



THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

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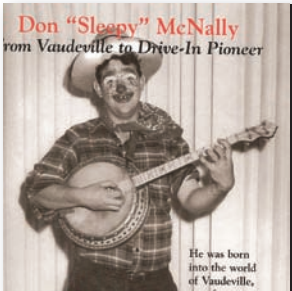
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from Vaudeville to Drive-In Pioneer

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The hardy asparagus

by NATHANIEL TRIPP

Every time I see those first green spears poking up I think of my childhood home and the asparagus which endured there through the Great Depression and the war which followed.

No other springtime event generated such excitement as the season's first asparagus, although by the time I was old enough to harvest it myself and bring it back to my grandmother it was becoming scarce, the bed had become invaded by briars and weeds towards the end of World War Two, and they never entirely left. Still, it seemed miraculous to me then that the earth could be so generous, as it still does today.

It was, more than anything else, generosity which had enabled our family to endure those times, a generosity which only seemed to grow as everything else became increas-

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Riding an Avalanche

Danville's Dan Zucker recounts a harrowing event on the slopes of Mt. Washington



By DANIEL ZUCKER

My name is Dan and I'm a hiker. On Saturday, April 11, my friend and I embarked on a trip up Mt. Washington. Unbeknownst to us, it would be an experience like no other. Our lives would be threatened and we would learn a lot about ourselves.

My obsession with hiking began a decade ago when casual walks in the beautiful Green Mountains evolved into hitting all the high summits and odd personal challenges, like climbing to the summit of Camel's Hump at least once every week between Thanksgiving and town meeting. Since 2003, when I moved to Danville and married my wife Susan, I began spending time in the White Mountains of New Hampshire — hiking all the high summits. This February, I hit a career milestone — ascending 1/2 million vertical feet and over 1,500 miles of distance (since 2001).

I typically do something 'big' every weekend except for a few each year when personal or practical matters interfere. My wife is a saint.

I met Steve Mattera back in 2001 when I was running and hiking solo. Steve was an ultra-marathoner (100 mile foot races) with a keen ability to combine a love of the outdoors with a remarkable "unstoppability" and a cool, even temperament. Steve and I started speed-hiking together and within months I had met three of his buddies, Garvin, Louie and Nate, friends he had been adventure racing with for a few years. Garvin was like a tornado on a road or mountain bike and had more bicycles than I ever thought possible. Nate was a machine (I have no idea how tall he is — my guess is 6 foot 4 inches), has muscles where he needs them and an uncanny ability to run up mountains. I had never seen anything like it. It was like meeting the Fantastic 3. Tim was the last addition to this collection. He was a triathlete in search of pushing his training, endurance and experience. He was quiet, organized, fit and able to go long distances.

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From the Editor

Band Aid taxes

As you may have noticed, we typically don't devote this space to politics. There's no shortage of political opinions available through other forms of media. We would like to, however, offer a general opinion of the financial tug of war taking place in Montpelier.

Like many of you, we have been watching with interest the actions of the Legislature as they grapple with a reported \$24 million budget shortfall. News last week had a proposal raising "sin" taxes on tobacco, liquor and satellite television. We're not sure why the last item qualifies as a sin, but according to Montpelier, apparently it does.

From what we've gathered, Gov. Jim Douglas is proposing some broad cuts across state government in order close the funding gap. These cuts include both services and employees. Many legislators have taken issue with the resulting job losses, citing the effect such a move would have on the state's economy. Many favor increasing taxes instead. It is important to remember that Vermont already has one of the highest total tax burdens in the country. It inevitably comes down to this: are we better off creating more job loss or raising the financial burden on the people footing the bill.

One argument we hear frequently call for running the government "like a business." Many of those pushing this argument believe legislators should use shrewd business moves where reductions in revenue lead to cuts and layoffs; the age old "balance the budget" mantra.

It isn't that cut and dry.

There are plenty of examples of businesses that make up for revenue loss by passing additional costs to their customer. In some cases, business owners selectively choose how they pass along those costs to specifically target certain patrons, just as the government selectively increases taxes on those who can afford to pay it. Taxpayers are simply customers buying services from the government.

Current economic conditions and the public's ability to pay are always paramount in a strictly-commercial mind. After all, it does a business no good to raise prices to the point they negatively impact volume or revenue. It's also counterproductive to pass along price increases to patch a budget that is unsustainable or unrealistic.

Both the Legislature's plan to raise taxes and the Governor's plan to make broad budget cuts are band-aid plans. They simply patch the problem this year without addressing the root cause. More effort needs to be devoted to reforming our government programs, contracts and services. There's been plenty of discussion about how to alter the usual suspects: health care and education, but very little action. Obviously these complex issues can't be solved in short order, but sometimes it appears as if we take our eye off the ball. We focus on treatment rather than prevention.

Many taxpayers would be more willing to use a band-aid if they were confident someone was close to stopping the bleeding.

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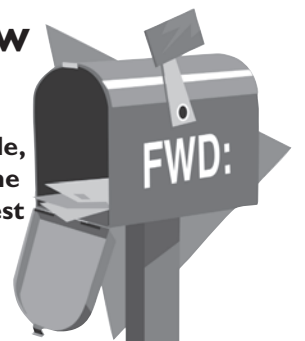
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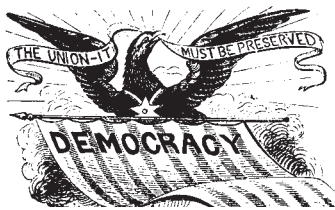


Base Ball rivalry with St. Johnsbury begins on the Danville Green; renowned residents of Peacham and Danville depart

The North Star

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THE NORTH STAR

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May 4, 1877

Comings and Goings - We have had some rain, which has started the grass and made things quite green in some places, but we need more rain. Our farmers have, most of them, turned out their young stock to pasture for the season. There is yet no good feed in the dairy pastures.

Business News - Chas. Woodward of North Danville has sold his store in the village to Alden Morse. Woodward intends to move to Morrisville for the purposes of opening a livery stable.

Last Issue - The last Vermont Farmer, for several years published in St. Johnsbury by Mr. Cummings, appears without the name of editor and publisher. It is understood that the entire establishment has passed into the hands of a receiver, and the paper will be run by him for

the present, or it can be sold to other parties.

Base Ball - Two base ball clubs have been organized in this village and vicinity. The first comprises the young men, with F.K. Kittredge as captain and treasurer and the following players, Kelley at catcher, Page at pitcher, Kittredge at first base, Cowles at second base, Brown at third base, Stocker at shortstop, Carr in left field, Kittredge in centerfield and Buchanan in right field. The team intends to play against St. Johnsbury next week.

Summer School - The summer term of the Danville Graded School will commence at the Academy rooms, next Monday. The school will be under the instruction of Mrs. A.M. Wheeler, as principal.

Liberal Gift - The Fairbanks have deeded South Park to the village of St. Johnsbury on condition that no buildings shall be erected thereon, no tents for shows, no ball playing. It is supposed to be used as an ornamental park for the village.

★★★

May 11, 1877

Village Resident Dies - Last Wednesday morning, Mr. Charles Douglas died at his residence at the age of 81. His death was quite sudden. Last Sunday, he attended church in quite tolerable health, excepting that during the afternoon and next day he complained of rheumatism in

the back, for which external remedies were applied. Tuesday morning, he had a paralytic shock, becoming wholly unconscious, in which condition he remained until his decease. The deceased came to the village in 1825 from Chelsea, Vt., 52 years ago in the company of his brother Guy Douglas. They commenced business as tanners and curriers, which business they very successfully prosecuted until 15 or 20 years ago. They both have always been known as successful, industrious, moral and upright men.

A Curiosity - Fourteen years ago, Joseph Page walked from St. Johnsbury Center to the house where A.A. Pierce resides, having in his hand a balm of Gilead stick cut from a tree and used on the route as a walking stick. On reaching home he struck that stick up in the yard, and from its bottom sprang up roots and branches growing above the ground. In a few years, it became a tree, and one day last week Mr. Pierce felled that tree to the ground and found it 18 inches through at the butt. But the most singular story has yet to be told. When the tree was cut up and split that identical cane, precisely the same shape, with the original knife cuts upon it came out of the bottom log and is now on exhibition at his office. On the small end of the stick can also be seen a place an inch long where the bark was shoved up from sticking it into the ground

while walking.

★★★

May 18, 1877

Sewing Machines - The people are to be congratulated upon the refusal at Washington to renew the patents upon sewing machines, and this reduction in price favors a class of people who can fully appreciate it. A combination of manufacturers, including Singer, the Wheeler & Wilson and the Grover & Baker companies, have for many years controlled the patents on some of the essential parts of every sewing machine and have expected a royalty from all other manufacturers.

Base Ball - The Danville and St. Johnsbury ball clubs played their first game of the season in this village on Saturday last. The game was a very close one as the score shows, 10-9. It was the general expression of those who saw the game that it should have been 10-10 at the end of the ninth inning, the Danville club apparently being deprived of one run by the umpire to which they were fairly entitled. We would suggest that when these two clubs meet again, an outside man, unfamiliar with either party, be used.

North Danville - Frank Palmer has recently lost a valuable horse which died of lung fever. Sol Chickering and Geo. Paquin have again changed places. George has gone back up the mountain and Sol has purchased a part of the home farm

and intends to commence building. The old store at North Danville village already has a neat appearance under the new administration. Alden is always neat.

Peacham - The Hon. John M. Martin, one of the oldest and most respected citizens in Caledonia County, died at his residence in Peacham at the age of 73 after a lingering illness. He has represented his town and county in the Legislature, and for any years been entrusted with the most responsible offices of the town, and in every position of honor and trust to which he has been called he has left a reputation unflecked by a stain and without approach.

★★★

May 5, 1877

In the Hills - Niles Hovey, of Waterford, and Noonan, his hired man, are now in the Black Hills, prospecting for gold. C.M. Weeks and his party of Woodsville, N.H., arrived in the hills about a fortnight ago, and intend to buy out a mining claim or prospect for a new one. The accounts which Weeks gives of the city of Deadwood and vicinity are replete with lights and shadows of a mining country, and characteristic of border life.

