the Children and they all three went out to their uncle [Thomas] Parkers [in Danville] the first time they have ever rode out together the girls wore their blue linen dresses and their new white aprons . . . they have got their Capes done and . . . their bonnets trimmed new." The following letter, written three years later, gave details of Danville's 1858 celebration.

Peacham July 17th 1858

Dear Sister

It is a very long, long time since I have written to you, but in fact longer since I have received a letter from you. . . . We are all well as usual now. I attend school at Danville this summer and board at Uncle [Thomas] Parker's. I came home last evening on a visit of 2 days and they [her mother and father] have put me to writing letters. I study Arithmetic, Grammar, History, Algebra and French. I like the teacher very much and have not been home sick an atom; but fear I shall when I go back. Wish I had not come home.

Dustan [Alice's half-brother, born 1832] I expect is coming home to day. He has been at Marshfield about 4 weeks [working at his wheel-

wright trade]. About the 4th of July: did you have any fourth at Northfield? The folks at Danville Green got up a "buster of a 4th." Had the Five Companies from Danville and St. Johnsbury and a Rifle Company of the former place march about and perform their various accomplishments for the amusement of the various spectators. I believe there was a [railroad] ride to Plainfield and a great celebration. As for my celebration, it was confined to firing a bunch of Crackers [at home]. . . .

Charles [Alice's half-brother, born 1835] has been home [from Monticello, Illinois] on a visit. He staid 2 weeks and then made Lyman [Alice's half-brother, born 1832] a visit at Middlebury [where Lyman is teaching]. I trust he is coming home this fall and take back his woman. [Charles Watts married Lodoska Spencer in Peacham on September 29, 1856]. If so Augustus [Alice's half-brother, born 1835] must be here at that particular time, and all the rest if possible. Tell Augustus [now visiting Sarah in Minnesota] that Miss Wheeler the girl that lived here last summer is married to that Carter that was here so much while she was. Mrs Currier [Alma, a neighbor] is very slim and out of health. They do not think she will live long unless she gets help somewhere. They are strong in the Homeopathy faith all of them. . . .

I do not know as I can think of any more to write if this is a short letter. This paper is so poor I can scarcely see the lines and I guess you will think so by the looks of this. I know you have a great deal to do and can not find much time to write yet we would be very happy to receive a letter from you or John [Sarah's husband, a favorite of all the Wattses]. Why do'nt John never write? Father has been haying about one week.

There is a set of thieves around now, robbing people's houses in the night and going from one town to another. They have not visited us yet but from Asa Sargeant's [house in Peacham Hollow where Don and Deanne Moore now live] they took 120 dollars in money and other articles to make up about 130.

Excuse bad writing and accept with this letter the best wishes of your sister

Alice M. Watts

*The original of this letter remains in private hands; the editor has a photocopy. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Editor's additions are in brackets; words missing are indicated by ellipses.*

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# House of straw

>>Page 1

vantage of solar energy for electricity and heat. "What I really wanted to do was to keep it local; use recycled stuff, local labor."

Straw bale construction has been around. In the U.S., it surfaced in the plains states and moved West at the end of the 19th Century with the second wave of homesteaders. In these states, where grass was abundant but timber scarce, home construction was difficult. It was the invention of the mechanical baler that made straw bale construction logical and possible. In spite of its long-proven effectiveness, straw bale construction is still considered an alternative building method, complicating permits, financing, and insurance policies in some areas. California, New Mexico, and a few other states have straw building codes, California's being the strictest. Knowing this, Boye went to his bank and told them he would build to the California codes, and the bank financed his project.

The difference between straw and hay is that there are no seed heads in straw to interest rodents or insects. It is an environmentally sustainable material and cheaper than hay. You can build with straw bales in one of two ways: load-bearing, where the walls are compressed to a certain density, or post and beam framing with straw infill. Load-bearing methods are better known out west. Working with an architect and a straw bale contractor, Boye designed a modest 1500-square-foot ranch style house using a load-bearing modified post and beam construction with straw bale in-fill, where the load bears on post-supported 2x10 beams with straw bales tightly stacked in between posts, creating R-45 exterior walls. The house is built on an insulated 6 inch water-heated concrete slab, 2 inches thicker than standard for greater heat storing potential. The thick plastered exterior walls retain additional heat.

"People will say, 'he made it out of straw; must have been cheap.' The materials were

cheaper, but the labor was more expensive," Boye said. "It ends up a wash." In all, Boye used two hundred fifty 14x18x34 inch bales of straw grown in the Montpelier area to build the exterior walls. He secured the bales to the slab foundation with rebar pins or stitched them together with wire.

Once electrical wiring is installed in chases or conduit cut into the straw, the walls are plastered with sand, clay, lime, and water in successively finer aggregate layers creating a natural GORE-TEX effect. The final coat is a lime and water wash, or a lime, water, and pigment mix for color. This technique eliminates paint, allowing any moisture in the straw to naturally wick out through the walls while keeping out the larger outside water molecules.

Boye left the wall surfaces imperfect. Overall, the plastered walls create a pleasing organic effect, the deeply inset windows and doors with their wide-radius corners easily spilling outside light into living spaces.

The broad side of the house is oriented to solar noon, where most of the house's insulated windows are placed, capturing sunlight for the best solar gain. The roof has 24-inch eaves that provide more shade and less heat in summer when the sun angle is high and allows sunlight deep into the house to warm the floor during winter when the sun angle is low.

The concrete floor throughout the house was left smooth and finished with a surface grid pattern cut into it. They finished the slab with an acid wash process Wacholder had seen. Wacholder said she was appalled when during the finishing process the acid mixture turned the concrete bright mustard yellow. "I was beside myself," she said. It turned out only to be the chemical reaction between acid and cement, however, and the finished floor cured to a dark marbled brown.

"We have radiant floor heat as a backup," Boye said, which is thermostatically controlled hot

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During the initial stages of construction (top) the inside of the Boyes' house looked more like a hay loft. As the project progressed (middle), and before the plaster was applied, the home takes shape. Judging by the interior hallway, the finished living area looks very comfortable.



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water from the propane water heater pumped through embedded tubing in the concrete. "Most people put it in as their primary source. We wanted to use the [wood] stove as our primary." Boye said he used the in-floor heat very little last winter.

"We build a fire at night," said Boye, "in the morning it may be 72 degrees. We'll go to work and come home and it will be 75, and we didn't do anything to the fire. We used a little more wood than we thought we would this winter: just under four cords."

Off the power grid, the house electrical needs are powered by a photovoltaic panel that feeds current to a bank of batteries. An inverter converts the stored power to alternating current, allowing standard appliances. "We had to research the most efficient ones," said Boye. "Sometimes we couldn't afford the most efficient appliance. It was a compromise."

The refrigerator is the biggest power draw because it's on all the time; but it uses a bit more than one kilowatt a day. They have an efficient front-loading clothes washer, a propane clothes dryer, and a propane kitchen range. Boye says they used 17 to 18 gallons of propane a month last winter, and their electricity averaged about 2.2 kilowatts a day. They have a generator to top off the batteries during periods of extended overcast. They used the generator a few times in November, twice in March and once in April.

The house is traditionally wired with dedicated switch-operated outlets for the TV, VCR, and disc players in order to eliminate "phantom loads" that steal power. Alan and Linda use laptop computers and battery or wind-up clocks to conserve power. Their sole outside wire connection is a telephone line; cell phone reception is bad. "I like to describe it as 'late 20th Century,'" Boye said, "no cell phone, no satellite dish, no microwave."

Slow dial-up internet? "I'm on the computer so much at work," said Wacholder. "When I go home I don't even want to see a computer, so it doesn't bother me whether it's dial-up or not."

This summer, in his quest for self-reliance, Boye will connect a solar heat panel with two 4-inch insulated pipe chases he buried under the floor before the concrete floor was poured, to move solar-heated air from the panel to the house and back. If he adds a collector panel to the hot water system, Boye and Wacholder may come close to being energy self-sufficient.

"If the question is, 'do you feel like you're sacrificing any creature comforts?' No I'm not. Sometimes I feel righteous," Wacholder said laughing. "Alan and his friends did this and I'm in awe."

"I had a lot of help building this house," Boye said. "My carpentry skills weren't much, but they got better."

Audacity, indeed.



The Boyes' home is completely off the grid. They use solar power for electricity and a combination of wood and propane heat during the winter.

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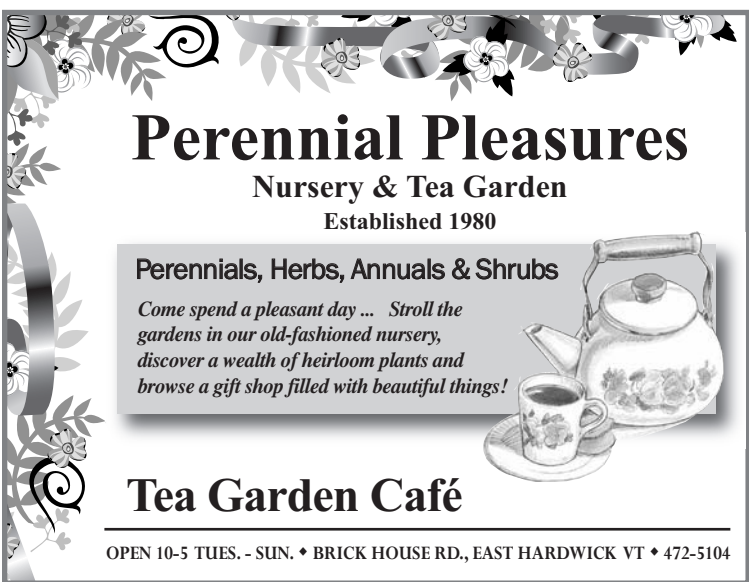
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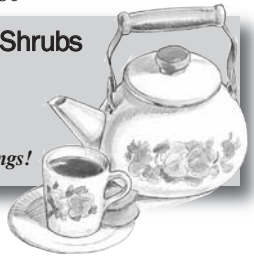


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# Coming soon

Tractors, ghosts, Parker Hill Road Band and the Bailey Hazen Boys



It's that time of the year where once again Peacham has planned a fun filled day for all ages including parades, music, games and historic recreations. It all begins with the well known tractor parade which will include not only tractors but floats, horses and fire equipment from Peacham and neighboring towns. Every year the parade grows larger and last year we had over 50 tractors which participated.

This year the parade is being held in honor of Don Davis who was a wonderful neighbor, a supportive community member and an enthusiastic participant in the annual Peacham 4th of July tractor parade. His son Wesley will be leading the parade which begins at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 4.

After the parade a lovely grilled lunch will be served by the Peacham Elementary School and two bands will follow providing lively musical entertainment to help the digestion and to get the feet tapping and maybe even dancing. Both the Parker Hill Road Band and the Bailey Hazen Boys will be located at the fire department at the top of Church Street.

To further honor Don Davis and all our local farmers both past and present, the Peacham Historic Association will focus on the theme of farming both in its exhibits and at the ghost walk. At the PHA building the summer exhibit titled 'Changes in Farming, Changes in Landscape' will provide exhibits and memorabilia illustrating the various types of farming which have been favored at different times over the ages and the impact they have had on the surroundings.

This year's ghost walk will feature farmers and their families including John Skeele and Matthew Skeele (each of whom had eleven children), John Kinnerson (with six children), and Richard Shaw (with only two children). These men who lived in Peacham at different times from the 18th to the 20th century

**This year the parade is being held in honor of Don Davis who was a wonderful neighbor, a supportive community member, and an enthusiastic participant in the annual Peacham 4th of July tractor parade.**



made their mark on our community and they will tell their stories at the Peacham Cemetery beginning at 2:00pm. Tickets will be sold outside the entrance to the cemetery at the top of Church Street.

As the dancing feet begin to weary, and the ghosts have filled our minds with wonderful stories, one can walk down the hill to the church where at 4:00 p.m. the Declaration of Independence will be read in its entirety. It is a sober reminder of why we celebrate this day of picnics and parades and the words continue to resonate in all

our lives.

Other events planned during the day include an art opening of local artist Ed Kadunc at the Peacham Library, competitive games amongst the fire departments which always means a good deal of laughter, banter and plenty of water, and various games and competitions for the younger members of the community.

Everyone is invited to come dance, dine, learn and enjoy what promises to be a lively day in Peacham the small hill town with a huge heart.

# woody on words

## Words and music

One of the things I love about Vermont is the many opportunities there are to make and listen to music. Music is my second (academic) love, after language. And the two are related. I sometimes feel like a man with two wives. Well, maybe that's a little strong.

Words and music both use hearing to get into our brains of course, but apparently once in they go to a different place. Words, being an aspect of language, head for the left hemisphere, the west wing, where the brain makes decisions, runs things. Music heads for the Rose Garden, toward the right hemisphere, avoiding specific ideas, liking the abstract, the mathematical, the emotional. The neurons in the right hemisphere wear love beads and smoke pot. In the left hemisphere they wear suits and are too sensible to smoke anything.

And yet, words themselves can be beautiful like music and invoke emotions no less powerful or poignant. Even the simplest words can have these effects. I think of our native son, who wrote:

My little horse must  
think it queer  
To stop without a  
farmhouse near  
Between the woods  
and frozen lake  
The darkest evening  
of the year.

He gives his  
harness bells a shake  
To ask if there  
is some mistake.  
The only other  
sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind  
and downy flake.

Not a word longer than two syllables, and only a few of those. Yet the image is clear, powerful, and evocative.

Of course, music too can be simple, direct, and intense. Bach's Air in G comes to mind, or the melody of Danny Boy.

Our brains get hijacked by words. We can't help but think of the ideas they represent. We decide to read, and we put the book down when it's time to stop. But we don't have this control over the spoken word. Someone says "elephant," and we have no choice but to imagine the great grey beast. Only after we've heard something else can we try to filter it out.

Hearing is the most passive of senses. Vision is easily directed to one thing or another, or lidded off. (Smell and touch are minor players when it

comes to intellect). But our ears cannot help but hear what vibrations are in the air around us, and it is only with effort that we can focus on one and exclude others. And yet, paradoxically, with no effort on our part, our ears will tune out a sound that is repeated without variation. We're just along for the ride. Words and music drive the bus, or busses, since they're heading for different places: words for midtown, where the authority is; music for the boutiques and galleries.

When words and music are combined, as in a song, the effect can be compelling if the words are fitted well with the melody and the mood. I think of Kris Kristofferson as the consummate lyricist. It's hard to imagine words better suited to the music they go with than:

I took my harpoon  
out of my dirty red bandanna  
And was blowin' sad  
while Bobby sang the blues.  
With those windshield  
wipers slappin' time  
And Bobby clappin' hands we  
finally sang up every song that  
driver knew.

I'm glad to be hijacked by such congruence of words and rhythm, language and feeling.

Speech has its own rhythm, the beats of stressed syllables, and the rests of hesitation and punctuation. It's not particularly musical, either. Between the stressed syllables the number of unstressed ones varies from none to five or six, depending on the words. And when there's a long string of unstressed syllables, speakers speed up as if they were trying to even up the time between the stressed beats, perhaps to make the rhythm of speech more regular, but they don't usually achieve this evenness. It takes poetry or song lyrics to make the time between stressed syllables equal, and we seem to respond with a feeling of enjoyment and recognition, as if it were what we'd been trying to say all along.

It's an "all's right with the world" feeling when the left and right sides of our brains are working together. Often they're at odds, fighting each other. Our right brains are methodically working to put things straight, declutter the living room, make a shopping list, consult the calendar. Our right brains just wanna have fun.

Perhaps music brings order to the right brain's chaos. Scientists have shown that after an hour of listening to classical music, people actually test with higher IQ's, a fact now widely referred to as the

## Spotting a thunderstorm

>>Page 1

then along comes a year when the thunderstorms march in one after another, sometimes several times a day. The clouds billow upwards, rising so high their tops are torn and flattened in the stratosphere to give the classic anvil shape, with brilliant blue skies in between, blue as the eyes of a demented Viking in the midst of a berserkenganger. Or the storms may come at night, with a rumbling and flickering on the horizon as though a great military offensive is underway. Day or night, we cower inside while lightning snaps and phones ring insanely. There is an electric smell in the air. We check for smoke. Rain roars on the roof and trees come down.

Along with being anything from a source of annoyance to deadly, thunderstorms are also one of the most fascinating and magnificent events on our planet. Make that any planet, because they seem to be occurring in the stupefying vapors of Venus and Jupiter as well. Many scientists now propose that the electrical energy of thunderstorms may originate deep within the cosmos as cosmic rays which charge our planet's upper atmosphere. The churning of ice crystals makes the connection possible as water vapor lifts higher. Lightning has also been observed in the smoke plumes of volcanoes and nuclear explosions.

By listening to the roll of thunder, it is possible to reconstruct a rough three dimensional model of each lightning bolt by using the rule that sound travels about a mile in five seconds. The first sound heard is from where the bolt came closest to the listener, and the rolls of thunder which follow trace the bolt's course back to its source and off to where it terminated. A roll of thunder which lasts as long as a minute marks the path of a bolt at least twelve miles long. Each zig, each

zag, each forking tangent makes it's own sound, including the occasional ripping sound of the initiating step-like propagation. A single bolt may not carry much amperage, but it does it in milliseconds, and with a kick of several hundred million volts it can blow a tree to pieces, set a house on fire, or kill a dozen cows.

Thunderstorms consist of units called "cells." Each cell is self contained and often visible as that towering cloud on the horizon. Its "active" stage, with warm air is rising fast in the center and cold air, hail and rain descending along with lighting usually lasts only about twenty minutes. I'm most wary of cells in their early active stages, when the initial strokes of lighting can take you by surprise. They're always cloud to ground, too, just a few miles long but with lots of wallop. Once the cell is active, it can generate a new stroke of lighting every twenty seconds or so and as the cell matures and then begins to die, the strokes tend to be longer, less frequent and travel cloud to cloud. But new cells can be steadily formed, especially along an approaching weather front, and sometimes many cells will combine in a

"super cell," which cruises above the landscape bringing devastating winds, lightning, hail and drenching rain for hours.

Old timers up here have told me that the thunderstorms aren't as big and powerful as they used to be. I've heard them surmise that when electric power came to our region, it sucked the stuffing out of them. It's a lovely idea but without any scientific merit and anyway I can't imagine storms more powerful than some of the ones that I've seen here. Over the past thirty-five years on our place the lightning has dissolved as much as a quarter mile of barbed wire fence in a flash, leaving nothing but the barbs themselves lying on the ground. It has started fires, blown up countless trees, dug trenches, burned out a growing pile of appliances and antenna rotors, and performed lobotomies on computers. Winds have toppled whole stands of trees at once, hail has ruined the vegetable garden, and flash floods have taken out roads and filled the basement. Still, I cannot help but marvel at the glory and the power of thunderstorms.

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# woody on words

## Words and music

>>Page 15

“Mozart Effect.” Music makes us smarter.

Words can do many things. They too can introduce order and clarify thoughts that are vague or uncertain. Nothing seems to work so well in bringing out insight or increasing awareness of a half-formed thought as the act of expressing it to another person. Sometimes too when we swear or exclaim with emotion, word can introduce a little stimulating chaos to the orderliness of our left brains. Words can

shake us out of complacency, grab us by the shirtfront, and force us to see things we hadn't even thought of. And then, when we've considered the unthinkable, they can settle us down and get us back on an even keel. The left brain is, after all, the Boss.

But let's not get too carried away with this left-brain, right-brain separation of powers. In fact, they work together most of the time, like good lyrics and a fine melody. Words and music.



## Up on the Farm Early

### REMEMBERING THOSE BUGGY PICNICS

BY LORNA QUIMBY

Vermont has six seasons. Besides the usual four, we have mud season and black fly season. The weather may be warm, the mud may have dried, but the wise woman does not plan an outdoor meal until black fly season is over.

The black fly—I do not know the proper Latin word, although I have heard many vivid names for the pesky creature—does his thing during May and most of June. A black fly never travels alone. He comes in a crowd, families, clans, multitudes. They settle on any bare surface you present. They crawl behind glasses, down collars, up sleeves and trouser legs. They make fishing a non-pleasure. When you work outdoors in the garden, you wear netting tied over your head and tucked under your collar. Your collar, regardless of the temperature, should be high and tight. Gloves are helpful. And in spite of all

this, when you get back in the house, you will find a spot, usually under your hair, where the pests have feasted.

I have now reached the age when, during black fly season, I do not spend time outside unless it's in the middle of the day and there is a light breeze or, preferably, a mild gale blowing. The last thing I want to do is go on a picnic.

How times change! When our daughter Kathy was little, we had but one car. To have the car meant getting myself and a small girl ready to drive Dick to work in St. Johnsbury. At the other end of the day, we'd have to pick him up and deal with a belated supper. Only a doctor's appointment or something of that nature made the hassle worthwhile. Hence, most of the time I was trapped at home, alone except for my young daughter all day.

When I'd left Fairbanks Morse because I was pregnant with that same little girl, I looked forward to coffee-katches with my neighbors (I'd read too many magazines). In reality, the women in East Peacham were busy with their own lives. Most had teenagers or soon to be teenagers. The older women were delighted when Kathy and I came to call, but they didn't return the visit. Grandparents were both some distance away and neither drove. The result was that I, as I said one night at Just-a-Club, quite often felt as though I were in purdah—the Indian custom under which women were secluded from society. Those women, at least, had each other!

By the time winter was over, spring had sprung and the grass “riz.” I was more than ready to get out of the house and do something different on a Sunday. And so around Memorial Day, I planned a picnic by an abandoned house on East Hill.

The house stood by the road, its orchard behind. A small clump of jonquils made a brave show in the long wet grass. We walked to the orchard and spread the blanket. I started to get out the food. Before I

finished, I realized we were sitting in a cloud of black flies that crawled over us. We scrambled everything together and fled back to the car. We rolled up the windows and finished our picnic before we drove home. The event remains in our family lore as the ultimate “buggy picnic.”

We had two girls when we had another picnic fiasco. The apple blossoms in the Northeast Kingdom were spectacular that year. Forgetting all I knew about the difference in the seasons between the western side of the state and our high northern hills, I decided we'd take a picnic and visit the orchards around Lake Champlain. It was a cloudy day, threatening showers, but we were good for anything.

On Grand Isle, the blossoms were long gone. We stopped near noon at the rest area on the new thruway. At least we could sit at a table. We ate our meal as fast as we could, for thunder clouds loomed and rain threatened. But the fitful breeze kept the black flies at bay. We had another one of Mom's picnics.

When Dick delivered feed for Ralston-Purina, he saw a lot of the Vermont countryside. On Sunday he'd take us to see the vistas he'd found during his week. We had many an enjoyable picnic, although both girls remember the time I left the potato salad back home in the refrigerator! Nobody's perfect, right?

Our picnics brought many family expressions. One Sunday we stopped by the mineral spring at Brunswick Springs. We walked around the area, looking at the remains of the spa. Kathy remarked, “It smells just like egg burps.” And it's been Egg-burp Springs ever since. That day we ate our lunch by a lake and shared a ginger cookie with a chipmunk. We laughed at the three-cornered bulge in his cheek.


The energy crisis in the 70s stopped our travels around the state. Too, the girls were growing older. Their tolerance for their parents' junkets grew small. Our Sunday picnics faded away.



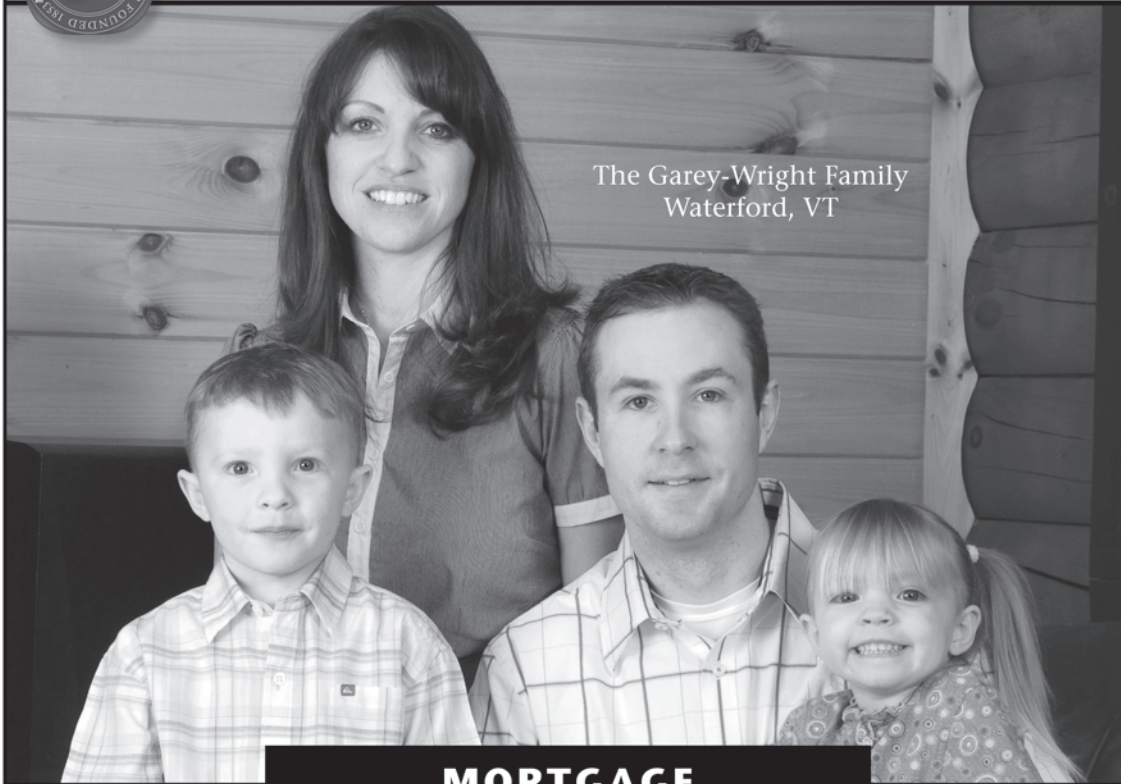
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# Government motors

## The boundries between government and business

BY PETER DANNENBERG

On June 1, General Motors filed for bankruptcy. GM is the biggest of the Big Three U.S. automakers. The first to fail was Chrysler. Courts approved selling Chrysler to Fiat on June 10. Only Ford, the second-largest Detroit carmaker persists without government help. Ford mortgaged all its assets in 2006, for \$25 billion, to avoid bankruptcy. In June 2008, Ford sold its Jaguar and Land Rover brands to Tata Motors of India.