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Water Meadows

The water meadows are beautiful today.
 Days of rain and melting snows
 have topped the river's banks.
 Now, the current scarcely visible,
 it's hard to trace the meandering stream
 across the widening lake.
 Water meadows, I love that gentle name!
 It seems to soothe the raging flood.
 and conjures thoughts of cows hock deep in summer grass,
 or horses, nose to tail in a willow's shade,
 flicking their tails at pestering flies.
 Peaceful, bucolic, far removed from hard-edged talk
 of flood plains, run-off and erosion.

- Isobel P. Swartz

My sense of place

by ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

This springtime I realized for the first time how much it means to me to see certain spring flowers come into bloom in their accustomed places. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this relationship with plants is my "Sense of Place". I think this must always have been true for I recall places I have lived here and abroad where among the first memories that come to mind are of wild flowers.

Shakespeare's flowers. I had read of them in his plays but had never seen them in such profusion:

"I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
 Where ox-lips and the nodding violet grows;
 Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
 With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine..."

William knew his flowers, for sure. What a perfect bed for that seductress par excellence, Titania, Queen of the Fairies.

My favorite wild flower of the West Country was the primrose, growing under the hedgerows, clusters of pale creamy flowers resembling pats

**"I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,
 Where ox-lips and the nodding violet grows;
 Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,
 With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine..."**

- William Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night's Dream*

As a child I lived in England, in Yorkshire — where the Pudding comes from — not in the pretty parts, the Dales or east coast, but in the industrial West Riding. The soil is acidic there, not very fertile, and the diversity of wild flower species is not great. Nevertheless two spectacular shows of wild flowers there do attract many visitors and provide my special memories, bluebell woods in springtime and the heather moors in late summer.

Bluebells are members of the Lily family and resemble small hyacinths on thin, juicy stems about twelve inches tall. They form deep carpets of blue in northern European hardwood forests and shady hedgerows. Their scent is sweet and heady. Children love to pick them by the arms full, much as they pick bunches of dandelions here. Their beauty is short lived, and by early summer they are gone.

Heather is a plant that thrives in the wet acidic soils of the high moors — those wild, windswept places inhabited by sheep and grouse. It is a wiry, low-growing shrubby plant whose roots anchor the peaty soil, and its new, green shoots feed the grouse. In late summer the heather blooms, its stems covered with tiny purple flowers that color whole expanses of the moors in a spectacular blaze of glory that lasts a month or more. Bees are attracted to the blooms and make honey that has a delicious spicy tang.

After college I began my teaching career in the West Country of England in Gloucestershire. Called "God's Country" by some, it is the wide fertile valley of the River Severn with a high escarpment to the southeast that rises to the Cotswolds that are famous for pretty villages of yellow stone cottages. Here I found William

of fresh butter—a sight as exciting and uplifting in an early English spring, as the first dandelions are for me now after a long Vermont winter.

One spring time while working in Switzerland, I went hiking with a group of friends to an alpine meadow above Lake Geneva. There we found wild narcissi blooming among the meadow grasses and buttercups. It was a reality check to see, growing wild, these small relatives of the Paper Whites, bulbs we grow indoors in winter to cheer our spirits. It made me realize that the plants we cultivate so carefully are just a step away from the weeds of another land.

When spring finally arrives here in St. Johnsbury I am ready to search for some of my anchors to this place. After a long winter these early flowers, though not spectacular, have made a deep impression on my memory. I look for the first coltsfoot on the bank opposite the St. Johnsbury School, and the earliest dandelions beside the southern wall of the Museum on Prospect Street. I think about the wild ginger that I know grows by Joe's Brook near our old home in Danville. I wait for the bloodroot to bloom at the back of our garden. When all this has been accomplished, I really know where I am.

I am not alone in my place-related memories of flowers. A friend once told me that one of her deepest memories of Vermont was the sweet smell of milkweed in the warm evening air as she came here as a child with her family to vacation. We all have a sense of place, roots that go deep. Sights, sounds and smells trigger vivid memories that return us momentarily to places we have left far behind, and may never visit again. For me, wildflowers are that trigger.

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Same-sex marriage

by JOHN DOWNS

With all the serious problems facing Vermont, the country and the world, it surprises and disappoints me that we spend (probably waste) so much time on sex and marriage. The Vermont legislature recently overrode by one vote the governor's veto of the same sex marriage bill. This will probably receive more publicity than any of the more important acts of this legislative session.

Vermont is the only state in which its legislature has legalized same sex marriages. The courts have legalized them in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Iowa. Five European countries have legalized them.

In an editorial on April 7, The New York Times complimented Vermont for its new law, pointing out while doing so in the year 2000 Vermont was the first state to legislatively legalize the civil union relationship. The editorial went on to comment that now, nine years later, the new law was enacted only after concluding that civil unions were an inadequate substitute for marriage.

According to The Times editorial, the significance of Vermont's action is to "add a vital sense of momentum and democratic duty to this civil rights struggle." It is my personal belief that the principal reason we now have a same sex marriage law is because of the failure of traditional marriages in this day and age to satisfy the historic and religious reasons for the existence of a marriage relationship — to sanctify and preserve a permanent relationship between a man and a woman.

There was a time when no relationship, other than the traditional marriage between a man and woman, was considered to be appropriate for child rearing and the fulfillment of necessary obligations of family support. My wife and I have been married for 56 years and have had four children. We brought them up, educated them and later provided financial help as needed. Divorce was never in our minds and divorces among our peers were few and

far between. We didn't think or worry about the unmarried friends among us. They seemed to get along fine.

In my opinion, resistance to same sex relationships was based in considerable part on the widespread belief that homosexuals and lesbians were different from the rest of us. They made love differently. They couldn't have children. Their relationships weren't stable.

It is different today when perhaps as many as 50 percent of marriages end in a divorce. Problems of child custody and support are worked out in divorce proceedings. The judge is ready to take over in the event of an impasse.

Having children out of wedlock is no longer the disgrace it once was. I know of a young man and woman who have lived together for several years and will soon have a baby. For reasons known only to them, they will not marry until after the baby is born. They are responsible people and will be caring parents.

Society's views have slowly changed. More of us now believe that homosexuals and lesbians are born that way, are responsible people, and have as much right as heterosexuals to enjoy all of the benefits of citizenship. The government has played a larger role in defining, creating and supporting individual rights. It follows that there is little reason to deny same sex couples all of the benefits of the law of marriage.

In conclusion, thoughts about the future: what if three men or three women want to join in marriage? What if two men and one woman are so inclined? And what about the classic case of the Mormons in days gone by — one man wants to marry several women of legal age? Should and will they be allowed to marry?

Perhaps the best way to think about sex and marriage in their several contexts is to encourage people to be more understanding, accepting and comfortable about the way other people live their lives. New laws should be passed only when a perceived need arises.

Silent Blessings

In silence, its evening time
Looking upward and seeing the
whole wide world around us.

Clear dark blue sky, twinkling stars everywhere
Outline of trees and mountains along the sky line
Feeling cold crisp air, thermometer registers twenty five

The moon is shining
Nearly full, giving lots of light
Like a powerful light bulb, lighting up the
earth

Walking a couple of miles, this beautiful evening Dressed warm with scarf, hat, mittens and a warm winter coat and boots

A blessing in life's experiences
Be thankful
Challenge a walk versus television
Your time is yours, use it wisely
and enjoy living
Sometimes doing nothing but
counting your blessings
Amazing how
it makes you
feel

- Ida Goodell Manning

News Inspires Terza Rima

References to Lincoln and F.D.R. Reminiscence evoked by recession
Obama appoints hawks for peace--end war

Yet, Vermont's healthiest in the nation Best of cities:
Burlington won the prize
We to model health care situation?

And I watch my 401k's demise

- Rita Foley

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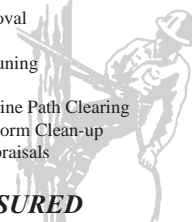
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What the World Needs Now Is a good belly laugh

At the height of laughter, the universe is flung into a kaleidoscope of new possibilities.

~Jean Houston



by SHARON LAKEY

One day my daughter, who lives in Waterbury, called. "Mom, you've got to come with me to the next Laughter Yoga class. It's free," she enticed. Her voice sounded full of smiles.

I answered with a half-hearted "Maybe," and a "thanks for the invitation," but really I never intended to follow through. First, it was a long way to drive to Richmond, VT, and second, the idea of laughter yoga seemed a little forced. Maybe it was watching night after night of grim news reports that finally pushed me over the edge, because early the next Tuesday morning, I found myself braving snow-covered roads for a chance to lighten up a little.

And, it was fun. I mean—really fun.

There were six of us that first day, including leader, Dawn Decker. We met on the second floor of the Richmond library in a beautiful space -- hardwood floors, tall church-like windows and walls painted a restful yellow.

In a short introduction, Dawn explained the basics behind Laughter Yoga, including this piece of research: an average adult laughs five to seven times a day; a child laughs over 300 times, and for no reason at all. I was taken aback by the statistic, and felt sad about my own rusty laugh mechanism. But as Dawn briefly explained it, "Just fake it till you make it."

Wishing to turn loose my own inhibitions, I entered willingly into the group laughter. Dawn is a superb laugher, and I found it surprisingly easy to join in. With a variety of prompts, we shared everything from titters to guffaws with Kleenex in hand. And the more we laughed, the happier and more relaxed I became. Dawn incorporated gentle yoga stretches into the program, and as our time came to a close, sitting in a circle touching toe-to-toe, I felt warmth toward these women. It seemed as if I had known them all my life.

Later I found out that Dawn, a yoga teacher of 25 years with international certification, is fairly new to laughter yoga.



"I've always used laughter in my yoga practice, but this is more focused." In August of 2008, she attended a two-day workshop in Burlington. "At the end of the workshop, I found I was exhausted, but exhilarated by the possibilities." Wanting to share this gift with others in her new community of Richmond, she offered free weekly sessions to all-comers.

With just a little research back home, I discovered I had totally missed out on this worldwide phenomenon. The movement began in Mumbai, India, in 1995 by a medical doctor, Madan Kataria, who was writing an article about the connection between laughter and good health. Kataria had studied the writings of American Norman Cousins, who suffered from degenerative, painful arthritis.

Cousins set out to cure himself with a combination of Vitamin C and laughter, which he stimulated by watching old Marx Brothers movies. He recorded his method in the book *Anatomy of an Illness* where he reported, "I made the joyous

discovery that ten minutes of genuine belly laughter had an anesthetic effect and would give me at least two hours of pain-free sleep. When the pain-killing effect of the laughter wore off, we would switch on the motion picture projector again and not infrequently, it would lead to another pain-free interval."