Like Chrysler, GM got a lot of money from the U.S. Treasury; GM got \$20 billion in low-interest loans from U.S. taxpayers before filing for Chapter 11. The Treasury Department decided GM had too much debt and would not lend it more. Instead, after GM declared bankruptcy, it sold the U.S. a 60 percent stake for \$30 billion more in federal funds.

The U.S. hopes to get its "investment" back when a trimmed-down GM emerges from bankruptcy "in a few months." Many financial analysts think that's a long shot. Some say GM's eventual demise is inevitable and government cash will only buy time to abandon ship and scramble into lifeboats.

Whatever happens, the new GM will be smaller. It plans to lop off another 20,000 of its 235,000 employees and shutter 17 factories and parts centers in the Midwest over the next two years.

A western Chinese company without automotive experience, Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery, Ltd., announced on June 2 that it would buy the Hummer brand, subject to U.S. regulatory approval. U.S. government regulators will investigate deals to sell its own assets; it smacks of using the fox to guard the henhouse.

The Chinese want to run Hummer from the U.S. GM is selling Saturn, Pontiac, Saab and Opel too. Of the twelve global brands that made up GM until recently, only Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick and GMC will remain.

GM will become a private company, at least for a while. Its publicly traded common stock is essentially worthless. On June 1, President Obama said of GM on TV, "We are acting as reluctant shareholders."

The government replaced GM Chief Executive Rick Wagoner on March 31, when GM did not meet government requirements for the \$20 billion in loans. The U.S. says it will

not meddle with GM management, except in the most critical areas. Let's hope so. Even though Detroit had its share of design and marketing failures, the East German government-made Trabant was so bad that it was the butt of dozens of jokes, such as, "Double your Trabant's value. Fill up its tank."

In addition to loans and investments, the U.S. is speeding up replacing the federal fleet, offering incentives to taxpayers who replace their old cars with new fuel-efficient ones and lending money to auto, RV, and boat dealers. President Obama appointed Ed Montgomery as Director of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers in March. They are starting a green jobs training program in the Midwest. So far, there is no special help for thousands of car dealers slated to lose franchises and their workers. Many dealerships are family-owned businesses in small towns.

The new GM owners are the U.S. government (60 percent), the United Auto Workers health-care fund (17.5 percent), the Canadian government (12.5 percent) and existing bondholders (10 percent). Canada paid GM \$9.5 billion for its share. The old stockholders, including charities and pension funds, end up holding an empty bag.

In the 1950s, "What's good for General Motors is good for the USA," was a catchphrase. President Obama echoed it when he ended his TV address on June 1, with hope for a brighter future when, "... we can truly say that what is good for General Motors and all who work there is good for the United States of America." Rescuing the auto industry could cost U.S. taxpayers \$160 billion, on top of the billions for AIG insurance, Fanny Mae mortgage, Freddie Mac mortgage and bank bailouts.

There are no distinct boundaries between governments and businesses. Chinese Hummers compete with Italian Chryslers and Indian Jaguars and Rolls Royces for U.S. buyers. Maybe the U.S. government can vie with its rival car companies by combining its ownership of auto, banking and insurance conglomerates to offer one-stop shopping for all our automobile needs. There are two questions for average consumers to ask. "Who'll save you when the wolf claws at your door?" and "Would you buy a used car from this government?"

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Standing in front of their temple (from left) Mason Pratt, Buck White and Rick White, grand master.



# For years to come Danville's Freemasons invest in the future, while North Star comes full-circle

BY JUSTIN LAVELY

Back in the 1800s, North Star founder and editor Ebenezer Eaton was heavily involved in the growing antimason movement. More than a century later, the current North Star editor stood in Danville's Masonic Lodge while three proud members showed off their winter project: a

What's the draw? Former grand master Mason Pratt believes it's the core values offered by the group... and some added attention from recent Hollywood films and bestselling books.

"It's about morals, core values, it teaches you how to be a good person, a good family man," Pratt says, qualities that hold people's interest after they join and find out there are no treasure maps.

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that arose from obscure origins in the late 16th to

ing the group a passing thought. It wasn't always that way.

As former grand master Mason Pratt explained, the antimason movement began with the disappearance of New York resident William Morgan. Morgan was a former mason who decided, with the help of a local newspaper publisher, to publicize the group's secret degree work in great detail. The Masons retaliated with several attempts to discredit Morgan without success. Later, a group of Masons kidnapped Morgan and he was never heard from again. The backlash from this event spread throughout the 1920s and many, including the North Star's Eaton, worked tirelessly to drive the Masons away.

It worked.

After 131 years, Harmony Lodge #14 surrendered its charter in 1929 and was declared extinct by 1949.

It was at this point, in Pratt's opinion, Freemasonry in Danville was forced to change.

In 1869, the Lodge was reconstituted as Washburn Lodge #92 and they held their meetings on the second floor of the Balivet House on the green. The Lodge, like many others all over the world, reinvented themselves as a benevolent and charitable organization. Gone were the cloak and dagger secrets and the political ambitions. The group moved across the green to their current space after the Baptist Church, whose members erected the building in 1831 for \$3,100, vacated it in 1852 leaving it to the townspeople, who eventually put it up for auction.

After purchasing the building, the Masons began what would be their first of three major renovations. The one-room church was modified into a properly laid out Masonic Temple with an anteroom, lobby and domes ceiling. In the 1970s, the second renovation included a finished basement.

**"It's about morals, core values, it teaches you how to be a good person, a good family man."**

2,000-square-foot renovation of the ground level, which now includes a commercial kitchen and a 1,000-square-foot function area. The project was an investment in the group's future and a commitment to their current space, which they bought for \$285 at a 1894 auction.

The new renovation, according to grand master Rick White, was a commitment to the building for the foreseeable future. Foam insulation will allow the building to be open in the winter for the first time in history and the remodeled function hall could play host to a variety of community events and fundraisers. An open house is in the works for sometime after the Danville Fair in early August.

Like many others, the Masons have seen their finances dwindle as their endowment continues to struggle in the current economy. Even so, the 100-member Danville lodge continues to grow at an exciting pace, increasing their membership by 20 percent over the past couple years.

early 17th century. Freemasonry now exists in various forms all over the world, with a membership estimated at around 5 million, including just fewer than two million in the United States and around 480,000 in England, Scotland and Ireland. The various forms all share moral and metaphysical ideals, which include, in most cases, a constitutional declaration of belief in a Supreme Being without preference toward certain denominations.

Freemasonry uses the metaphors of operative stonemasons' tools and implements, against the allegorical backdrop of the building of King Solomon's Temple, to convey what has been described by both Masons and critics as "a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols."

The symbols, White says, were used to identify other Masons before the age of Google and computer background checks.

The Masons history in Danville is interesting. These days, it's easy to drive by their large, brick building on the green without noticing it or giv-

## <<construction shots>>

Function room



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# A Virtual Tour

By BRUCE HOYT



Since 1827, tourists have been guided by Baedeker's, Fodor's, Mobil Travel and other books. In this computer age, the wise traveler will consult the web to make decisions, or may even take a virtual vacation by Googling and clicking. This article will present a sampling of possible vacations that can be taken by automobile or laptop.

For this adventure, southeast Pennsylvania offers more diverse excitement per mile than most other vacation spots. This article will introduce six places, and suggest web sites with video clips to whet the traveler's interest. Those places are Hershey, Gettysburg, York, Lancaster, Strasburg and Philadelphia. Although those towns are close to each other, the travel time to reach them is a bit of a stretch from Caledonia County. The route through Bennington and a layover at West Point makes a more scenic journey and a less hurried pace. [See video 1: Bennington Moose Fest] (See Guide to Videos at end of article)

The town of Highland Falls, New York, holds the West Point Museum and Visitors' Center. A bus tour (\$12) starts at that point and is the only way for tourists to enter the US Military Academy grounds. The Museum has a large collection of weapons, ranging from knives to fire arms to tanks to atomic bombs (empty "Fat Boy"). Portraits of Robert E. Lee, Douglas MacArthur and other West Point Commandants are displayed, along with uniforms and personal belongings that illustrate West Point history.

Originally, a fortification established by General Washington, West Point lies on a

promontory overlooking an "S" turn in the Hudson River. British sailing ships attempting to divide New England from the rest of the colonies would have to tack at least twice under West Point guns. A further precaution, now displayed on the tour, was a great chain strung across the waters.

Impressive with its fortress-like architecture and broad parade grounds the Point commemorates the history of the US Army in statues of its leaders and monuments to past wars. Civil War cannons implanted a muzzle down promise that West Point graduates will never again take up arms against each other. [See video 2: USMA at West Point]

Gettysburg lies southwest at about 5 hours of good highway driving. However, travelers with children may have to make a short detour to Hershey Park's rides and sweets, near Harrisburg. [See video 3: Hershey Park map.]

At the Gettysburg Visitor Center, a map of the National Battlefield may be obtained for a driving/walking/biking tour. A rented audio for the car radio will greatly enhance this experience by providing information about events at each site. A similar guide is offered on line as an iPod download.

The new Visitor Center has an impressive museum, which illustrates Civil War camp life and the cataclysmic events of early July, 1863. An inspiring movie keys from Lincoln's address and notes the sacrifice and courage exhibited by soldiers North and South. The most amazing exhibit is in the rotunda, where a 377 foot long painting of the final battle surrounds an elevated viewing area. Painted in 1884 by

20 artists working from old photos and documents, it gives a credible feeling of action. Real trees, roads, equipment, and landscape in the foreground complete the illusion of depth. Battle noises and flashing lights accompanying the narration explaining the position and movement of forces on that fatal day when Lee sent his troops across the open fields into the withering fire hailing down from Union artillery on

hands of an expert rider who takes it into a booth for a 65 mile an hour "road test". This plant tour updates visitors about modern manufacturing and reassures them that Americans still know how to produce quality. [See video 5: Harley]

A quick trip eastward on Route 30 brings the traveler to the northern loop around Lancaster where the Visitor Center can be seen and accessed from the highway.

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**For this adventure, southeast Pennsylvania offers more diverse excitement per mile than most other vacation spots.**

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Cemetery Ridge. [See video 4: Gettysburg]

The suggested Pennsylvania tour now turns eastward for a 30-mile drive along Route 30 to York and the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle manufacturing facility, just off the highway. Factory tours, beginning every hour, show metal stock and rolls of sheet steel transformed into Harley Sportster models. Unrolled, cut, laid on a form, pressed and laser trimmed, the sheet steel becomes fenders and fuel tank halves. Rough castings go through a computer-guided machine that brings 24 cutting/drilling/milling tools into place to shape a fork support. Steel rods become instantly red hot in an induction furnace, then quickly receive three blows by the mechanical blacksmith to form a kick stand. Welded, sanded and painted, the assembled frame receives an engine, wheels and instruments, then rolls off the line into the

Maps, brochures and advice make this stop worthwhile.

Modern Lancaster's downtown invites exploration on foot. Large churches with towering steeples, colorful windows, and graveyards of Revolutionary patriots, stand within a few blocks of each other. The indoor market on Market Street shows off local produce and prepared foods. (Arrive hungry). Nearby, the in-town Visitor's Center displays a collection of Amish/Mennonite quilts, wooden toys and other craftwork. A courtyard with a three-story waterfall lies between the parking garage and "The Pressroom" restaurant. A few blocks northeast, The Lancaster Brewery offers a friendly atmosphere and a dozen craft beers.

Most visitors, however, come to Lancaster County to see the Amish/Mennonite culture. Establishments among the



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

restaurants along Route 30, southeast of town, offer some of that understanding for a fee, but a more authentic presentation lies on or near Old Philadelphia Pike, Route 340. This road runs east out of Lancaster, through the hamlets of Smoke Town, Bird-in-Hand, Paradise and Intercourse. Here may be found a hardware store that sells Dutch ovens, lamp chimneys and other circa 1900 ware. Next door, a bakery sells jellies, strawberry tarts and shoo fly pie. Across the street, a farmers' market offers every Pennsylvania specialty from ham hocks to canned sweet beets to crock pickles. Interesting, though not in keeping with tradition, is the Turkey Hill Farm's three-story Holstein cow displayed by the roadside.

Every road north or south of the Pike winds out through countryside where large white dairy barns and tidy houses sit in the midst of well-kept fields. Wash hung out on lines and plain green pull-curtains in the windows identify the inhabitants as Amish.

The Amish have chosen to form a community free of connections to the outside world and its corruption. Electricity from the grid, telephones and TV do not come into the home, though many farms keep a phone booth in the yard. Uncompelled by modern fashion and desirous of simplicity, they adhere to a dress code of dark clothing. Men's garments may have buttons, Women's garments are pinned – no buttons, no Velcro. Objects, which are useful, may also be decorative, thus, colorful calendars and elaborate quilts may be used in the home. Large, bicycle-wheeled scooters provide teen transportation much more limited in range than a real bicycle. A commercial offering

called "The Amish Village," just off the Pike, presents this culture in a balanced manner.

Most peculiar to modern eyes is the prevalence of horses. As an underlying principle, the edict against power machinery limits the acreage that one family can manage, and thereby prevents any one person from rising to unwarranted power. Horses are important to well being. Six-hitch teams of horses or mules do the field-work. Black boxy family wagons are pulled by lean, fast-stepping trotters. Young men — who aren't allowed to use the family wagon when they go acourting — impress their young ladies with a light buckboard and the fastest horse in the stable. [See video 6: The Amish]

For Northeast Kingdom residents, a trip to Lancaster might also be a pilgrimage to honor Thaddeus Stevens. Born in Danville and educated at Peacham Academy, UVM and Dartmouth, this native son took up law practice in this town, and it led to his political life as a US Representative. As Chairman of the House Ways and Means he helped write legislation that financed the Union Civil War efforts. A lifelong promoter of free public education and racial justice, he bequeathed a large sum for an equal opportunity school, which has evolved into the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology [See video 7: Stevens College]. He was interred in the racially integrated Scheine-Concord cemetery at North Mulberry and West Chestnut. Evidence of the Underground Railroad has recently been discovered under his law office. [See video 8: Thaddeus Stevens]

Another destination in this compact vacationland will please

anyone who remembers the St J & L C, CPR and Maine Central. Returning to the Old Philadelphia Pike near Bird-in-Hand, take Route 896 south to Strasburg and the Pennsylvania Train Museum. There, board one of the dining or passenger cars for the 9-mile trip through the countryside behind a steam locomotive. The train stops at a picnic ground along the way to let travelers off if they wish. This is the best way to watch and photograph subsequent trains. Passengers may re-board any later train. A yard full of diesel and steam locomotives, boxcars, cabooses, handcars and other memorabilia is sure to make a happy day of exploration for the railroad buff. [See video 9: Trains]

All vacations come to an end, even virtual ones. Route 222, north out of Lancaster shortly comes to I-76 east, which flows into I-276, the north Philadelphia beltway connection to the New Jersey Turnpike. Alternatively, continuation on I-76 brings the fully dedicated tourist into historical downtown Philly. It would be a shame to bypass this great city without stopping to visit the Liberty Bell, Ben Franklin's grave and, especially not to be missed, the new Constitution Hall. This interactive exhibit brings lessons in American history and citizenship to life. A hall of life-size bronze statues lets visitors mingle with 39 signers of the Declaration of Independence and add their own names to a copy of the document. [See video 10: Constitution Hall]

## >>Guide to videos

- >>Video 1: Google ."Moosefest, Bennington, VT" Choose "Bennington Moosefest 2009 – Painted Moose in Bennington Vermont" then click on TV picture of moose.
- >>Video 2; Google "West Point Military Academy" or go to www.USMA.edu/visiting.asp Choose "Online Tours" then choose "Tour West Point"
- >>Video 3: Google Hershey Park, or go to www.hersheypark.com. Click on "View large image of the park map."
- >>Video 4: Google Gettysburg National Military Park, then choose "Photos and Multimedia," then choose "Photo Gallery," then click "View Slide Show."
- >>Video 5: Google Harley-Davidson York, PA, then choose "Harley-Davidson USA/Experience/Factory Tours/York, PA," then click on orange label "What you'll see."
- >>Video 6: Google Lancaster, PA, then choose "Lancaster City, the Heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country," then (under PA Dutch Quick Links) choose "Videos and Photos," then click on "Amish Countryside."
- >>Video 7: Google "Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology," then choose "Take the Virtual Tour," then select any program listed.
- >>Video 8: Google Wikipedia, then write "Thaddeus Stevens."
- >>Video 9: Google Strasburg Railroad, then choose "Video Results for Strasburg Railroad." Choose any clip and play it on the screen to the right.
- >>Video 10: Google Constitution Hall Philadelphia, then choose "Exhibits"



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# Antique quilts

## On display in Peacham

BY MAXINE MARTIN LONG

I have deep roots in Peacham, so I had no difficulty choosing to donate a large number of antique quilts and coverlets to the Peacham Historical Association. These quilts were made by several women in my family, and along with others owned by the Historical Association, will be featured in an upcoming quilt show.

The show will be held at the Peacham Congregational Church, July 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day includes an English style formal tea downstairs in the church with tea service and pastries. Most of my donated quilts come from the Martin branch of the family; I know for certain that several were made by my great grandmother, Hannah Wesson Martin (1830-1925). Hannah, the daughter of Moses and Phebe Brock Wesson, grew up in Danville and taught school in Danville before her marriage in 1857 to Ashbel Martin of Peacham. Hannah lived the rest of her life in Peacham—the Martin farm is now owned by George and Pat Kempton. There, she was a wife, mother and homemaker. Yet there was time set aside for quilt making. Her fine, uniform stitches and her careful construction of the designs indicate that she was an accomplished seamstress.

A pink and white "Album Quilt" which she made around 1880 is particularly noteworthy for its workmanship. Hannah was a weaver as well. Also in the collection is a wool coverlet she hand-loomed between 1860-70. An unnamed Martin woman made the oldest quilt in the collection—dating from the 1830's. Two quilts can be dated in the 1850's and several others between 1880 and the first decade of the 20th century.

One of the quilts from the early 20th century is in near mint condition and comes from the Long side of my family. Called the "Missouri Puzzle," this red, white and blue quilt was made about 1910 by my paternal great grandmother, Helen Marshall Hazlitt (1829-1915), who lived in and around Utica, New York. Of the two newest quilts ("new" being a relative term), one was made by my mother, Carolyn Martin Long (1905-1995) in 1934, the year she was married, and the other by her mother-in-law, Grace Long (1868-1944), circa 1935.

With one exception, all the quilts and coverlets were designed for a double bed. The older quilts, often called T-quilts, feature cut-out corners to accommodate the bedposts at the foot of the bed. The exception is a child's quilt, made for my father, who was born in 1905. At the heart of the word "history," is "story" and I do know one story from this



collection. It centers on my father's baby quilt. One summer in the early 1950's, Peacham Academy sponsored a large community auction with Albert May as auctioneer. My mother offered the child's quilt, much to my dismay. Admittedly it was the first time I had even seen the quilt, yet my strong attachment to my father convinced me—a little girl at the time—that it should not be sold. I did not win the argument and it so happened that our good friend and long time Peacham summer resident, Trudi Priester, bought it.

Years later, I told Trudi the story of my childhood and, perhaps misplaced, sentimentality. The following summer I was presented with the quilt, along with her insistence that it should come back to the family. I come from a family of savers—this collection of textiles is partial evidence. Some of the quilts must have been saved for practical reasons; even though faded and well-worn, they were warm. Other quilts were saved—well, "just because."

During my growing up years I saw few of them in use. In some cases, it was the age of the quilt; the materials and threads could not stand up to an active, growing family. In other cases, it was the colors the quilt maker used, colors that did not match the décor of the room. Even my mother ruefully shook her head at the floral print and Nile green she had used in her "Virginia Star" quilt in 1934. Why she chose those colors she did not know. I seldom saw it on my parents' bed. Through the years, one by one, all of the quilts were carefully stored in pillow cases on several closet shelves. From time to time, my mother would take them out of storage, refold them to create creases going in other directions and then return them to the dark shelves.

After I brought them to my own home, I, too, followed the same patterns—unfolding, refolding and back on the shelf. Then I realized that they needed a wider audience. I felt the Peacham Historical Association was the appropriate repository. While antique textiles are not for daily use, still they deserve to see the light of day from time to time, to be enjoyed by those who can admire the artistry and appreciate the piece of Americana that they represent. A quilt show, such as the one planned, allows for just that.

# A farewell to Janet Wakefield

Through the eyes of a childhood friend

BY BEVERLY INGALLS LYNCH

The phone rang that morning this week. It was my cousin, Arlene Desrochers from Maine. She had learned the sad news from Ruth Drown.

I cannot recall when I first met Janet Wakefield. She has always been my best friend. Please note that I said "my best friend." I doubt that I was her best friend. She was always the leader of the pack. I was the follower. She was cute with nice clothes and those Dutch girl bangs. I was tall and gawky. Her Buster Brown ankle socks were always folded over at the ankle and stayed there. Mine had no elastic and were always sliding down under my heels, and I would try to pull them up when nobody else was looking. She always lived in the same house. My father was always hauling us off to somewhere new where he found a job.

We grew up during the Great Depression, so jobs were hard to find. We would live a year in Maine or other places in Vermont, and then it was back to Danville. At first, we kept our home and would move back and go back to school as if we had never left. We lived next door to the school, and my mother allowed other kids to come over for emergencies or just to play. Janet was always part of the group or just alone with my brother, Duane, and me. The third member of Janet's group was Myrtle Sykes. Our mothers said we would play together peacefully until there were three, and then the fighting would begin. Janet later confessed to me that she loved to be in charge and would tell whoever arrived first at school, "Let's not speak to Myrtle or Bev!" I didn't remember it, but Myrtle years later said that she would go home crying and wonder what she had

done. One day my brother, Duane, came home with two new kids who had just arrived to live in Danville. They were the very handsome identical twins, Richard and Myles Wakefield. Janet and I were there and we were fascinated with the twins and acted like ninnyes.

To say the twins were disgusted would be an understatement. They scowled at us and then ignored us. Their father had bought a grocery store, and they were to become part of the gang. Vacations were filled with Girl Scout camp, playing at someone's house, riding the Dole or Hamilton ponies, swimming in the various brooks, or just romping through fields. We were always dreaming big dreams. Janet and I would get a ride to St. Johnsbury and go to the matinee at one of the two theaters. I never had more than a quarter, and Janet always acted as if she had the same. We would have lunch on Main Street where a nickel would buy a bowl of soup and another nickel would get us a cream puff for dessert. That left us with fifteen cents for the movie, a double feature. We suffered through the Western, and then came the feature where Shirley Temple would weave her poor-little-rich girl stories for us. We did not see any reason why we could not do the same.

In Danville, we were always pretending to put on "shows" to weave our own dreams. I don't recall that we ever finished one, so nothing came of our efforts. In 1939, after our sophomore year was finished, my father again put out his call to pack up for a new

job. We moved to Brattleboro where I would be a junior and Duane a sophomore. Tragedy hit our family in 1941 when Duane was misdiagnosed and died of ruptured appendix at 16, a sorrow which shattered my family and left me trying to cope with the loss of my only sibling more or less by myself. My parents knew that Duane loved Danville and would want to spend his forever there. The funeral was at the Danville Methodist Church, but with both ministers conducting the service. The church was filled, and the bearers were Duane's Danville friends.

When we arrived in Danville, we were taken to the home of Edith Langmaid where she and Helen Osgood had prepared lunch and a visit to my mother by Dr. Paulsen. We were for that brief time back in Danville in the arms of friends and family. On Memorial Day this year, as in years past, Janet took lilacs to Duane's grave and called to tell me. This week, on the day she died, a packet arrived in our mailbox containing clippings about her beloved grandchildren and her own selection as a Danville "hero."

When we last spoke, she told us about a bus trip to Montreal and brought us up to date on Danville. After Duane's death, the years went by with all the young men fighting World War II, and then marriage for all of us. By some quirk of fate, Janet married the handsome Dick Wakefield, who had spurned us years ago when he was a little boy. I married my hus-

band of 64 years, and we lived on four continents while pursuing my husband's military career, always keeping in touch with Janet and visiting Danville briefly to visit Duane's grave and having lunch or dinner at The Creamery where Janet always warned us about Catherine's sinfully tasty maple cream pie. She adored her brother Stephen and his family, and she kept us abreast of the grandchildren's achievements, engagements, and marriages. I met Stephen as a baby and then later as a very tall young man picnicking with his family on Janet's lawn

at the Danville Fair. I know we are old now, and our final days are numbered, but to imagine Danville without Janet is not to be possible right now. I spoke with Alice Hafner, and then I hung up the phone and had a good cry. I love Danville. All these years it has been my anchor. It was a wonderful place to grow up, and most of my memories are in some way linked to Janet. I send my deepest sympathy to Stephen and his family. Farewell my friend. I will always remember you and Danville.

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# Time for summer recipes



## No Small Potatoes *with Vanna Guldenschub*

Summer has finally come to the Northeast Kingdom. The gardens are all planted and we have stopped worrying about frost and started anticipating those ripe tomatoes to come in a few weeks. Our attitude is optimistic and we are enjoying the casual pace of the season, unencumbered by ice, snow, firewood and oil. Let us embrace summer – have a party, have a hotdog, go to a parade, wave the flag and watch fireworks – in other words, let's celebrate the Fourth of July with a cookout.

There is a leisure approach to party giving on the fourth. Everyone pitches in to help make beverages, man the grill or turn the ice cream machine. We can go with tradition on this quintessential American holiday and serve hotdogs, hamburgers and potato salad. Friends and family have been looking forward to this summer fare since last year and haven't tired of this menu yet. Save the other items in your grill repertoire for later in the season when the thought of another burger or dog can bring groans from the crowd.

The berries available at this

time of year make it easy to satisfy the red, white and blue color scheme that won't be denied on this day.

I give you my favorite potato salad recipe, some advice for the grill and a favored red, white and blue dessert.

### Marion's Potato Salad:

This is my mother-in-law's recipe and I watched her make it many times. I have tried other salads, but always come back to this old fashioned recipe. I make it just like she did. This recipe is for 5 pounds of potatoes – cut it in half for a small party.