Wondering how the medicine of laughter could be spread to the general population, Kataria decided to go to a local park and ask people there to join him in laughter. Five strangers agreed to join in the experiment. At first, they laughed by telling each other jokes, but Kataria noticed several things about that; they ran out of good ones rather quickly and not everyone thought a particular joke was funny. But, he noted, it only took one person to laugh at a joke to get the rest of the group to join in.

He decided they should try laughing for no reason at all. It worked. People could laugh at nothing and soon his group of five had grown to hundreds laughing in the park on a daily



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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.

basis. Laughter clubs were soon to spread infectious good will throughout the world. Information from the American School of Laughter Yoga reports, "At the last count there were an estimated 6000 Laughter Clubs in over 60 countries, the vast majority of which are free and public."

Kataria's wife, a yoga teacher, was the first to introduce gentle yoga stretches into laughter clubs. It was a natural fit. Breathing is one of the five principles of yoga and laughter is an especially good exercise for the breath. According to an article from the American School of Laughter, "It effectively flushes the 2/3 of 'stale air' that most people unknowingly keep inside. Repeated practice teaches us to become more and more consciously aware of our own breathing pattern."

Soon, Kataria felt the unmistakable power and good will generated by laughter could be of help in our world. In 1998, he organized the first World Laughter Day in Mumbai. It caught on and was given a permanent date -- the first Sunday of May. Imagine the sound created by the 10,000 people laughing in the Town Hall Square in Copenhagen, Denmark, in the year 2000. Steven Wilson, psychologist, author and head of the World Laughter Tour brought it to New York City in 2001.

This year, World Laughter Day has made its way to Richmond, Vermont. Dawn invites you to a gathering on May 3, 2:00 p.m., at the Richmond Free Library, 201 Bridge Street. She hopes for at least 100 souls to join her in laughing for world peace. In the words of Steve Wilson, "Regardless of the reason you laugh, the primary purposes of laughter have to do with reducing the terrible effects of stress, and connecting with other people; laughter plays a huge role in maintaining relationships. Actually, we need laughter more now than ever!"

Amen.

For more information about Dawn go to <http://dawndeckerbodywork.com>. For pictures and this article go to <http://sharonlakey.blogspot.com/>



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BOOK REVIEW

Don "Sleepy" McHally

From Vaudeville to Drive-In Pioneer

By Scott Wheeler

Reviewed by **MARVIN MINKLER**

Already dressed in our pajamas, my sister Betty, cousin Paul and myself sat on the running board of the car in the driveway, waiting for Grammy and Grandpa to leave the house. It was a clear Friday evening in July 1951.

The three of us were anxious to go, and couldn't wait. They were taking us to the Derby-Port Drive-In, in Derby, Vermont. It was going to be fun on the playground swings, popcorn and hot dogs from the concession stand, Grammy's home made donuts being passed around in a greasy bag in the back seat, and laughing hilariously at the antics of Bud Abbot & Lou Costello on the big screen. Later, we slept in the big backseat on the way home after the show, while Grammy hummed an Andrews Sisters' song from the movie. Summers would never be any better than it was then.

Don McNally came from the world of Vaudeville, but he entertained Vermonters, Canadians, and visitors from all over. A pioneer in the drive-in movie industry, he built and opened the Derby-Port Drive-In, on May 26, 1950. Entire families came, many an hour early so

they could enjoy their supper at the snack bar. Children headed for the playground directly in front of the big screen. Teens, neighbors, and relatives gathered, and one could hear both French and English while in line for a soda. Kids popped out of trunks, where they had hidden until they got into the movie, and many a romance began behind steamed windows of cars parked on the darkened back rows, even though Don patrolled the area flashlight in hand. One tap on the window and the kissing stopped. At least until he moved away, down another row of cars.

The Derby-Port Drive-Ins' big screen was built with locally cut delimited logs, as vertical supports, in the spring of 1950. It rose from a graded flat piece of land along a stretch of road about five miles from the Village of Derby Center to the City of Newport. It opened on May 26, and the first film was "Northwest Passage." It played to overflowing crowds, and the price of admission was 40 cents for adults; children under twelve were admitted free. Some nights, on the way back from swimming at Lake Salem, my dad would stop the car along the dirt road behind the Drive-In. We would sit in silence for a while, watching the big screen for free, and trying to

guess what the actors were saying.

For years we went, and even after my family move away, I always returned in the summer. The Derby-Port Drive-In was at the top of my must-go-to list. At seventeen, my first car was a 1956 Chevy, and with my date, we would head for Derby. Friday night was Chevrolet Night and the driver of every Chevrolet was admitted free. At the time the cost of a ticket was \$1.50, so that was a great deal. Don's vaudeville background made him adept at promotion, and he frequently ran special offers along with wonderful films.

Then, years later, in early 1985, after entertaining thousands of people, preparing tons of popcorn, and showing thousands of films, the Derby-Port Drive-In, like so many others across America, was torn down. It was gone. Drive-ins became a faded memory.

The section along the Derby Road where the Drive-In once stood is now a commercial district. But every time I drive by it, I can't help but glance over to where it once



stood. Because in my heart it is still there, along with all the golden memories of summer nights long ago.

Scott Wheeler, the publisher of Vermont's Northland Journal, has written a wonderful new book about the Derby-Port Drive-In and it's founder. "Don "Sleepy" McNally - From Vaudeville to Drive-In Pioneer" can be found at your local independent bookstore. Filled with many nostalgic photographs, the book captures perfectly the life and times of Don McNally, and the era of the drive-in movie. Pass the popcorn please.

Marvin Minkler can be reached at minkbooks@kingcon.com.

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Photo from a book by Gordon E. Hopper

This small school, left, was one of the village buildings that was lost when the Moore Station was built in the 1950s. The above cemetery stood in Upper Waterford.

Memories of an underwater village

by Rosalie Vear

The landscape is different, not at all the way I remember it. After we moved to St. Johnsbury from Littleton, we often made that trip on Route 18 to visit my grandfather.

I thought I could do it in my sleep. Now, whenever we go in that direction I try to reconstruct the landscape, to retrieve a landmark, to recover a memory, to no avail. I do remember a pond, called Mulligan's Pond I think. That was one place where I always prayed under my breath be-

cause the road curved around the water close to the edge, very dangerously I thought. I sometimes dreamed that we had driven right into the pond. I never can figure out where the pond was and in fact I find only one familiar area.

Heading towards Littleton, N.H., after crossing the bridge, there comes a place with water on both sides of the road. From that vantage point the fishing access is visible. A spot where we had a picnic every Wednesday night during the summer that Billy lived and worked on Uncle Laurie's farm. A spot where we had a serious ongoing rock skipping contest

and the spot that years earlier led to my mother's one room schoolhouse. The schoolhouse and many other buildings are now underwater.

In 1954, construction on the Moore Dam and Reservoir started. Everything below 809 feet above sea level was removed or destroyed. Some small villages were lost, including Upper Waterford in Vermont, and Pattenville, a section of Littleton. At least two cemeteries were moved to different locations and part of Route 18 was flooded. Completed in 1956, the Moore Reservoir, owned by the New England

Power Co., is the largest hydroelectric facility in New England. It is two miles wide and over nine miles long, covering approximately 3,490 acres where once there were farms, roads, cemeteries, a church, and at least one schoolhouse, probably two. The road to my grandfather's house that we so often traveled is gone, along with my memories of the way it used to be.

The farm that had long belonged to my grandfather, was a mile or two up the hill from the present day boat access. My mother was three years old when the family moved into the large

white farmhouse situated on several hundred acres of rolling fields. Through the years, green shutters were added, also a large porch, which completely covered the front of the house. The front door opened into a large inviting kitchen dominated by the oversized black stove, which usually had pots simmering, giving off delicious smells. The big table in the corner was always covered with a freshly ironed tablecloth and a bowl of fresh cut flowers. In the summer, there were often wild flowers or branches of fragrant apple blossoms to complement the blue willowware that I loved. One



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door lead to the inevitable summer kitchen and another to the pantry which held cupboards and an old metal sink where the water was pumped in with a hand pump, from a well that often ran dry.

My aunt Maggie who never married, was an elegant, refined salesclerk at an upscale ladies shop five days a week, and every day after work she drove back to the farm on the dirt roads, sometimes muddy with deep ruts, sometimes snowy or icy. It was a time before snowplows when the roads were groomed with wooden rollers pulled by horses, and it was also a time when few women drove cars. When she arrived home Aunt Maggie's real work day began, cooking and cleaning for the men, often helping in the barn. It is astonishing that she would be so fastidious about the house, overworked as she was.

She kept the floor polished in the large welcoming living room, with flowered wallpaper, lots of books, braided rugs scattered about and a piano in one corner. Originally the large living room had been two smaller rooms. One wall held a telephone, a wooden box with a mouthpiece, an ear-piece dangling from a cord, and a little handle that had to be cranked before the operator came on and said, "number please." We had no telephone, and I was intrigued, always hoping it would ring while we were there.

In addition to the two bedrooms on the first floor, there were two or three bedrooms upstairs as well as an open attic space full of interesting things that we weren't supposed to investigate. We were allowed, however, to go through the stacks of old magazines dating far back, showing changing ways

as well as changing fashions, which we found most amusing.