5 lbs. potatoes  
4-6 eggs  
½ cup sweet pickle relish  
1 cup celery – finely chopped  
1 bunch scallions – finely chopped  
½ cup parsley chopped  
1 cup olive oil  
Salt and pepper  
1 to 1½ cups mayonnaise

Peel the potatoes and cut into medium to large chunks. You can use red potatoes and leave the skins on if you want. Put the chunks into cold water in a large saucepan. Cook the potatoes until they are just softened. You don't

want them to turn into mashed potatoes when you add the other ingredients.

While the potatoes are cooking mix together the celery, relish, scallions, parsley and olive oil in a bowl. Set aside.

When the potatoes are cooked immediately strain them into a colander. Do not leave them in the hot water or they will keep cooking. Transfer them into a large bowl and while they are still very hot, pour the olive oil mix over them and stir softly to coat all the potatoes. Put aside to cool.

Put the eggs in a pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil for about a minute and take them off the heat to set about 10 more minutes. Cover with cold water and peel them. Set aside so they will cool.

At this point I make a hole in the center of the potato mix so it will cool faster. I mix it every so often to let it cool completely. When it has cooled, cut the eggs into coarse pieces and lay them just on top of the potatoes. Set this aside, lightly covered with a towel until just before finishing and service. About ½ hour before your company arrives add the mayonnaise and mix with the potatoes and eggs.

Adding the oil mix while the potatoes are still hot infuses all the

### » Marion's Potato Salad

5 lbs. potatoes  
4-6 eggs  
½ cup sweet pickle relish  
1 cup celery – finely chopped  
1 bunch scallions – finely chopped  
½ cup parsley chopped  
1 cup olive oil  
Salt and pepper  
1 to 1½ cups mayonnaise

### » Berry Mix

1 quart strawberries  
1 quart blueberries  
1 pint raspberries (optional)  
1 cup sugar

### » Pudding

2 cups milk  
2 eggs – beaten  
¼ cup sugar  
¼ teaspoons salt  
1½ tablespoons cornstarch  
2 teaspoons all purpose flour  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla

### » Trifle

2 pound cakes cut into medium size cubes  
2 cups of cream – whipped with ½ cup sugar

flavors into the potatoes and leaving out the eggs and mayonnaise until the last really makes for a fresh tasting potato salad.

**The grill:** Hotdogs and hamburgers are easy enough to entrust to guests. There is always a lot of camaraderie around a grill that only adds to the festivities. Put the refreshments close by in an ice filled bucket and it will be the center of the party.

I usually throw some Portobello mushrooms and some chicken sausage on the grill with the dogs and burgers to satisfy the vegetarians and non-red meat eaters.

You can up the ante a little with some fancy condiments. There are many store bought goodies that can add a gourmet touch to a traditional barbecue.

### Red, White & Blue Trifle:

Luscious local berries usually around by the Fourth are the basis for this trifle. You will have to find blueberries and or raspberries at the supermarket but can buy Vermont cream for the topping. I like to make my own pudding from scratch (it is actually quite easy), but feel free to use a mix if you want. Same advice goes for the cake. A store bought pound cake will work fine, but there is nothing like a homemade one to add depth to this dessert.

A trifle is just a layering of pudding, whipped cream, fruit and

cake. There are incredible variations on this theme and you can be as creative as you want when making a trifle. It is usually served in a big glass bowl so you can see the layers from the side. It is not necessary, but it certainly makes a beautiful display in glass. Have fun with this one.

### Pudding:

2 cups milk  
2 eggs – beaten  
¼ cup sugar  
¼ teaspoons salt  
1½ tablespoons cornstarch  
2 teaspoons all purpose flour  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix the sugar, salt, cornstarch and flour in a heavy saucepan. Gradually stir in the milk. Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and boils. Boil 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in a little of the hot mixture into the beaten yolks. Then blend the yolks into the hot mixture in the saucepan. Boil one minute more, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat. Blend in the butter and vanilla and let cool, stirring occasionally. Cool completely in a bowl and set aside.

### Berry Mix:

1 quart strawberries  
1 quart blueberries  
1 pint raspberries (optional)  
1 cup sugar

Hull the strawberries and set half of them aside whole. Slightly mash the other half of the berries and add the sugar. Add almost all the blueberries and raspberries to the mashed berries and toss. Set aside to macerate.

### Trifle:

2 pound cakes cut into medium size cubes  
2 cups of cream – whipped with ½ cup sugar

Mix half of the whipped cream with the pudding.

Put a layer of the cake cubes in the bottom of the glass bowl. Cover with the pudding and cream mix. Add a layer of berries. Repeat until the bowl is filled. Top with whipped cream and whole strawberries and a few blueberries. This dessert is great the next day.

Happy Fourth of July!

David  
Lavelly

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# Vacation adventures

Destination: local



By TONY SMITH

The month of July marks the starting point of everybody's summer as well as many vacations. If money is tight and you are staying close to home this year, there are many adventures around here to be had at little expense. Depending on your fancy, there are many hiking, kayaking and wildlife viewing expeditions right in your backyard.

As an avid fisherman and having a wildlife biology background, I like to combine kayaking and wildlife viewing at the same time whenever I can. One of my favorite places to go is Jobs Pond in Westmore. It has a spectacular 1,500-2,000-foot shear wall cliff on it similar to that of Willoughby and a nesting pair of Peregrine falcons. These birds can often be seen and heard as you cruise along the shore drifting a fly or some other lure chasing that ever-elusive brook trout. They are more easily heard than seen, so it's better to listen for them than to search the cliffs hoping to see one. They make a loud "whaling" sound and cannot be mistaken for anything else around here. Falcons are not the only rare



While conducting the survey, three deer came out into the field and started feeding. All of a sudden two of them faced off and got onto their hind legs and starting "boxing" one another. They looked like two dogs on their hind legs waiting to receive a treat. They were probably in the air for five or six seconds, which is longer than I would have expected. We figured they were fighting over territory, but why now? Anyway, we hadn't come up with any other conclusions, so we headed back towards the vehicle. The whole walk back I was worrying about the bridge because the wind had pick up and my boots

## Depending on your fancy, there are many hiking, kayaking and wildlife viewing expeditions right in your backyard.

birds that will accompany you on your journey. I often see ospreys and loons as well. Another favorite is Little Averill Lake in Averill. This pond also has a large cliff (Brousseau Mountain) that has falcons, ospreys, loons, goshawks, and the occasional eagle. This lake is much bigger than Jobs Pond and would be a better choice if you have more time. It is also a great place to fish for lake trout. On average, the fish are on the small side compared to others bodies of water similar in size, but there are plenty of them.

There are many other great kayaking, hiking, and wildlife viewing areas, there just isn't enough space to go over them all in one article. If you have an area that interests you, send me an email and I can give you some tips about where to go.

### Careful Where You Step

Last week at work, a colleague and I were conducting grassland bird surveys on South Bay WMA in Conventry along the Barton River. The goal was to get out to "Messiers Field" and listen and record all the grassland bird species we hear. The problem was there was no way to cross the Barton River except by an I-beam (4 inches wide) left from an old bridge. My balance is pretty good, but I was still worried about walking 50 feet across a 4 inch wide beam over water. It took me a little while, but I finally made it without getting wet.

were now wet from the morning dew on the grass. Pete and I are walking side by side now heading towards the beam when we heard a loud whining bleat coming from the ground at Pete's feet. Since I was already on edge from thinking about the bridge, I must have jumped three feet off the ground. It sounded like one of those squishy kids' toys deflating as you let out the air. It turns out that's what it felt like underneath Pete's feet as well. All of a sudden out comes a deer fawn that was probably only hours old. It ran about 30 feet and lay down in the grass again, which is their defense mechanism. It is ingrained in their mind to sit and wait for mom to come back no matter what. She might only come back 3 or 4 times a day to feed her young. It would have worked too, if Pete didn't happen to stumble upon the young animal that morning. We both looked at one another trying to figure out what happened. We stopped to think about it for a minute and decided the presence of the fawn contributed to the altercation we saw earlier. Both deer were looking for the best area to keep their young fed. The deer ran away unharmed, but probably a little scared. But I'd be willing to bet not as scared as I was.

We both made it back across the bridge even though I know somebody out there was rooting against us.

Next month, I hope I can get an article to you, but it will have to be from the great north of Labrador/Newfoundland. I will be on vacation, not staying close to home like I preached above. However, I will be tenting and sleeping in the back of my truck doing it as cheaply as possible.

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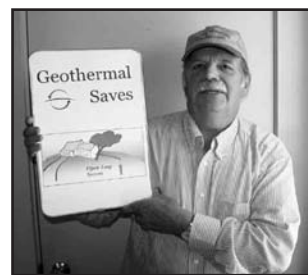
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**Farmers' Markets**

Dianne Gadapee, of Danville, shares a laugh with her grandson, Kyle Gadapee, at the St. Johnsbury Farmers' Market. The Gadapee Family Sugarhouse offers a wide range of maple products, from syrup to maple cream to sugar, at both the Danville Farmers' Market (Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Danville Green) and in St. Johnsbury (Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., behind Anthony's Diner). Both markets are now full of vendors offering all kinds of fresh-picked vegetables, delicious baked goods and preserves, take-home meals, locally grown plants, meats and trout, wood products, wool, eggs and crafts. Come get your lunch (perhaps chicken curry salad or an grilled eggplant/portobello mushroom wrap) and support your neighbors.

# Our first visit

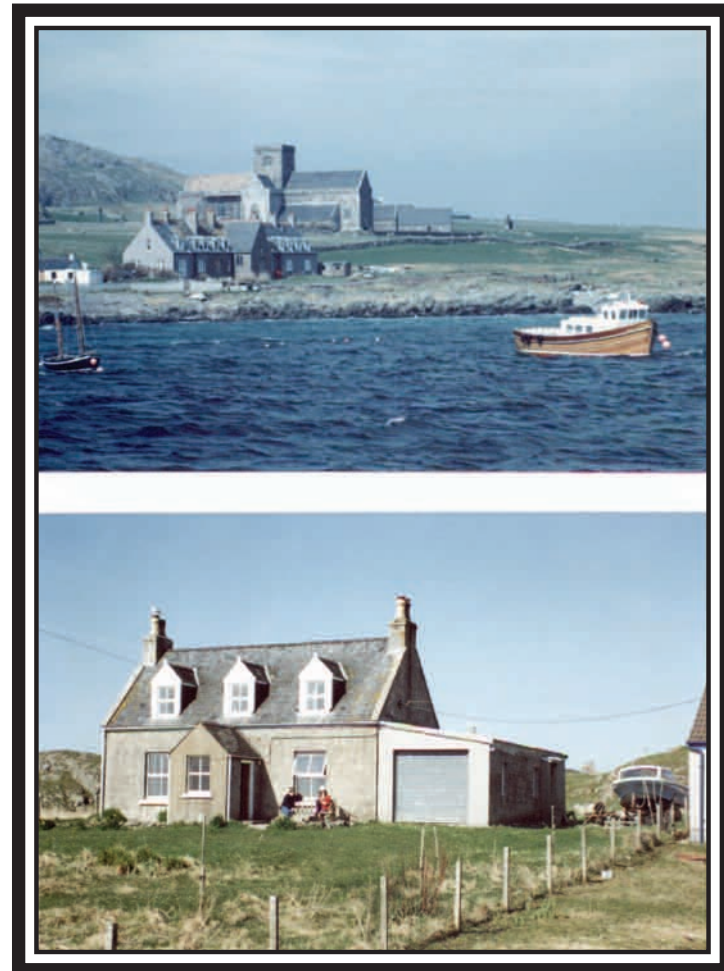
## Traveling to Sacred Isle

BY BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

For quite a few years, my husband and I made an annual spring journey to the British Isles. It all started in the 70s, before terrorism was a threat and the cost of travel ridiculously high. We met many kindred spirits in our travels, with knapsacks and sturdy shoes, many of them taking a year off from college to explore the fascination of other lands.

Among the many friends we met in our travels were Bruce and Patricia MacManaway, who operated a healing center called Westbank in northeast Scotland, along with their three sons and various other talented friends and relatives. We invited Bruce to address the Dowsers' Convention in Danville, and they subsequently invited us to their home and center in Scotland for a few weeks of training and healing.

One day, over a wee drop of Scotch, Bruce said, "You know, Bets and Peter, you haven't seen some very special places in Scotland. We have a simple little cottage on the Isle of Iona, which is one of those special places. We won't be using it until later this year because of commitments here. The cottage, which we call Sligneach, is all ready for use. You would only have to buy a few groceries along the way in Oban, on the west coast. What do you think?"



We were stunned and delighted by the offer, and accepted it promptly! We had heard about Iona from awed friends back home who had visited there, but we had no more experience of it than that. Patricia added, "One of our friends in the village goes in, airs it out, tidies up, makes sure there is fresh linen for the beds, cuts the grass and 'Bob's your uncle!' (That's British collo-

quial for: 'that's all there is to it!') We'd love to have you stay at Sligneach, and there are lots of friendly folk to welcome you and introduce you to the island."

So we soon set off. We drove right across Scotland to Oban, loaded with our gear plus some things they wanted taken to the cottage. After our shopping was done, we boarded the large drive-on ferry waiting at the dock. It

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## Remembering a brother

BY VAN PARKER

His full name was Scud-der Merrill Parker, and he was one of my three older siblings. Scud, as we all called him, was born three days after the 4th of July. Maybe that's why I always think of him at this time of year. A secondary reason is that on one 4th, when he was in his early teens, a fire-cracker exploded in his pocket. It literally shook everybody up did no permanent damage, to him or everybody else.

Our family had a cottage on Lake Sunapee in New Hampshire. Sometimes, when we were both there, Scud would ask if I'd like to go fishing with him. He reminded me that this meant getting up really early. Around 4:30 the next morning he would come by my room and tell me to be up and at it. Early morning was the best time to catch bass. As I struggled up Scud would get things ready and we would row out to a spot where he thought fish would be biting.

He would throw out the anchor and bait our hooks.

Then we would wait.

Slowly the sun would come up (we mostly went out on sunny days.) We might hear a rooster crowing and a little later the sound of a radio or a human voice carrying over the water. If we were lucky, the fish really would bite. Then, if a fish we caught were too small, we'd throw it overboard. Usually we came home with from six to twelve bass or perch, which Scud showed me how to clean and skin.

They'd then become the main item for our family breakfast.

Perhaps it was mostly on these fishing trips that Scud and I bonded. We got to know each other. We became friends. As time passed and we didn't see each other as often he would check in and see how I was doing. At times he would encourage me to try to get a little better report card. More often he would just listen to my thoughts and kind of cheer me on,

Lucy and I bought our place in Danville in 1965, the year before Scud died. He wrote me a letter that fall, saying that he and Bets

welcomed us both as family and as neighbors. He was glad that our children would have a chance to get to know each other.

Then, the following February, Scud was diagnosed as having pancreatic cancer. It had spread too far and was inoperable. He died the following May.

Do you remember the song "Amen!" (the A pronounced to rhyme with may), introduced by Sidney Poitier in the film "Lilies of the Field"? That was sung at Scud's memorial service in the United Church of Newport, Vt. It seemed fitting. For some reason the "Amen" part also took hold in our branch of the Parker family. At our two most recent weddings we sang it at the receptions. Just the four words, "Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen."

This often funny, down to earth editor, farmer, and minister touched many lives in this part of Vermont. He wasn't a perfect person but he was a very good one. I can still remember all those times out fishing, when we got to know each other, not just as brothers, but as friends.

## &gt;&gt;Page 26

was about an hour's journey to the large island of Mull, then we drove another forty minutes or so across Mull to the tiny village of Fionnphort. Parking near the dock, we lugged our cargo onto the landing and eventually onto a very small ferry for a five-minute journey to Iona itself. On the landing there, as promised, a good-sized cart was waiting for us to load with our luggage and other cargo. From there we pushed and pulled our way about a half mile to the cottage!

We had been entrusted with a key, with which we entered the cottage. "Our" cozy little house for the next week had a kitchen, dining room, living room (sitting room in Scotland) and bath downstairs and two more rooms upstairs, ample for guests we had invited to join us later in the week. We settled in, pushed the empty cart back to the landing and then followed the road up to the St. Columba Hotel, where we had decided to have a "proper" meal, as we were not quite ready to begin cookery in our wee cottage.

Our dinner was excellent. The St. Columba is a charming small hotel, one of only two on the one-by-three-mile island. It is located near the ancient abbey that is the most prominent structure on the island. We were destined to enjoy many wonderful times at the hotel during a number of annual visits in the future, even including owning a small piece of it one day – but that is another story!

We returned to the cottage to investigate a bit more before turning in for the night. Plenty of staples lined the shelves adding to our fresh food, and we found lots of warm bedding for ourselves and our guests – we had experienced the cool spring nights of northern Scotland before!

In the kitchen we found an envelope taped to the wall that read: "There is water in the tank, just outside the kitchen. When that is used up you will have to ring Iona 7756 for someone to come and turn on the outside water. It is not safe to leave it on when no one is here." OK, we found the tank – empty, sadly! We rang the number, but got no answer – all gone out somewhere. Too bad, as we were eager to wash after our travels.

I decided to investigate while Peter was getting a fire started in the little coal stove in the sitting room. I was determined to solve the water problem, if possible. So I pulled on an old pair of "Welly" boots. (I knew the tall grass was wet.) Outside I groped, holding a borrowed light, along the outside wall. No luck at all. Suddenly I remembered that I had, in an inside pocket, a dowsing pendulum, I fished it out and got it swinging to see if I could locate the blasted faucet. After a few minutes of pacing around, I spotted a pipe and a small red wheel. Taking a deep breath, I turned the wheel – no luck again – so I banged it with a stick and tried again. It moved! I heard a shout from indoors: "Whoopee –Water!" Great rejoicing followed. We worked at getting the tank filled, then turned the intake wheel off again. Certainly water was not to be squandered on this little island.

So we had a good splash and got into our woolies for a warm night's sleep. It had been a rather long day.

When we welcomed our friends at the jetty later in the week, there were lots of excited greetings and talk about how we

would spend our time together. Happily, the weather was perfect, revealing the many Hebridean islands dotting the deep blue sea.

Iona has its special treats to share, including a sacred well on a hill, from which we all splashed water, reported to impart youth-

fulness. We visited the Hermit's Cell, an ancient stone circle and the old crumbling nunnery.

We walked trails that wound around the hills and down to the lovely sandy beaches. We munched sandwiches in a cozy nook in the rocks, and gathered shells and

"precious" stones that we still treasure.

It's hard to say what the true magic of this island is. Folks travel there from all over the world, and all who visit treasure the memories of Iona's rare beauty and secret enchantment!



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# Berries and wildflowers

Walden Hill Journal *with Jeff & Ellen Gold*

**July 6, 2008**

It's been a busy 4th of July weekend. Barbecue and games at Riverglen started off the festivities and a well-attended St. Jay band concert (also in NH) closed the day. A few fireworks en route home was one of many bursts over the past few days. We've been catching up on outdoor chores that stacked up while we were in Nova Scotia. The lawn is mowed, the first large harvest of kohlrabi is in the freezer and the spent irises, lupine and lilies are cut back. Of greatest news is that the blackflies are gone. My bug baffler netting is ready to be washed and put away until next year.

harvest some basil for dinner but didn't have enough of a window between rain showers until after supper. So we made do with last year's pesto and did an evening harvest for the freezer. Tonight our garden fare consisted of tender chard thinnings and what we could salvage from the bolting spinach. Cedar waxwings have been frequenting the shads to feast on the ripe berries. An indigo bunting was also back at the feeder. I still haven't seen any bluebirds this season and our swallows seem to be done nesting so the bird houses are empty. Hummingbirds are also making themselves scarce. Maybe once the bee balm opens, they'll be back.

vasive honeysuckle and milkweed perfume the air. Monarch butterflies are back, visiting milkweed blooms and hummingbirds tread air as they sample each individual blossom on the punky bee balm flower heads.

picked 4 pints; 3 for the freezer and one for more immediate consumption. I also hand-dug a few new red potatoes for tonight's supper. It was encouraging to find nice solid spuds rather than tubers rotted out by so much rain.

**July 8, 2008**

Hazy, warm, overcast evening; perfect weather for the firefly show. Outdoor viewing is problematic due to oversized, hungry and aggressive mosquitoes. A cooling breeze makes indoor viewing the choice seat of the evening. The blinking cast is warming up with a few lazy, floating, twilight flickerings.

**July 18, 2008**

Blueberries are ripening and adding summer zest to our morning cereal. A few snowpeas are ready to harvest as well. We should be treated to more of both for the next month or so. We quickly took care of mowing the overgrown lawn yesterday and got that accomplished before another day of heavy rain set in. Last night's orange full moon was partially veiled in wisps of clouds, a sure sign that unsettled weather was on the way. Wildflowers are in profuse bloom and make beautiful bouquets on their own or with our cultivated bee balm, day lilies and phlox. The sweet smell of in-

**July 26, 2008**

I just barely finished a quick run with the mower before the sky opened up AGAIN! Mowing has been unusually laborious, pushing through our very spongy lawn. We had one beautifully clear day this week on Friday and all the rest was rain, torrential at times. Tropical storms moving across the midwest, spawned tornadoes just south and east of here. Our neighbor, Steve has already measured 9 inches of rain on Walden Hill this month. With all that extra water, great blue herons are beginning to be a common sight, soaring overhead. One was even strutting up Jane Peck's driveway as I headed into town today.

**July 31, 2008**

More stormy weather today, a fitting close to the wettest July on record. Not only do we have torrential rains but lightning and growling thunder bouncing off and echoing through the hills. We walked up to the beaver pond and had quite a surprise. The massive dam had been washed out by the storms. It looks as though someone had pulled the plug and drained the pond. The once, partially submerged massive beaver lodge now stands mostly visible in a shallow pool and formerly submerged vegetation lay exposed in the remaining mud. It's my theory that with the excessive rain, the inactive beaver pond above this one gave way and roared down, washing out what had been an active, very sturdy, two level beaver dammed habitat. If the beaver did survive, they'll probably move on to create a new pond. They had harvested most of the usable trees around this one anyway. It'll be very interesting to see the changes as the large flooded area returns to wetland and stream.

**July 29, 2008**

One crop that definitely hasn't been discouraged by all this rain are the wild blueberries. Profuse, plump and juicy, they are hanging in clumps like miniature grapes, just waiting for a gentle thumb roll to dislodge them. With relatively little effort, I

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# Lyme Disease



## Veterinary Files with Andrea Gilbert

It is a lovely late-spring day and Daisy, 5 year old lab mix, decides to go for a walk in the woods.

Things were going well. Scents to follow, sticks to chew and a small critters to chase. She runs through a thicket, in hot pursuit of a moth and a tick lands on her! It crawls under her fur and along her skin. And now, the story could head in many directions.

One possible outcome is that her owners regularly use a flea and tick preventative. These products

contains cotton soaked in alcohol, put the cover on tight and that is the end of the tick. They also know that a small piece of the tick could be left in the skin and it does not cause problems. The body will get rid of it on its own. There could be some redness or swelling in the area of the tick attachment for the next 1-2 weeks. And they feel assured with the knowledge that the tick has to be attached 24 hours or more to transmit Lyme and other diseases. So, they feel pretty confident that Daisy will be okay. But they plan

veterinarian draws some blood and runs a test in the office that shows that Daisy has been exposed to Lyme disease.

Since her signs match those of Lyme disease, she is started on antibiotics and pain relief.

Daisy feels better in a couple days and continues to take antibiotics for the next month. Her owners start using tick and flea preventative and checking for ticks to try and avoid this happening again.

And one last possibility is that Daisy is black, the tick fed on her,

## Then one day she won't walk, won't eat and cries when she is touched.

are applied to the pets skin, get dispersed over the animal's body without being absorbed into the bloodstream and kill the flea or tick when it comes in contact with the insecticide. So, the tick dies and Daisy continues to enjoy her life in Northern Vermont.

Another possibility is that the tick could attach to Daisy and begin feeding on her blood. Yuk. But Daisy is a light color (making a black tick easier to see) and her owners pat her often. They feel the tick that evening and know just what to do. The use a pair of tweezers and pull the tick off the skin with firm but not too aggressive pressure and a slight twisting motion. Despite being crushed by the tweezers, the tick is still moving! But they are prepared. They drop the tick in a small jar that

on picking up flea and tick preventative next week since clearly the season has started. Some ticks are very hard to see the preventative gives an extra measure of protection.

Now, what if Daisy is black (making ticks harder to see)? Or if her owners were away for the weekend? The tick would attach and feed on her blood for the next 2-3 days or more. It would drop off the next time Daisy is outside and escape. Daisy seems herself for the next few weekseating, acting well, enjoying being a dog. Then one day, she won't walk, won't eat and cries when she is touched. Her owners bring her into their vet and Daisy has a fever of 104 (normal dog's temperatures go up to 103 if they are excited) and swollen joints. The

dropped off and Daisy seemed normal. Months later, Daisy starts drinking lots of water and losing weight. But seems happy.

The next time she visits her veterinarian, they find that she lost 15 pounds in a year! They run some bloodwork that showed that Daisy was in kidney failure. Her disease progressed quickly and she is euthanized 6 months after that late-spring moth chase at the young age of 6 year old.

While many things can cause kidney failure, Lyme disease could have made Daisy sick.

Your questions or suggestions are welcome.

*Andrea Gilbert is a veterinarian at the Danville Animal Hospital. She can be reached at (802) 684-2284.*

## Ravens at the Guild

A new exhibition, "Black Bird Singing: a Celebration of Ravens, Crows, and Their Cousins," opens July 8 in the Backroom Gallery of the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild in St. Johnsbury. The group show will display the work of twenty artists in such diverse media as paintings, prints, and works in clay, fiber, and metal. A wine and cheese reception for the artists will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2009 at the Guild, and the public is cordially invited.

Technically, crows and their cousins are songbirds. Like all members of the corvid family, crows are highly intelligent, very sociable, and have long fascinated humankind.

"People who like corvids are passionate about them," says Amanda Weisenfeld, whose work will be represented in the show. "I love ravens and crows

because they are smart, clever, bold, playful, make wonderful sounds, and are fascinating to look at. There is nothing more powerful than coming across a 'crow tree' that suddenly explodes, propelling a mass of black birds swirling and sweeping up into the air. It takes your breath away."

Ceramic artist Arlene Goldberg has made stoneware mugs for the exhibition. "Crows to me are jokesters and clowns, which is the reason I portrayed them as hanging on the side of a mug," she says. Donna Jean Safford also admires the humorous aspects of corvid behavior.