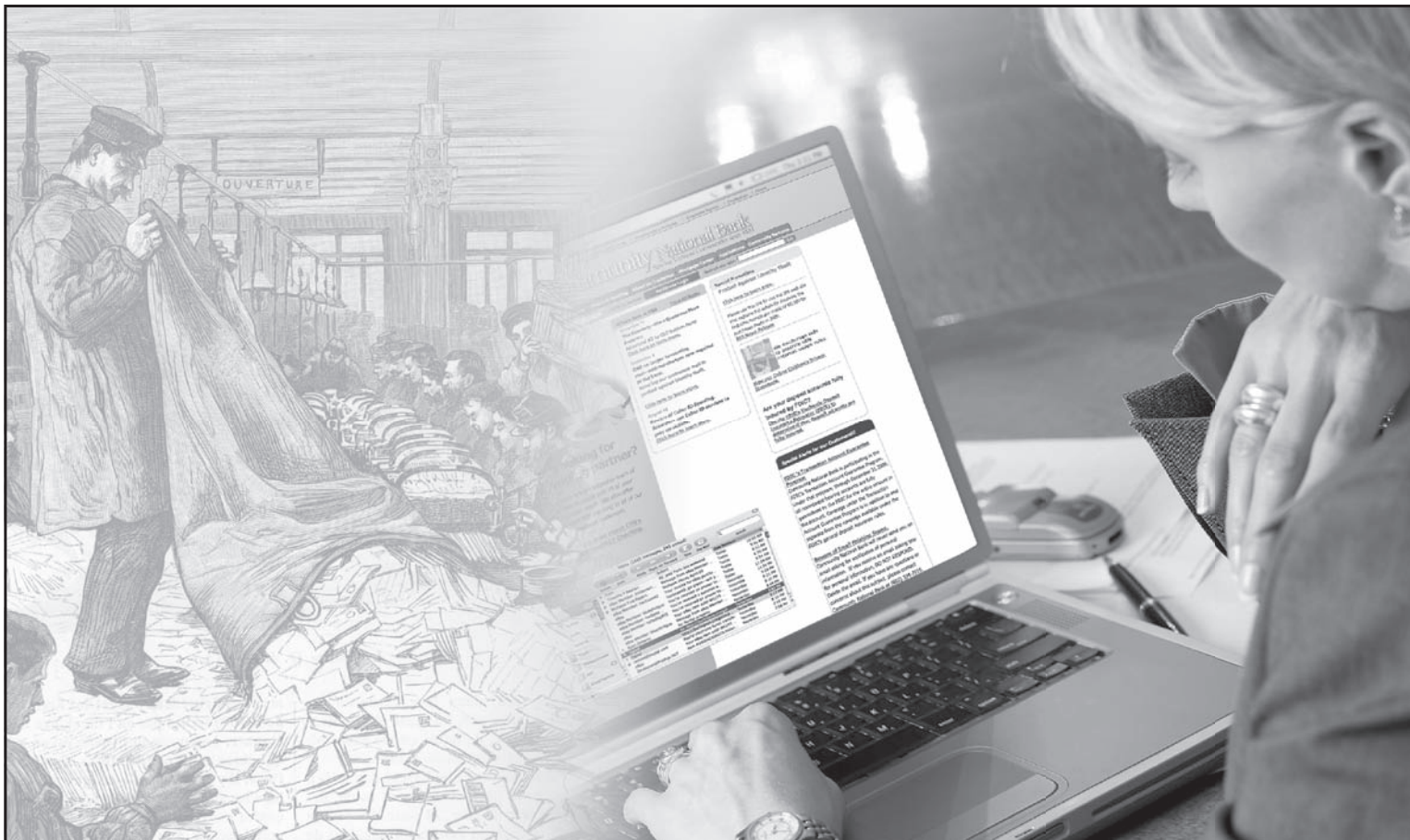
I loved the farm. I loved the farmhouse and the animals, but most of all I loved the land, the fields, the hills, the woods, the stone walls. Sometimes we went with Uncle Laurie to bring the

cows back to the barn for chores. He was a good natured bachelor who always seemed to have all the time in the world for us. Often he would lie in the grass looking up at the clouds with us, finding pictures in the sky while the cows waited. His love of nature was

contagious, and it was a gift to all of his nieces and nephews.

Whenever we visited during the winter months we often went speeding, on a very long old sled, down the road that now leads to the boat access. That was the road that my mother followed to go to

the one room schoolhouse that is now underwater. She and her brothers and Aunt Maggie, walked to that school every day regardless of the weather. It was an important part of their lives but it is gone now and I will never be able to find it.



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This market is growing

Lyndon growers and craftsman are taking advantage

by JUSTIN LAVELY

A little over two years ago, Brian Titus was working as an analyst for insurance giant Liberty Mutual, a company he gave 25 years of his corporate life to. Retirement and nearby family prompted Brian and his wife to pack their bags and head north, finally settling on a modest piece of land in Greensboro. Brian was content to spend his retirement years turning an untapped hayfield into a functioning garden, much like the one he remembers from his youth.

As if this challenge isn't enough, Brian has also been tapped as the new president of the Lyndon Farmer's Market Association, a fledgling operation showing a lot of promise. So instead of making the 23-mile trip over Stannard Mountain (which takes about an hour) or the 35-mile trip on the blacktop (which also takes about an hour) just to sell his goods, Brian now works to publicize, organize and continue the "organic" growth of the market.

Eric and Cathy Paris originally started the market last year. A few vendors humbly set up shop in the parking lot of the Lyndon Freight-house, a downtown restaurant owned by the Paris family. Under the Parises' watchful eye, the market grew in participation each week.

In an article last September by Virginia Downs, Cathy spoke enthusiastically about her work organizing the Farmers Market. "The Danville and St Johnsbury markets were very helpful, sharing their information to help us get started. We are using them as models." The Parises' Pudding Hill farm involves three generations.

After making the decision to move north, the Tituses began their search for not only the right house, but the right soil. To start with, they spent time with a family member on an organic farm in Randolph, which led them to the Capital City Farmers Market in Montpelier. For more than 30 years, the Montpelier Market has been bringing local producers and customers from near and far together to create this eclectic community event. Over 40 vendors gather each Saturday, from May through October, to sell locally grown and made products. The market, held in a large parking area bordered by the Winooski River, offers live music every week and special events throughout the season.

It looks like Brian is taking over the market as its stock rises. An increase in vendors led organizers to open a winter market once a month in the lobby of Lyndon State College's Alexander Twilight Theatre. This spring, the market is set to move to Bandstand Park on Fridays afternoons.

The steady growth of the market has been a surprise.

"With the winter market, we

The Lyndon Farmer's Market began humbly in the parking lot next to the Lyndon Freight-house and in the lobby of the Alexander Twilight Theatre. This spring, vendors will call Bandstand Park home on Fridays.



weren't sure what to expect," says Brian, "Actually, we thought it would die out in January and February, but that definitely was not the case." As many as 28 vendors set up shop during the winter markets and an all-time high of \$1,500 in gross sales was reached in February. Those numbers may not match the

Montpelier market, or even other local, established markets, but they are encouraging to Titus and his fellow organizers.

"There's a lot of work involved in organizing something like this," says Titus. "You have to connect with vendors and advertise. In the end, the test is 'am I going to be able

to produce something that people like and will buy again."

This year, organizers are hoping to double last year's sales figures. A preliminary meeting on April 18 for prospective summer vendors should be the first indication of whether or not that will happen.




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Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



We lived on the Groton R.F.D., as we called it. The route started at the Groton Post Office, ran by our house, around the bay, through parts of Barnet and North Ryegate and back to Groton. Rain or shine, mud or snow, sooner or later the mailman drove by our house. I, at least, took the service for granted.

Besides the magazines and packages the mailman put in the box across the road, we got letters. As soon as he'd pushed down the flag, shut the cover and driven off, one or more of us girls would charge out of the house to get the mail. We'd sort the letters as we walked to the house, grab whichever magazine had come and go off to read the next installment in the continued story. Maw opened and read the letters and shared their news with her family.

What a boon those letters

were to the women on the outlying farms. They rarely "went to town," not even to the local stores. Many did not belong to the Ladies' Aid. Letters were like having someone drop in for a chat.

At one time during my youth we didn't have a telephone. For some reason, Dad had pulled the one they had off the wall. The phone lay on the floor at the back of the Big Girls' closet in the north room upstairs. When we did have a phone, Maw stood behind the door that went into the sitting room and "rubbered" to find out what was going on in the neighborhood, to talk with Gar or her friend Gertrude Chandler. But the phone was mostly for emergencies, for ordering grain or calling the doctor or the vet. Maw depended on letters to keep in touch with relatives and friends.

When Maw was first married, with no telephone, she wrote letters to her grandmother in Danville. Great Grammy Wilson's letters to her daughter

Flora (Gar to us girls) mention news Helen (Maw) had sent and how busy poor Helen was, especially in the winter. With a new baby, she had to keep stoking fires in several stoves to keep a bare minimum of heat in the old house. Hence, she didn't have a chance to visit her grandmother or to go shopping.

Maw corresponded with many people. We received letters from Aunt Jenny, Gar's sister, in Florida. Aunt Jenny and her second husband rented out tourist cabins. Aunt Jenny also sold flowers. Once she sent me a small box filled with ribbons too short for use on her bouquets — one of the prettiest gifts I ever received. Aunt Jenny was an adventuresome soul. She'd visited the Sherburne cousins "out west" and after Great Grammy died, she had gone to Florida. She couldn't understand why "Helen and Ben" were content to "stay put." Then there was Maw's other aunt, her father's sister Etta Miles Wright, who lived in California. Aunt Etta wanted to educate us about the West. She sent postcards showing the desert in bloom and

small packages of exotic seeds. Both of these women had beautiful Spenserian handwriting. Their letters were easy to read.

The letters from Bertha Field in Barre were quite the opposite. She covered several pages with her illegible sprawling hand. A letter from Aunt Bee, as we girls called her, required translating. Maw'd say, "I can't make out what Bee wrote here," and we'd pass the letter from hand to hand, each of us saying what we thought the word was. It took our combined efforts to make out her news: what Charlie (Dad's brother), Clydie (their son), or the girls had done; who had visited them; what the news was with Bee's sister Dolly and how her family was getting along. She would also drop a line if they were coming to visit. (Letters cost three cents in those days, so one wrote instead of making a toll call.) When, later on, I worked with hand-written records and diaries, I appreciated the skill I learned while trying to unravel Aunt Bee's difficult scrawl.

Aunt Martha and her daughters, Harriet and Bill, wrote us

from Hartford, Conn. In the fall, we'd know the three women had reached there safely and, in the spring, we'd learn when we could expect Aunt Martha and Harriet to return to their summer house. Arlene Swasey, another of Aunt Martha's daughters, would drop a note from Montpelier. During the War, Vera, the fourth daughter, kept us informed how she and George (her husband) and Chowder (the dog) were managing in Baltimore, Maryland, where George was working. Vera wrote that they weren't bothered with salesmen. The instant Chowder (a foxhound) let out his deep bay, the salesmen were long gone.

Maw kept in touch with friends as well as relatives. She and her generation learned penmanship in the one-room schools. Maw went to Peacham Academy only one year but she knew the rudiments of grammar. And without any creative writing courses, the letters she wrote and the ones she received tell vivid stories about the Great Depression, World War II and life on the R.F.D.