"Aside from my admiration for crows and ravens as intelligent, handsome, and humorous birds," Safford says, "I place them in my paintings for aesthetic reasons. Their dark indigo color lends weight to the composition, their physical angularity and shape suggests movement, and through their eyes I try to express spirit, both animal and the human kind. Each bird is a distinct personality rather than a

generic icon."

Other artists participating in the show include Sunnie Andress, Naomi Bossom, Linda Broadwater, Carolyn Guest, Joan Harlowe, Carol Keiser, Wendy Lichtensteiger, Susan McClellan, Carol MacDonald, Dorian McGowan, Sarah Munro, Ellen Spring, and Ashley Thompson.

Expect a few surprises at "Black Bird Singing," which, considering the talents of these clever birds, is fitting. What better way to celebrate the corvid family than to attend a party in their honor? The reception will be held at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, 430 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 18. The exhibition concludes on August 18.

More information on the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild is available at the Website, [www.nekartisansguild.com](http://www.nekartisansguild.com), or by telephone at (802) 748-0158. The Guild is open Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



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# What's happening at town hall

## Cabot

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

May 6, 2009

**Creamery** - Cabot Creamery has asked to run a banner across the Main Street for their celebration in June. Caleb Pitkin moved to allow placing the banner two weeks prior to the event, to be taken down the day after. The Board approved.

## Danville

Town Clerk: Wendy Somers  
 Town Administrator: Merton Leonard  
 Selectboard: Denise Briggs, Doug Pastula, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

May 21, 2009

**Road Report** - Road Agent Kevin Gadapee reported that in addition to grading, the road crew has been washing bridges to clean off accumulated salt and sand, as well as cleaning out remaining culverts. They have also been patching pavement potholes. The camper's roads around Joes Pond were also graded as well as the beach. They have cleared the trees from Woodward Road and are now waiting for the culverts to arrive to proceed with the FEMA work. Kevin has requested pricing on pavement for the work on Brainerd St and Joe's Brook Road, the Board voted to go with the lowest price that he receives.

**Sewer System** - Town Administrator Merton Leonard reported that he had checked into a request from last meeting to connect onto a private four-inch sewer line that their neighbors had permission to connect onto the Town's sewer line several years ago. The Town's sewer plant operator indicated that it would probably work although it would not be the best alternative. After some discussion as to the best method to follow, the Board requested Merton to look into extending the 8 inch town line up Hill Street as there will probably be additional requests for connection in this area in the future.

**Logging Complaint** - Merton and Kevin investigated a logging complaint on Town Highway 73. It appeared no one had been there since the winter thaw and it looked similar to other logging operations and was pretty well cleaned up. They were reportedly operating under direction of a forester.

## Lyndon

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

May 26, 2009

**Mobile Home Park Licenses** - Motion made by Kevin Calkins, seconded by Kermit Fisher, to approve the annual mobile home park licenses of Maple Ridge Mobile Home Park, Hill Street Park, Woodland Heights, and NEK Mobile Home Park. The Board approved.

**Truck Body Bid** - A motion was made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Kevin Calkins, to accept the bid from Tenco for the body and plow assembly at \$51,986. The Board approved.

**Schoolhouse Bridge Area** - Permission was granted to allow the Lyndon Corner Church to hold a fundraising event at the Schoolhouse Bridge in the future provided the area is picked up afterward and parking issues are addressed.

**Back Center Intersection** - Vtrans has offered to send out engineers to inspect the intersection and come up with suggestions for possible changes. Grant funds are available for possible changes. The Board will take the State up on their offer of assistance.

**Reappraisal Discussion** - Listers Norman Messier and Kelly Harris informed the Board that since the Town's CLA has dropped below 80 percent (to 79.95 percent) the Town must have a reappraisal. The process could begin this summer and continue over two years to be effective 4/1/11. Motion made by Kevin Calkins, seconded by Kermit Fisher, to approve the proposed two-year program for the inevitable town-wide reappraisal by New England Municipal Con-

sultants. The Board approved.

June 8, 2009

**Cemetery Expansion** - A discussion was held at the Lyndon Center Cemetery. Upon returning to the municipal office building, the Board asked for the following information: how many lots are left, the rate of lots sold, the cost of leveling the piece of land in question, and a comparison of Lyndon's rates to those of area cemeteries.

**Municipal Building** - Ken Burchesky has requested a place to store equipment of the Caledonia Hockey League. The Board approved the request as long as the items are packaged and labeled, the storage is for this summer only, and with the understanding that the items will not be secure.

**Fire Truck Discussion** - Fire Chief Greg Hopkins explained that the bids for the new aerial ladder truck came in too high. The grant must be spent by December 2009. The truck was re-bid and the lowest bid came in at \$535,812. The 1976 truck can be traded in for \$22,000 for a net of \$513,812. The budget approved by voters at Town Meeting is for \$500,000. Chief Hopkins stated that the fire department would put the \$3,000 raised at a recent coin drop toward the purchase as well as the proceeds from the sale of the old rescue truck. The Board prefers to remove the front suction option from the new truck in order to bring the price down closer to the \$500,000 the Town has to spend.

**Ancient Road Discussion** - Volunteers for the group have not been able to work on the project, other than Joe Newell, and he is unable to do the project on his own. A report identifying the ancient roads found is due by July 1st. The Board would like to report as many roads as have been found to date.

**Skate Park Construction** - The Town has been notified that it must own the land the skate park will sit on in order to qualify for the grant funds. The Town will purchase the land from the Village Improvement Society and the skate park will be constructed next year.

## Peacham

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

May 20, 2009

**Cemetery Committee** - Tim McKay moved that the charter for the Cemetery Long Term Planning Committee be adopted as presented. The Board approved and will consider appointments including a chairman at the next meeting.

**Roads** - Road Foreman Mark Chase was absent. It was noted that Peacham Pond roads had been graded. Discussion of road maintenance policies included the Vermont statutes regarding Class 4 roads, which only require the maintenance of drainage. Specific concerns included rocks within the roadbed, trees encroaching on the travel way, and the danger of residents' possessions left in the road way. Tree Warden Monteith explained his jurisdiction over shade trees in the right of way.

June 3, 2009

**July 4th** - Lisa Moore reported on the scheduled events for this year's festivities. Informational notices will be available at various town locations. This year the parade will be in honor of Don Davis. Once again Bayley Hazen Road and Church Street through the village will be closed to traffic during the parade.

**Veterans Memorial Project** - Laura Johnson presented design proposals and quotes from three contractors. McKay moved that the proposal from Gandin Brothers be accepted for the amount of \$11,100 to construct the Veterans Memorial and that the Chairpersons of the Veterans Memorial Committee be given the authority to sign the construction contract. The Board approved.

**Town Building Energy Review** - Town Energy Coordinator David Magnus reported that he is working on a proposal for the use of geothermal heating for the Town Hall but additional information about the building is needed. He reported that Efficiency Vermont recommended a complete energy efficiency audit be done. The cost of the audit and the potential for

available grants was discussed. Magnus will get an estimate for energy audits for all three Town Buildings (Town Hall, Town Garage, and Fire Department) along with any potential grants to fund them.

**Tree Damage** - Damage to cemetery trees caused by the recent wind storm discussed. Correspondence from the Town Tree Warden, Neil Monteith, regarding ongoing tree maintenance in the cemetery was reviewed. Cochran moved that the Cemetery Sextons be given permission to put ongoing tree maintenance out to bid. The Board approved.

## St. Johnsbury

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

May 26, 2009

**St. Johnsbury Athenaeum** - Wendy Hansen, Development Officer from the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum was present to request that the Board authorize the signing of an Evidence of Community Support letter required by the

### July 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.

**July 2** - BBQ chicken, pasta salad, V-8 juice, watermelon and strawberry shortcake.

**July 7** - Pepperoni pizza, smoked chicken panini sandwiches, spinach salad with mandarin oranges and rhubarb cobbler.

**July 9** - Beef stroganoff with egg noodles, baked sweet potato, slices of canteloupe and rolls.

**July 14** - Salmon patties on a bun with tartar sauce and lettuce, coleslaw, broccoli salad and bread pudding.

**July 16** - Chutney chicken salad on a roll with lettuce and tomato, cream of broccoli soup with saltines and carrots.

**July 21** - Chef salad with ham & cheese, fresh fruit salad and rolls.


**July 23** - Marinated chicken breast, summer spaghetti, spinach salad with strawberries and almonds and blueberry muffins.

**July 28** - Bacon, broccolo and cheddar quiche, mixed veggies and carrot cake.

**July 30** - Tomato bisque, BLTs, pasta salad and watermelon.

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USDA. Hansen informed the Board that the Athenaeum is seeking funding for energy efficiency improvements. The Board authorized the Town Manager to sign the Evidence of Community Support document.

**Interstate Weight Limits** –Quatrini requested an update on the State's proposal to reduce overweight fines on the interstate to allow trucks to use the interstate system. Gary Reis stated that he had spoken with representatives from the Agency of Transportation – and they will be contacting other states that have reduced fine amounts to make a determination relative to the type of fine levels that may be acceptable to the federal government. Reis said that the state found that if they were to reduce the overweight penalty to \$1 they would lose a significant amount of Federal Transportation Funding. So this bill was not ap-

proved. Quatrini requested that the Manager send a notice out to the people who were participating in the sub-committee on interstate weight limits to let them know about this.

**Web Site Video** – Joel Schwartz was present to review a proposal to create a local video for the Town's website, with the Board. Joel said he has been approached by a representative of mayor.tv about producing a local video for St. Johnsbury that can be linked to the Town website. Joel said that the marketing strategy for this company is to come into Town, produce 3 to 4 videos about the community – and then sell sponsorships to local businesses to pay for the videos and make a profit. Joel said that there are others in the area who can produce video for the website – but if the Town were to commission video footage we would need to pay for it directly. With this deal the Town gets the video, pays nothing for it, and local businesses decide whether or not they want to pay for sponsorships. Joel said that the company does want to have an endorsement from the municipality when they go out to market the video. So the Town is providing a Letter of Introduction for the firm to indicate that the Town supports this marketing effort. Joel stated that the reason this company is targeting municipal websites – is that when you go to a search engine to find out information about an area – if you type in the name of the community, the Municipal Website will always be in one of the top responses. Joel reviewed some of the municipal videos from the mayor.tv site including Kittery, Maine and Berlin, NH. Joel said that it is his understanding that the cost for sponsorship is between \$900 to \$6,000 depending on the services selected. Jean Hall Wheeler said that she was concerned that this effort may detract from the marketing efforts of the Chamber of Commerce or St. Johnsbury Works. Jean asked if these organizations have been contacted to get input on this proposal. Joel said that he did not contact them, and that it could very well be seen as a conflict. Kimbell suggested that if Barre has decided to participate in this, then we should get some feedback from Barre about their decision. Jim Rust asked how long the site would be available if they did not sell any sponsorship. Reis asked about how often the videos would be updated as elected officials and information included in the videos will change. Wheeler asked about direct linkage with the discoverstjvt.com website and whether or not there are ways to create a closer connection between the two sites. Joel said that he does have a

sample of the contract and informational letter, and he would provide this to the Board. Joel said that he would contact the representative to get answers to some of the questions raised by the Board – and report back to the Board at a future date.

**Delinquent Property Taxes** – Town Clerk Sandy Grenier was present to review the status of delinquent property taxes with the Board. Sandy said in the last month an additional \$23,000 has been collected. She said she has seven more agreements, and eight taxpayers paid in full. Sandy said there are currently 21 accounts with two or more years of delinquent taxes, six of these are mobile homes. Sandy said next month she will come back to the Board with a detailed listing of all accounts that have two years of delinquent taxes, and do not have a good payment agreement in place.

**Reappraisal** – Peter Whitney provided a written update on the status of the reappraisal. Peter indicated that he is working with the consultant to double check all of the data entry. Peter stated that he hopes to lodge the abstract of the grand list by June 15. The statutory deadline is June 24. Sandy Grenier reviewed the statutory timeframes for appeals with the Board.

**Performance Review** – The Board has scheduled a meeting for Manager Performance Review on Monday, June 8, beginning at 5 p.m. in the second floor conference room at Passumpsic Savings Bank.

**Severance Hill Grant** – Thanks to the efforts of Larry Gadapee, Dan Scott, and Shauna Clifford, St. Johnsbury will receive a grant from the state to put a maintenance surface on Severance Hill Road, and replace all of the signs (as required by Uniform Traffic Control).

**NIXLE Service** – Due to efforts of Dispatch Supervisor Mark Gilleland, people in St. Johnsbury area can now sign up to be contacted in the event of any public emergency by registering their contact information at

www.nixle.com This is a free service. The St. Johnsbury Dispatcher can immediately broadcast emergency notification to all those who register for the service.

**CALEX 25th** – Members of the Board acknowledged the 25th Anniversary resolution for CALEX Ambulance Service.

**Community Justice Center** – Welch informed the Board that Dinah Yessne has determined that donated office space can be counted as the Town's match toward the Community Justice Center Grant.

**Housing Inspection Program** – Welch advised the Board that Town Health Officer Tim Angell has been participating in some discussions related to the role of local officials in state housing inspection programs – and whether those responsibilities should be turned over to municipalities.

## Walden

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

May 20, 2009

**Emergency Plan** – The Board reviewed the Basic Emergency Operations plan. The board designated Butch Greaves, Robert Bell and Chris Bissell as persons delegated with authority during an emergency incident. The plan was

adopted by the Board with the above additions.