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Riding an AVALANCHE

The events of April 11 unfolded in a simple way for Tim and I. But it takes a little explaining for those who don't normally concern themselves with avalanche safety. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) runs the Mt. Washington Avalanche Center. These folks go out every single day during avalanche season, dig pits, do snowpack analyses, forecast conditions, assess the risk of both natural and human-triggered releases, and they do this all over the mountain. The entire analysis gets packaged in a report that gets posted at Pinkham Notch (NH) and online every single morning. We read the report every day, all winter, whether or not we intend to go up on Washington or anywhere else. Saturday's conditions turned out to be exactly what we thought they would be. In fact the USFS analysis and my experience of the snow-filled Dodge's Gully were the perfect guides. I could have done the hike blindfolded. Even the expected snow loading at the top was what it usually is, and we did the standard 'stay to the left' to avoid the big pillow of snow. The newer snow had been exposed to sun and other factors that tend to consolidate and bond it - and it likely would not have come down on its own. But it broke under me this time for whatever reason — not quite enough sun maybe.

The forecast had been for possible light rain in the valley, maybe a little snow on the summits and an unfolding of weather as the day progressed. A high probability of a cloud-enshrouded summit was also forecast; the best weather would be early in the day. Our plan was to hike up to the Hermit Lake cabin, see how the weather forecast was shaping up, talk to the USFS staff and then decide how to proceed. It turned out to be a gorgeous, cloud-free, blue-sky day with no clouds or weather coming in until later. So we headed up Dodge's Drop - an extraordinarily appealing feature that runs straight up to the ridge along a high summit called Boot Spur. On the way up, the air was relatively calm (this side of the mountain is often more protected from the winds that roar across the ridge above) and we were in light tops the entire way

up. I was actually wearing a t-shirt, and many of the skiers and hikers who congregate at the Hermit Lake Cabin were in light tops and even shorts. As long as you were out of the wind and in the sun almost any clothing was comfortable. We were wearing crampons and had taken out our axes (one in each hand). The snow was perfect - firm, but not icy; we barely made footprints.

The initial ascent is up a feature called Hillman's Highway. About a third of the way up, we made a hard left following a route that is, not coincidentally, known for ongoing avalanche activity. Avalanches lay down a route by piling snow, clearing trees and following natural paths defined by the surrounding terrain. In fact, one of the challenges is always to remember that these nice, clear road-like paths are known avalanche run-outs. To either side are surfaces that might never see an avalanche - but if you stay on these paths any snow that gets loose is guaranteed to hit you. But, based on the avalanche risk bulletin of that morning, the likelihood of natural avalanches seemed miniscule.

"I guess we shot over the big wall and I'll die on the rocks below."

- The thought running through Dan Zucker's head



After checking on his partner, and himself, Dan was able to snap photos immediately following the incident, including this "self-portrait."

gully and both lifting me off the base and then, because I was slowed from the axes catching, covering me. As I was lifted up I shouted to Tim, "I'm riding it down!" to let him know that I couldn't see any way to avoid that. After that moment, the rest of my activity in the snow was all at a level of focus that anyone in battle or in any life-threatening situation experiences. It's the opposite of panic — working and working and never, ever, ever letting up at all, not to breathe, not to think, not to wonder, not to care. If anything would make a difference I was going to do it.

To a large degree, the tasks were simply these: keep my feet downhill, get on my back, protect my mouth from getting packed with snow, get my head above the snow, be visible to observers as long as possible (I didn't really think of this at the time, but if you do everything by the book you get this nice benefit). I wasn't able to get up out of the snow, but we were still accelerating, the snow was hissing and roaring and we were up to maybe 30 mph within the first five seconds.

Then we were airborne. It got quiet and I had time to think "this is not good," then because we (me and the snow) didn't land, I thought, "What cliff did we go over?" "We should've hit by now." Then because we still didn't land, I thought,

warning, the snow cracked around me and dropped. The time between the snow cracking and my body falling was zero seconds. The fracture was the start of the fall, not a warning sign.

Initially, it was like being on a giant raft. Within a second the snow dropped, crumbled into pieces and became loose and unconsolidated. The snow that broke free was around me in an area the size of a canoe. All I could do was try to get my axes into the hard base below the moving snow and hope that everything would drop out from under me so that I would be left hanging with the snow crashing away below. I was kneeling as I started to slide, and I raised both arms and swung the two axes with everything I had — following the axes with my entire

body as deep into the snow as I could reach. Sure enough, they bit hard into the base. I know that I could never have hammered these axes as hard as I did in any other circumstance, but I was determined to play an active role in whether I lived through this. It was not a time to hold back. I could have cut a car in two. And this was just over a second after the avalanche began.

Well, my axes bit into the underlying ice, but being anchored only works in the simplest of circumstances. It turned out (as I found out later from Tim) that when the snow broke free, it stopped supporting the snow he was on, and additional fractures shot all along the top of the start-zone, freeing tons of snow, which immediately dropped, throwing Tim backwards down the

"I guess we shot over the big wall and I'll die on the rocks below." But we still didn't hit. It turned out that we were in the main channel all along, but the gully is so steep and we were moving so fast we were simply in the air for a long time. When we landed, it was a sudden compression, not a crash.

Now until this point the entire mass of snow was moving together. It wasn't churning or turbulent. There actually wasn't much physical damage done to us up to this point, and the snow actually cushioned me in a way. I don't know why I couldn't get to the surface — maybe things were too loose — but when the snow imploded I lost everything that was loose — my hat (which was still on), my sunglasses, my cigar (if I'd had one) and so on.

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I lost one of my axes at this point, but I kind of remember throwing it because as we landed I saw rocks moving by so fast it was like looking out of the window of an express train and it was still so steep that it seemed like a good idea to try slowing down. I rolled onto my stomach and drove the remaining axe into the hard base below, but the pressure of the oncoming snow blew me off the axe like seeds off a dandelion. The axe didn't slide from my hand — it just disappeared. I made a mental note to never try that again. I also got my mouth and nose packed with snow which wasn't too hard to clear I guess — i don't recall the details.

Through the murky light I saw the bottom of Tim's feet coming toward me. We had been traveling close to each other (although we didn't know it) and my little axe experiment allowed him to gain on me. What I saw, though, were 24 hardened steel spikes (his crampons). Oddly, he saw the same thing — his feet bearing down on my head. He rolled his body one way, I rolled the other and either he passed me or he didn't. We don't know because with no warning, we hit the trees.

These are treetops sticking out of the snow, spaced irregularly, and ranging in diameter from mere fractions of an inch thick to four inches or more. Nothing yielded and we never slowed. The snow carried us into the trees and we moved with the snow. Each blow was bone-shatteringly hard. We went limp, ragdolling from tree to tree. His hip, my thigh, his shoulder, my hand, his foot, my head, and so on. I thought "so I'll die by being torn apart by the trees." We didn't slow and we kept on hitting them.

And then we slowed and then we stopped. We were both on the snow, not buried. Tim was only six feet away — almost within reach. One of my legs was up in the air snagged in the branches of a tree but was still attached to my hip. My body lay across the slope (it was still very steep). Tim was laying up



Minutes after the avalanche, rescuers were onsite to help Dan and his climbing partner, Tim. To their own amazement, both hikers had relatively minor injuries. Tim did lose consciousness a few times while rescuers made their way up the slope.

against some trees and was crying out in pain and within seconds lost his vision and began going unconscious. We still had our packs on, but we'd both lost our hats, glasses and axes. I sat up and blood sprayed out of my head onto the snow and my body. We called to each other to confirm the other knew we were each close by.

I did some triage — was I alive? Did my spine appear broken? Was my skull open to the air? And so on. I freed my leg, which allowed my body to slide over to Tim. I grabbed his hand while he went in and out of consciousness and we reassured each other and then got to the business at hand. Tim was going in and

out, and we needed to get warm clothes on before contact with the snow chilled our bodies.

I became aware that a voice that I'd heard in the distance was shouting the same thing and getting slowly louder. I turned and listened and realized it was a skier yelling, "Climbers, on your left! I'm coming to you!"

It was Luke, an Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) caretaker at the cabin. He was on the scene within a minute, radioing to the USFS staff — two of whom were on their way up to us. Luke did spinal exams and looked for signs of broken bones or internal damage and after a few minutes our wounds

were dressed and we were on the move, climbing down the still-steep mountain until we met up with Kevin and Jeff, who dug resting spots in the slope and then repeated the spinal assessments and looked for other signs of internal organ damage. They were surprised to find us coherent, friendly, aware and perfectly happy to recount the details of the ordeal. They lent us axes to continue the climb down and within 20 minutes we were back in the USFS cabin, getting cleaned up as best as we could.

One almost surreal memory of the walk back was that Jeff and I were walking together while Kevin and Tim followed. We reached the

Hermit Lake cabin first, where there was a crowd of people — all of whom had witnessed the carnage. I didn't know anyone had seen the avalanche, and I didn't know my face and clothing were covered with blood. As we passed the crowd there was total silence — nobody said a word, and everyone stared, wide-eyed. I didn't really look up, but I didn't know why things were so quiet. I could hear my footsteps in the snow and the steel blades of the crampons rang as they lifted out of the surface. Kevin's axe (which I was carrying) stabbed into the snow — I was using it kind of like a cane and that was all. All those silent

Continued on next page



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Continued from previous page
 faces were watching us.

After patching up our open wounds, the Forest Service drove us down to Pinkham Notch in a snowcat where we packed up our gear. Then Tim and I drove up to St. Johnsbury to check into the Emergency Room where Sue (my wife) kindly met us and drove us back to the house. Tim stayed on a few days to practice bandaging arms and hands with me.

Injuries are like strange little gremlins. The initial scrapes and

bruises are obvious, but over days or weeks other injuries come to light. In our cases (this is written 10 days after the incident), Tim and I ended up with what are remarkably similar injuries that are evolving in remarkably similar ways — in fact differing only in degree. We both lost a lot of skin on our arms around the elbows — as one might expect. This was ice rash from attempting to control our body position during the slide. Because we worked to stay on our backs (as we had been taught), the abrasions are on the back of our

arms. Tim's knuckles and palms were also shredded (he was not wearing gloves).

Oddly, his arm abrasions are worse than mine even though I was in a short-sleeve shirt and he had long-sleeves. We have no explanation for this. All of our other pains come from pinballing through the trees. We both have knee injuries. Tim has serious tears in his left knee ligaments and he's scheduled for surgery this week. I think I have a tear in my Anterior Cruciate Ligament but have yet to have it diagnosed — kind of a "wait-and-see" approach. Tim bruised his pelvis on the right side in a nearly full-on tree strike. I took a blow to my right thigh that sent me spinning in the snow, followed by a nearly full-on strike to my forehead, leaving a laceration that caused most of the blood loss and a whip-lash from that im-

pact, affecting my neck and shoulders. While big enough to bleed profusely, it required neither stitches nor bandage.

Somewhere in the commotion I sprained my right ankle, but that has all but disappeared. Lastly, contact with the trees cause a number of stabs, slashes and bruises, all of which are superficial. I had ice rash across my face, leaving what looked like claw marks raked across my cheek, eye-lids and eyebrow — which didn't draw blood and have now disappeared. We both had one black eye and that's about it. Oh, and I cracked the distal phalanx of my fourth finger: the very top, little, tiny finger-bone of my smallest finger on my right hand - my pinkie.

Afterthought: After we decided we weren't dead and were waiting for Luke, I took out my digital camera and took a picture of Tim and a

self-portrait. Those pictures show two people completely authentic in the moment — no mugging for the camera — no adjustment of hair or smiling or adjusted posture. Tim had just lost consciousness — his head dropped back and his hands went limp. He was going in and out, and this was a picture of him going out. I didn't plan that — I just took the pictures. The self-portrait looks like it was taken by somebody else, and the subject had no knowledge of the camera — like a picture taken in battle. I've never seen myself like that — so unaware of the camera — but also being the cameraman at the same time. I captured us in our most vulnerable state — an intensity that continues to ring like the damp echo of a bell in fog.

I think I'll always want to capture that again — and doubt I ever will.

The hardy asparagus

Continued from Page 1

ingly scarce. Although I was not born until 1944, that previous era was still tangible in the peeling walls and the closets full of shoes, and especially in the stories my grandmother told while my mother was away working. It was simple, really; about the same time the money ran out, so did my grandfather, leaving her with five daughters ranging in age from toddler to teenager, a house, a barn, four acres and a mortgage.

Within that framework a thousand more tales unfolded which, to my young ears, made the era sound like wonderful fun. Clearly it wasn't really. My grandmother was in tears one day when there was a knock on the door. A young Italian girl looking for a sewing job had the wrong directions but it turned out she could cook 'talian and before long she was living in the attic in return for helping out. Within an alarmingly short time after that, she had a child and then another. More mouths to feed but meanwhile another couple had moved into the barn, which had a

spare apartment on one end, and they kept a big garden as well as pigs and chickens in return for rent.

There was one decrepit automobile and any journey at all had an unpredictable outcome. It was just a twenty minute walk to town and the train station, steeply down hill almost all the way, but nobody had much to bring back up anyway. This, too, sounded like fun but it was hardest of all upon the girls who, in their teens, were so keen on conforming to fashion. Nothing got thrown out, and little was purchased. In the basement, there were still shelves and shelves of dusty jars with the last of the beans or tomatoes when I was old enough to explore, as well as some perfectly awful wine.

This all changed when the war came along; within a few years all five girls were married and my grandmother rented the place out for a while, but then my mother showed up with me, and the three of us moved back to rediscover the asparagus. Finally, there were good jobs which my mother could work, and there were more gifts to follow; generosity of spirit as well as earth on that hill top which the three of us

shared. Similar stories of the Great Depression are common here in Vermont, too, where the ties to the land were second only to the ties to each other, and I've kept those old fashioned values myself, including the closets full of old shoes and an almost phobic avoidance of debt. Those values serve me well. But I worry about how much things have changed elsewhere. In a society which emphasizes consumption instead of production, generosity is the first thing to go and that is the one thing we need the most.

I think we're OK up here. Perhaps it is the hard winters which keep us tough, along with the rural values of collaboration and appreciation of the earth. That great, gaudy, over-priced, over-paved and avaricious world never quite got established here. I'm keeping a wary eye to the south, though, that same direction which the salesmen used to come from when the roads dried out in the spring, where hardship will not be so easily accepted. How generous can we afford to be towards the salesmen, as well as the bankers and lawyers, when they come begging? Meanwhile, I'm off to the garden. The asparagus is up!



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Follow the Money

Our Waste Land (with apologies to T.S. Eliot)

by RACHEL SIEGEL

“Winter kept us warm, covering Earth in forgetful snow.” As the snow melts, it reveals how things were left last fall. Stalks of late summer flowers, vegetables neither picked nor plowed under, tools left out, litter thrown into roadside snow banks, all become visible reminders of our carelessness. We can clean them up, or wait until this year’s growth and then next year’s snow hides them from sight again.

As our prosperity melts and our routes are muddied, we are finding all sorts of litter thrown into our banks and other financial institutions. “Toxic” in their poisonous nature and long half-life, these financial derivatives—made valuable by the potential value of something else and the willingness to trade, and so made worthless when markets fail—have become banks’ tragedies.

An externality is a by-product—usually a costly one—that affects bystanders. It may affect trading participants too, but since they are enjoying the gains from trade, they have no incentive to control the externality. Bystanders, being neither buyers nor sellers, have no direct role in the market and therefore no direct pressure to apply, and so can only appeal to conscience or to government.

We have derelict satellites floating in space that are hazards to space travel, nuclear energy that creates toxic waste storage dilemmas, and now “toxic” bank assets. For all our admirable ambitions, we have a tendency to create solutions that create new externalities without thinking of those consequences until they turn ugly.

Derivatives “solve” the problem of risk by providing a way to be on both sides of it, or by slicing it up into customized pieces that are more attractive and can be sold. Then the risk itself is profitable, and a cost becomes a profit, and the by-product becomes a product. That is a market-based solution for the cost of excess risk: make it a product, something marketable, and it will have value. The problem is that risk, however packaged and sold, is still risky, and the more degrees of separation between the by-product and the product, the purer that risk becomes and the less diluted its threat, yet the more distant it seems.

Local banks are able to sell the mortgages they originate because there was (and is) a secondary market of mortgage-backed securities, and therefore are able to trade risk for liquidity and make more mortgages and more profit. Local banks generally are not failing, and most can continue to lend. They are profiting from the product, the original mort-

gage, and the by-product.

It’s the institutions that traded only in the secondary markets, only in the derivatives—mortgage-backed securities or credit default swaps—that ended up with pure risk, all by-product and no product. That costly mistake would be theirs alone, except that their creative destruction would take too much with it.

Then there was the problem of the externalities of risk, the by-product of all this imposed on everyone who ever hoped to pay off a mortgage or save for a child’s education or for old age. These toxic assets have fouled the waters that we all need to drink. So, we did what we do when faced with intolerable externalities: we appealed to conscience, as in our outcry over compensation and bonuses, and to government.

Regulatory enforcement is weak, by definition, because it is designed to prevent activities that are rewarding, which is why peo-

As our prosperity melts and our routes are muddied, we are finding all sorts of litter thrown into our banks and other financial institutions.

ple do them in the first place. Rules are not made to be broken, but they will be when there is enough profit in it. Government oversight is costly. So the government is trying a market-based solution.

The Treasury’s plan is to be the investor of first resort, to get those assets trading again and thus to make markets and establish their value—“stirring/Dull roots with spring rain”—while relieving banks from the lethal drag

on their balance sheets. Thus freed, banks can move ahead and the financial system can become fluid again. In turn, as markets be-

come liquid and assets become tradable, these assets may once again have value, “lilacs out of the dead land.” Or they may never again have value, in which case, we collectively pay the price, and look for a cave in Nevada to dump them in.

Will it work? Will it be fair? Will it create new externalities

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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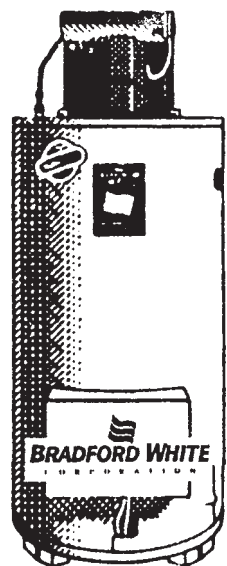
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The Melody Men, taken in 1955 or 1956, left to right, Bernard Matthews, Orleans, Roland Royer, Newport, William Lang, Lyndonville, Paul Valley, Barton and Russell Wilson, Lyndonville.

Through the eyes of Russell Wilson

The Flood of 1927, Prohibition and the Great Depression

by DAN WILLIAMS

The year was 1932. Twelve-year-old Russell Wilson was goofing around on Prospect Hill in Lyndon with his pal, Harold Smith. Both had guns because they liked to hunt woodchucks.

"We walked into this barn and we said, 'All right, we know you're there. You'd better come down,'" not expecting anything," Wilson recalls. "And all of a sudden there were two feet coming over the top of the hay mow."

The boys skedaddled, and they didn't stop until they reached Smith's house.

"It was a tramp, I suppose, sleeping in the hay barn," Wilson

says. "We never did find out who the tramp was. We didn't ask any questions. We just saw the two feet."

Russell Wilson has lived a lot of Northeast Kingdom history in his 88 years. He witnessed the Flood of 1927, Prohibition, and the Great Depression. He was a cryptographer during World War II, a manager for Vermont American, and a drummer for several bands. Except for his wartime service and a three-year stint in California, he has always called northeastern Vermont home.

Wilson, 6-foot-1 in his younger days and still very tall, lives in a tidy split-level in a neighborhood called Lyndon Heights just north of Lyndonville. He talks to a reporter upstairs in the sunny living room while his wife, Patricia, a former teacher, reads downstairs.

The reporter asks when they were married.

Wilson: "In 1943. We've been married 66... (loudly) Pat?"

Mrs. Wilson (quietly): "Yes."

Wilson: "How long have we been married?"

Mrs. Wilson: "Sixty-six years."

Wilson: "Yeah, I guess that's what it is."

Mrs. Wilson: "We were married in '43."

Wilson: "'43, yes."

The reporter asks if he remembers the date.

Wilson: "Yeah, yeah, August 14."

Mrs. Wilson: "Hurrah."

Wilson (loudly): "What?"

Mrs. Wilson: "Hurrah."