**Cobb Road** – The Town has received a go ahead on the Cobb Road grant from Better Back Roads. Dave Brown noted that an excavator will be rented for one month. The Town Clerk talked with the board about a request received for employee and volunteer information. She also noted that the town will need to include the new recreation field on town insurance because the town recreation department runs the after school sports.

**Fallen Tree** – The Board discussed a tree that had fallen onto a truck belonging to a resident on Cobb Road over the weekend. The insurance company was notified and denied the claim noting that it was weather related. After discussion the board agreed that this was an unfortunate situation, but was not the responsibility of the town. The resident was notified of the decision.

**Thank You** – Stuart Smith thanked the Board, Brian Lynaugh and the Town Clerk for their work when he was in the hospital on Green Up Day. He thought things went very well. The Board thanked Stuart for all he did in preparation and to wrap up the day.

## July 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.

**July 1** - Homemade turkey soup, egg salad sandwiches, tossed salad and brownies.

**July 3** - Buffet

**July 8** - Macaroni salad, sliced turkey, four-bean salad, homemade bread and watermelon.

**July 10** - Baked beans, hot dogs, cole slaw, brown bread, chocolate pudding.

**July 15** - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas & carrots, dark bread, orange jello and mandarin oranges.

**July 17** - Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed veggies, apple sauce, rolls and tropical fruit.

**July 22** - Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, broccoli with cheese sauce, rolls and cantaloupe.

**July 24** - Baked fish, oven potatoes, cole slaw, peas, dark bread and jello with fruit.

**July 29** - Hot hamburger sandwich with gravy, mashed potatoes, sliced carrots and peach shortcake.

**July 31** - BBQ chicken legs, oven potatoes, tossed salad, saurkraut salad, dark bread, cake and ice cream.

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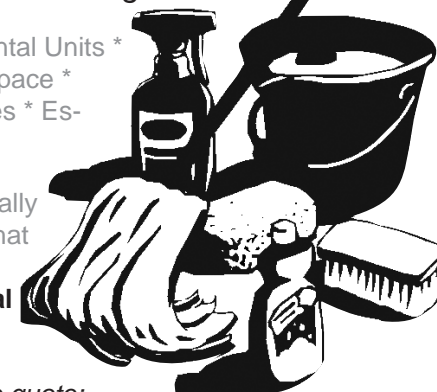
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### ►Lisa Burrington, EA, LLC

"Enrolled to practice before the IRS." Tax and accounting services for individuals and small businesses. Address: 106 Hill Street Lyndonville, VT 05851 Phone: (802) 626-9140 Fax: (802) 626-9141 Email: lisaburrington@myfairpoint.net.

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### ►Law Offices of Jay C. Abramson

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### ►Clarke D. Atwell, Esq.

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## Real Estate

### ➤Coldwell Banker All Seasons Realty

Brent Shafer CBR - Realtor Broker-in-Charge. 3 office locations to serve the entire Northeast Kingdom with 18 full time salespeople. Lakefront, Residential and Acreage. PO Box 1166, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (802) 626-4343. [Allseaslyn@together.net](mailto:Allseaslyn@together.net)

### ➤Morrill & Guyer Associates

791 Broad Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851. (802) 626-9357. Fax (802) 626-6913. [realestate@homeinthe kingdom.com](mailto:realestate@homeinthe kingdom.com), [www.homeinthe kingdom.com](http://www.homeinthe kingdom.com)

### ➤Peter D. Watson Agency, Inc.

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### ➤Century 21 Quatrini Real Estate

Susan S. Quatrini, GRI, Broker-Owner. 1111 Main Street. St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. (802) 748-9543 or (802) 748-3873. [c21qre@sover.net](mailto:c21qre@sover.net)

### ➤David A. Lussler Real Estate

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

### ➤Begin Realty Associates

10VT Route 2, "On the Green." in Danville. Specializing in residential property, vacation homes, land and farms. Realtors Ernie, Barb, Debbie and Armans, (802) 684-1127, [www.beginrealty.com](http://www.beginrealty.com).

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## Real Estate Appraisal

### ➤Reynolds Real Estate

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

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## Ski Equipment

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### ➤Berry Tire Co., Inc.

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## Volunteers

### ➤R.S.V.P.

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

## Water Systems

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### ➤Walbridge Welding

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# Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2nd 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.

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

Additional Events are posted throughout the month at:  
[www.northstarmonthly.com](http://www.northstarmonthly.com)

Please submit events to:  
[info@northstarmonthly.com](mailto:info@northstarmonthly.com)

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

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


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

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

**1st & 2nd Saturdays:** Dance in the Kingdom at the Good Shepherd School - Latin & Ballroom dance: Lessons at 7 p.m. followed by open dance, 8 to 10 p.m. (802) 748-3044

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

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



**St. Johnsbury Athenaeum**  
Winter Hours  
Monday - Friday  
10:00 to 5:30  
Saturday  
9:30 to 5:00  
For more information call 748-8291



## Pope Notes

with Dee Palmer, Library Director

Summer is here and much is happening at the Pope Library. We are happy to see many of our summer patrons return and welcome our new patrons. The Pope Library is a very busy place these days. We think this may be due, in part to the closing of the Northeast Regional Library. Sadly, the Regional Library closed its doors to the public on June 5. We will do our best to fill the void that this closing has left. The Pope Library is still able to request books from the Regional and we will continue to supplement our collection with books from their collection.

Our Sunday Summer Concerts on the Green begin July 5 with The Danville Town Band. Best of Friends perform on July 12 and a Homemade Pie Sale to benefit the Danville Senior Meal Site. July 19 is Bill Moulton and Friends playing jazz. All concerts begin at 6:30 pm - rain venue is the Methodist Church on the Green. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy the music!

We just received a generous donation from the St. Johnsbury Lions Club to purchase large print books and books on CD. We will soon have many more current books on CD - great for listening to on summer car trips. We still have many books on cassette and have a cassette player to lend if you no longer own one. It can run on batteries or can be plugged in.

For some summer fun - Check out the Parks! We have a 2009 Vermont State Parks pass for our patrons to check out. This pass entitles FREE

entry into State Park day areas for up to 8 people in one vehicle. We also have an Echo Museum pass which admits two adults and three children into the Echo Museum for \$2.00 each.

Some of our latest book acquisitions are: Finding Oz: How L. Frank Baum Discovered the Great American Story by Schwartz, The Girls From Ames: A Story of Women and Friendship by Zaslow, The Middle Place: A Memoir by Corrigan, Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement by Twenge, Not Becoming My Mother: And Other Things She Taught Me Along the Way by Reichl, Food of a Younger Land by Kurlansky, Home Safe by Berg, The Language of Bees by King, Increment by Ignatius, After You've Gone by Lent and One Day at a Time by Steel. Come in and check them out!

**From the Children's' Room:** We had our last story hour on Monday, June 17 and now we are on to the summer reading program! This year's theme is "Be Creative at Your Library". Please join us for books, activities, projects and fun on Wednesdays, July 8 - Aug. 5. Ages 3-6 will meet from 10 - 11:30 am, ages 7 - 10 from 1 - 2:30 pm. Call or stop in at the library to sign up. 684-2256. Mark your calendars for the return of Magician Tom Joyce who will be performing in the Danville School Library on Wed. July 15 at 11 am. This performance is FREE and open to the public.

The 2009-2010 Dorothy Canfield Book Award books are here for summer reading!

# Events in the NEK

## THURS.2:

»**Summer Reading Program**, 10 a.m., at the Davies Memorial Library in Lower Waterford for the kick-off. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call (802) 748-3649 or E-mail: rvishak@myfairpoint.net.

## FRI.3:

»**Vermont's Fourth** - Three-day July 4 festival - fireworks, lift rides on Burke Mountain, fiddlers contest, music and more. Call (802) 626-5836.

»**Annual Strawberry Festival**, East Burke, 5-7 p.m., ia picnic supper (hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, etc.) ending with strawberry shortcake. This is a wonderful time for the community to gather, catch up on the winter news and enjoy a delightful meal on the green.

## SAT.4

»**Old Fashioned Pig Roast** with strawberry shortcake at the Peacham Congregational Church at 5 p.m. Take out is available. For reservations, call Mary Williams at (802) 592-3135.

»**Peacham July 4th Celebration**, the Historical House and Blacksmith Shop will also be open. The Peacham Historical Society Ghost Walk will be held at the Peacham Cemetery at 2 p.m.

»**North Danville July 4th Celebration**. Events all day, including local art, crafts, garden tours, bake sale, parade, games, lumberjack competition, country auction, pie eating contest, Dickie Vance Memorial Fun Run, music by The Best of Friends Band, bicycle races, horseshoes and bingo.

»**Cabot 4th of July**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cabot School will hold its famous 4th of July Celebration. The Parade is at 11 a.m., followed by a chicken barbecue at the school.

»**Annual Chicken Barbecue**, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Greensboro Church - 165 Wilson Street. Enjoy our locally famous chicken barbecue with our world-renown coleslaw -- along with other culinary delights. Email your reservation to: gucc@guccvt.org

»**NEK Summer Fest** - excursion train ride at the Lyndon

Freighthouse. Call The Lyndon Freighthouse at (802) 626-1174 for more information.

## WED.8:

»**Pastel Painting**, by Diane Donovan, at Catamount Arts from July 8 to Aug 12, 3 to 5 p.m. Call Catamount Arts, (802) 728-2600, for more information.

## THURS.9

»**Colorful Collages**, a four session summer camp for children ages 3-4, is taught by local artist, Carolyn Guest from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. It will meet at Catamount Arts on July 9, 16, 23, and 30. Call Catamount (748-2600) for more info.

## SAT.11

»**Catamount Arts Annual**

**Garden Tour**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., tour gardens all over the Northeast Kingdom. For more info., call 748 2600

»**NEK Audubon Annual Meeting & Program** about Nulhegan as a breeding refuge by Jim Chace. Join us at the Fairbanks Museum at 6:30 p.m. for our annual meeting followed by The Nulhegan pro-

gram. Call Laura at (802) 751-7671 for more information.

»**Antiques & Uniques**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Craftsbury Common. 39th Annual Antiques & Uniques Festival Join us in beautiful Craftsbury Common for a great day of meandering among over 100 vendors of antiques, collectibles, jewelry

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19 acres of woods and fields. Nice mountain views. Privacy. This nicely maintained modular ranch has many added features. There's a family room in the walkout basement, a brand new two car garage, a BBQ deck and a sun room. 2-3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Bring our family and the pets. **\$239,000**



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ML2722751 Just 3 1/2 miles from St Johnsbury w/good access on a paved road, you will find this classic brick farmhouse, former dairy barn, and 173 acres of the most beautiful land imaginable. The house could be a showplace w/it's original woodwork, wide pine floors and large sunny rooms. The land is both open & wooded w/wide sloping fields, fenced pastures, panoramic views in all directions, and marketable timber in the two wooded areas. There is a lot to love about this property.  
**\$575,000**



**Year-Round Waterfront Home**  
ML2738974 The best of both worlds is yours w/this year-round waterfront home on the 3rd pond at Joe's Pond. Features include: year round access on a town road, approved septic & drilled well. Fully insulated, vinyl siding, full basement, full length enclosed porch on front, 3 BRS and 2 baths, boathouse w/deck & dock. Lg. detached 2-story garage on 2.28 acre lot available for an extra \$118,900.  
**\$379,000**

## BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

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cherrick@vtcas.org for more information.

**SUN.12:**

»**The Damon's Crossing** Sit-athon at Victory: Join us for coffee and bagels, bring your lawn chair. We'll sit at the parking lot and see what comes to us.

Meet at Damon's Crossing at 6 a.m. Call Tom at (802) 626-9071 for more information.

**TUES.14**

»**Block Printing**, by Jeff Gold, 2 to 4 p.m., takes place at Cata-

mount Arts on July 14, 16, 21 and 23. Call Catamount, (802) 748-2600, for more info.

**FRI.17**

»**Roseanne Cash** Concert, 8 p.m., St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall. For tickets call Catamount Arts, (802) 758-2600.

**SAT.18**

»**Quilt Show** at the Peacham Congregational Church from 10-3p.m.

**SAT.25**

»**Michele Choiniere** with Will Patton Trio, 8 p.m., The Music

Box, 147 Creek Rd, Craftsbury. Michele was born into a musical Franco-American family in northern Vermont. For more information contact the Music Box: info: www.themusicboxvt.org or (802) 586-7533.

**SUN.26**

»**Old Home Day** celebration at Newark Union Church at 10:30 a.m., followed by the NEwark Volunteer Fire Department annual chicken BBQ and flea market at the town park across from the church. Food served

from 11-3 p.m. For more information, call (802) 467-3788.

»**Vermonters Words** about Lincoln. In recognition of the Lincoln bicentennial, historian Howard Coffin will look at Lincoln's relationship to the state, with an emphasis on Lincoln's death and how Vermonters reacted. A Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by Old North Church in Danville, 6:30 p.m. Contact John R. Strifert at (802) 748.4096 for more information.

**FRI.31**

»**Peacham's Changing Landscape**, an exhibit of historic farm photographs, and the farmers who caused the change. Exhibits will honor Donald Davis at the Peacham Historical Society.

**AUG.8**

»**Danville Fair**, the annual event, complete with street dance and amusement rides and games, will take place on the Danville Green in the center of the village.



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