The flood struck Vermont on Nov. 3, 1927, the day after Wilson's



seventh birthday. It spared his family's house on Red Village Road in Lyndon, but the raging Passumpsic River inundated a nearby farm, where the White Market now stands on Memorial Drive.

"It was raining hard during the night. When I woke up, I remember hearing men's voices. It turned out the fire department men of Lyndon Corner – they had a fire department at the time – came to get the cattle out of the barn and across the tracks and behind our house."

Wilson's keenest memory from the Prohibition era comes from a morning at Wright's Garage, which is now South End Auto on Memorial Drive. Officers were gathered around a rum-runner's Chevrolet coupe that had crashed coming down Vail Hill.

"He had two or three sacks of booze in the back end," Wilson says. "They brought it into the garage. As a kid, what I was seeing was these officers taking the bottles of booze and breaking them open and pouring them down the washstand."

The Great Depression began when Wilson was nine. His father worked for the railroad for \$5 a day; when shifts became scarce, he might work one month and not the next. "But my father," Wilson recalls, "instead of standing around on the street corner like some of them would, complaining about everything that was happening in the

world, my father was building somebody's front step. Maybe he was repairing somebody's hen house or putting a roof on somebody's place. He always had something to do."

Wilson says the family never went hungry and he always had "acceptable" clothes for school.

"The beauty of it was, we didn't know we were poor. I never had a bicycle (but) you didn't go and ask your father, 'Gee, I'd like a new bicycle.' You might as well forget about it. That was the way life was."

Wilson enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II and worked first as an airplane mechanic, then as a radio operator, and ultimately as a cryptographer. He bounced around posts in the United States before being sent to the Philippines. When Japan surrendered, he joined U.S. occupation forces in Tokyo as a cryptographer in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters.

"We saw him (MacArthur) every day at around 2:00 in the afternoon," Wilson says. He would come out of the general headquarters, and the Japanese would gather out in the street to see him. He was like a god there at that time – until he fouled up."

Wilson is referring to MacArthur's firing by Harry Truman for publicly disagreeing with the president's Korean War policy.

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“President Truman did exactly what he was supposed to do. It showed that the citizens were not controlled by the military. The military was controlled by the civilian government. If MacArthur had had his way, there’d have been no civilian government.”

A black and white photo from the mid-1950s shows Wilson and his band, The Melody Men, at the Red Wing dance hall in Derby Line. The back of the photo lists Bernard Matthews on tenor sax; Roland Royer, alto sax; William Lang, trumpet; Paul Valley on piano; and Wilson in the back on drums. Matthews, of Orleans, and Wilson are the surviving members.

On Saturday nights from 1950 to 1960, hundreds of people danced to The Melody Men at the Red Wing, which houses the Elks Club today.

“If you came to dance, we were playing music you could dance to,” Wilson says. “There wasn’t any 20-minute intermission every five seconds.”

The Red Wing did not serve alcohol, Wilson says, and the management had a strict rule: “If you came in and started a ruckus in the dance hall, you never got in again. Never. There were a lot of 16-year-old girls that would come there and have a nice time, and there was no one jostling them around.”

The most serious incident Wilson witnessed happened outside the dance hall as the band was leaving. A state policeman with a billy club was trying to arrest an unruly Marine home on furlough. Wilson says the Marine “whopped” the officer in the face and knocked him down, then flipped him over his shoulder when the policeman grabbed him from behind.

“That fella got into his car and drove off. The policeman got up and dusted himself off. I watched the paper – we never saw anything about that. The policeman called a halt on the wrong guy.”

The Melody Men played music for all kinds of dance steps, including fox trots, square dances, and a step that Wilson pronounces gallow; he’s unsure of its spelling.

Wilson also played for many years in the Lyndonville Military Band and the St. Johnsbury Band. When he retired from Vermont American, he taught himself the trumpet and trombone. “I’d been playing drums all my life, so I thought I’d like to play something else.”

Retirement was 24 years ago. Wilson sold his drums last year. Now he reads – “If I couldn’t read, I don’t know what I’d do” – but he prefers histories and other non-fiction work. “I can’t read a novel.”

Patricia Wilson comes upstairs to see the reporter out. She is diminutive next to her towering husband but wears a playful grin. She has looked up the dance step he had trouble with.

Mrs. Wilson: “Gallow is spelled galop. It’s pronounced either gallow or gallop and it’s a two-step or a polka.”

Wilson: “Mother! It isn’t a gallop, sweetheart. No one ever called it a gallop.”

Mrs. Wilson: “Just in the dictionary.”

Wilson: “Well, the dictionary is wrong.”



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Turning to education

Ann Traverso Moore can relate

by JUSTIN LAVELY

Looking for a job in this economy is difficult, encouraging many job seekers to improve their education. Springfield College's Ann Traverso Moore can relate. After all, back in 1993 when she was 34 years old and in the midst of a successful career as a family service worker, she graduated from the school that now employs her. Her husband, Barry Moore, enrolled at Springfield to shift careers from construction to human services.

Moore moved to the Northeast Kingdom in the 1980s from Weymouth, Mass., during the last recession. Her family was looking to leave the congestion and high living costs of southern New England and "return to the land." They bought a farmhouse and 25 acres. Since then, Moore has been working in the field of human services. She believes her life experiences help her un-

derstand prospective students at Springfield, who are often dubbed "non-traditional" because of their age.

Moore believes the increase in people walking through the door at Springfield is directly tied to the country's recent economic woes and this region's major layoffs. Regional job loss always grabs headlines, but when it's combined with smaller, lower profile layoffs, the result is a large group of professionals looking for work in new places, says Moore. Many who have lost their jobs are ready to take their careers in a completely different direction.

"There's a certain student who goes here," says Moore, who was hired a year ago to energize the recruitment effort. "Typically, they have some college or professional experience." The majority of Springfield students work full time and 90 percent of them are women. The school enrolls between 70-100 students per semester.

Springfield offers bachelor's, master's, and executive master's programs in human



services. The school has 11 locations around the country, including the campus near Emerson Falls in St. Johnsbury. Human services is a broad and varied field where workers provide services through social welfare and mental health agencies, as well as nursing homes and hospitals. Addictions counselors, early childhood education teachers, and criminal justice workers are examples of careers in the field of human services. The job outlook for those who earn a human serv-

ices degree is excellent. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has ranked the human services occupation among the most rapidly growing in the country. The St. Johnsbury Campus serves the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and northern New Hampshire.

There is a strong emphasis on community outreach and education in both addictions studies and mental health counseling. Students at the campus engage in a close-knit learning community and make strong professional connections with both their classmates and professors, who are often practitioners of the subject that are teaching.

However, while many may be turning to human services to start a new career, the field has not avoided the financial pinch other industries are feeling. Earlier this year, Gov. Jim Douglas announced his intention to cut state funding to nonprofit human services agencies by 4 percent. Another report had the state of Vermont cutting 600 positions in the field, which has already seen significant cutbacks. Despite the news, both Moore and administrator Linda Ladd say that job placement for Springfield students is not a problem.

"In an economic downturn, the need for human service counselors increases in the com-

munity," says Moore.

Many of the faces Moore and Ladd see show "a little bit of anxiety," which could be due to the loss of their job and their decision to embark on a new career. Many of them have unique backgrounds, according to Moore, who says one student, named Ed, came to Springfield after 25 years in the military. As a sergeant, he worked with 18-25 year olds on a regular basis, and he decided to forego retirement in favor of a second career in probation, parole or prison.

"He believes a lot of young men could use a good role model," according to Moore.

Others with military background, including many coming home from service in Iraq, are enrolling with the help of funding from the United States Veterans Association.

Moore believes the school's draw is also tied to the convenience of its course schedule. It only takes 24 months to receive a bachelor's degree and the classes are on weekends.

Other Springfield College locations are far more urban -- Boston, Mass., Charleston, S.C., Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, Calif., Manchester, N.H., Milwaukee, Wis., St. Johnsbury, Vt., San Diego, Calif., Springfield, Mass., Tampa, Fla., and Wilmington, Del.

President Barack Obama has said on many occasions that this recession has presented Americans with the opportunity to invest in the infrastructure for the future. As far as careers go, the same theory holds true.

"This is a good time to invest in yourself," Moore says.

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Spring 2009 Sports Schedule

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| BOYS VARSITY/JV LACROSSE | | BOYS TENNIS | |
| 5/2 Spaulding SAT* (H) 3:00 | 5/4 Montpelier (No JV) (H) 4:00 | 5/2 Spaulding (NL) (A) 3:00 | 5/4 Harwood (H) 3:30 |
| 5/7 Milton (A) 4:00 | 5/9 Hartford (NL) (A) 11:00 | 5/7 North Country (NL) (A) 3:30 | 5/9 Montpelier (NL) (H) 10:00 |
| 5/12 Harwood (H) 4:00 | 5/14 Lamolille (A) 4:00 | 5/11 U-32 (A) 3:30 | 5/14 Middlebury (A) 3:30 |
| 5/16 U-32 (A) 11:00 | 5/19 Rice (H) 4:00 | 5/16 S. Burlington (NL) (H) 10:00 | 5/20 Montpelier (A) 3:30 |
| 5/21 Randolph (A) 4:00 | 5/23 Montpelier (NL) (A) 11:00 | 5/23 Harwood (NL) (A) 11:00 | 5/26 Spaulding (H) 3:30 |
| 5/26 U-32 (H) 4:00 | 5/29 Vergennes (A) 4:00 | GIRLS TENNIS | |
| | | 5/2 Spaulding (NL) (H) 3:00 | 5/4 Harwood (A) 3:30 |
| | | 5/7 North Country (NL) (H) 3:30 | 5/9 Montpelier (NL) (A) 10:00 |
| | | 5/11 U-32 (H) 3:30 | 5/14 Middlebury (H) 3:30 |
| | | 5/16 S. Burlington (NL) (A) 10:00 | 5/20 Montpelier (H) 3:30 |
| | | 5/23 Harwood (NL) (H) 11:00 | 5/26 Spaulding (A) 3:30 |
| | | TRACK SCHEDULE | |
| | | 5/1 Burlington Inv. (A) 3:00 | 5/2 Burlington Inv. SAT*(A) 2:00 |
| | | 5/6 Lake Region, Oxbow.(A) 2:00 | 5/13 Essex, Lamolille, (H) 3:30 |
| | | 5/16 Girls Iverson- (A) 10:00 | 5/20 Lyndon (H) 3:30 |
| | | 5/26 Lake Region, NC, (H) 3:30 | 5/30 Essex Invitational (A) 10:00 |
| | | 5/30 State Meets (A) 10:00 | @ Burlington |
| | | 6/13 New England Meet (A) 10:00 | @ Burlington |
| | | ULTIMATE FRISBEE | |
| | | 5/2 Amherst Invite (A) | 5/3 Amherst Invite (A) |
| | | 5/9 Greenfield Tourn (A) | 5/16 St. J. Academy Inv. (H) |
| | | 5/17 St. J. Academy Inv. (H) | 5/24 Vermont States TBA |
| | | 5/31 New England Champs TBA | |

* JV Games Will Follow Varsity

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| GIRLS VARSITY/JV LACROSSE | |
| 5/2 Oxbow (No JV) (A) 3:00 | 5/5 Montpelier (A) 4:30 |
| 5/7 Chelsea (No JV) (H) 4:30 | 5/9 Hartford (NL) (H) 11:00 |
| 5/12 Sharon Acad.(No JV)(A) 4:30 | 5/15 Lamolille (H) 4:30 |
| 5/19 Rice (A) 4:30 | 5/22 Randolph (No JV) (A) 4:30 |
| 5/26 U-32 (A) 4:30 | 5/29 BFA (H) 4:30 |
| | |
| VARSITY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL | |
| 5/2 Milton (JV @ 11:00) (A) 4:00 | 5/5 Middlebury (H) 4:30 |
| 5/7 Burlington (A) 4:30 | 5/9 Mt. Mansfield (A) 11:00 |
| *Varsity Baseball Home/JV Softball Home | *JV Baseball (A)/Varsity Softball (A) |
| 5/12 Rice (No JV Softball)(H) 4:30 | 5/14 Spaulding (H) 4:30 |
| 5/16 Colchester (A) 11:00 | 5/19 Champlain Valley (A) 4:30 |
| 5/21 BFA St. Albans (H) 4:30 | 5/23 Missisquoi (H) 11:00 |
| 5/26 North Country (A) 4:30 | 5/30 Essex (A) 11:00/4:00 |
| | |
| GOLF SCHEDULE | |
| 5/2 BHS, CVU & Essex (A) 3:00 | 5/5 CHS, MIDD & NC (H) 3:00 |
| 5/7 MVU, Mt. ABE&SBHS(A) 3:00 | 5/12 Girls Invitational (A) 2:00 |
| 5/13 Rice, SHS & VER (A) 2:00 | 5/15 Boys Invitational (A) 8:00 |
| 5/16 CVU, Milton & VER (A) 3:00 | 5/19 Girls Invitational (A) 12:00 |
| 5/20 CVU, MIDD & SBHS (A) 3:00 | 5/22 MVU, NC, SBHS (A) 3:00 |
| 5/23 Girls Metro (A) 1:00 | 5/29 Boys Metro (A) 9:00 |
| 5/29 Girls Tournament (A) 1:00 | |

* All dates JV teams will be at opposite sites

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Then and Now – or, The Match King Returns

by BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

Late last month, as I was leafing through the latest issue of the New Yorker magazine, an article about Bernard Madoff caught my eye. He's the man who was in the headlines for awhile after it was revealed that he had swindled thousands of people who had trusted him with their life savings.

I don't usually read articles about things I know so little about, like 'Ponzi schemes.' There was a large cartoon depicting Mr. Madoff and two other characters, Charles Ponzi and Ivar Kreuger. The article was about how Ponzi and Kreuger's activities, basically in the 1920s, served as a model for Madoff's recent fraudulent schemes. It was Ivar Kreuger's name that rang a faint bell in my memory and drew me into reading the article.

As I read farther into the piece, the bell became louder. Of course, Ivar Kreuger was none other than the famous "Swedish Match King" of the late '20s. He was indeed a Swedish financier who ran a global safety-match business that led to his being dubbed the Match King. The economist Keynes called Kreuger "perhaps the greatest constructive business intelligence of his age." He was secretive by nature and built a tight circle of privacy around himself, from which he would venture out to influence the tycoons of the day. He decided that the best place to raise the capital to fuel his vast empire was Wall Street, so he came to America to pursue that goal.

There was a personal reason why I remembered the Match King. He chose as his American bankers the prestigious Boston firm of Lee, Higginson & Company, whom he succeeded in convincing that his activities were legitimate. If they became at all suspicious, he would increase the fees he paid them, adding to his aura of invincibility. It so happened that my stepfather, a banker, worked for Lee, Higginson. As events propelled the country and the world toward the Great Depression, he saw his salary reduced, but like many others, he was glad, at least, to have a job.

The scene that was later etched in my twelve-year-

old memory was of my stepfather and me walking down a New York street, fresh from a stress-relieving movie, and encountering a newsboy waving a paper and shouting "Extra" and something incomprehensible. My stepfather caught the words "Swedish Match King" and grabbed a paper. We stopped as he read the large black print: "Ivar Kreuger Shoots Self." Indeed, Kreuger had seen that his house of cards and his empire were crumbling despite all his maneuverings, and had shot himself in his Paris apartment. Within two weeks his companies were declared insolvent. Among the victims was Lee, Higginson & Company, which had to declare bankruptcy, leaving my stepfather without a job. After a very rough patch, he was able to gain reasonable employment, though his health paid a heavy price.

Bad times were felt all over the country, probably worst in the cities where the jobless had no way to provide for necessities, and often saw no way out. The father of a friend of mine jumped from the George Washington Bridge, leaving his family to cope. This was an oft-repeated story. Without the social safety net that we enjoy today, many people really were desperate just to survive. And I've talked with other folks who remember the bad times for country dwellers as well.

It appears that 'bad times' may recur when we come to believe that life will continue to go on as smoothly as before. We need to equip ourselves with the ability to cope with adverse changes in our surroundings. But one can't help feeling bad for people who have been the victims of massive fraud perpetrated by scoundrels, especially in a tough economic atmosphere such as we have today.

I am profoundly grateful to live in a home that we own and on land that can help to feed and support us. We can all hope that our bright and energetic young president will find ways to guide our nation wisely through tough times. If so, we can be an example to others in a world in which we are all involved in creating a brighter future. It won't be easy, but with strong wills and willingness to work, surely it can be done!



Gallery features:

Recent Works by Carol Keiser
and Lamps by High Beams

The upcoming show at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild Backroom Gallery will feature recent paintings by Putney artist, Carol Keiser, and lamps by Sutton lighting designers Trenny Robb and Robert Michaud, owners of High Beams Lighting. The show will run from May 22nd- July 6th, with a wine and cheese artists' reception Saturday, May 30th from 3-5 pm.

Carol Keiser's work is rich in color and joyful in content. "Combining my knowledge of ceramics with my love of painting and color, I started creating original hand painted tiles in 1985." She now divides her time between her studio in Putney, Vermont, where she produces her tiles and her studio in Mexico where she paints.

Says Carol, "These recent works are about place, whether it is Italy or Costa Rica or home. I have been interested in capturing the feel, light, the color and the essence of being in a particular place in a particular moment."

"The pool studies are done in the moment and left as such, to keep the quality of freshness and the intense contrast of light that is found in a place like Costa Rica, with its bright lights and very deep shadows. On the other hand, the Italian hilltop towns have an even, overall soft light. I enjoyed painting in both places and hope to return to both to study more deeply, their unique qualities of light."

The expressive use of color and line are important elements in Carol's work. Her popular images include scenes of women reading, reclining, contemplating, and of romantic couples. She also creates custom murals incorporating mountains, water, sun, moon and stars, sailboats and ladders as symbols of the natural world and "our connection to the divine".

Trenny Robb & Robert Michaud, have been partners at High Beams Lighting since 1980, where they design and build "out of the ordinary" lighting fixtures. Tucked away in Sutton, High Beams is hardly a secret destination. The media has described their internationally known lighting as: "Organic Design", and the Boston



Globe describes High Beams as: "lamp making meets horticulture in a Northeast Kingdom Botanical Combination". Bob and Trenny have designed lighting for restaurants near (The River Garden Café and Elements) and far (Foxy's in Jost Van Dyke, BVI), businesses, private homes and historic buildings such as the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and the Great Adirondack YMCA Camp on Silver Bay in Lake George, NY.

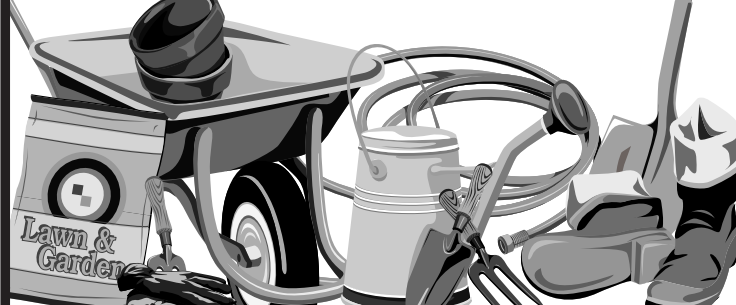
The Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild is located under the purple awning at 430 Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury and is open Mondays-Saturdays, 10:30-5:30. Find out more at: www.nekartisansguild.com.



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A Vermont road map to milk products

by BRUCE HOYT

As residents of this Green Mountain State where the goddess of agriculture graces our capitol dome and half a billion dollars of our economy comes from milk, our interest and understanding of the dairy industry should extend beyond the pleasant view of pastures, barns and silos. One broadening of our agricultural education can be obtained by a visit to Cabot Farms, just an hour's drive from St. Johnsbury.

With solid facts, an enjoyable movie, and a tour of the plant, the associates present the history and operation of this successful dairy cooperative. This brief view presents a thriving industry and stimulates some thinking about the several ways that milk can be changed to other products.

Although the total "road map" to all the dairy products has turns upon turns, the first choices for dividing milk into product-streams involve separation, either into skim milk and cream, or separation into curds and whey, or separation into condensed milk and evaporated water. Three initial directions but dozens of products.

One device that changed the way milk went to market was the DeLaval cream separator. Patented in 1881 by Gustaf DeLaval and manufactured from 1885 onward, it reached 4 million farms by 1928. It enabled the efficient division of milk into cream and skim milk. Given a day or so, gravity will do the same job by letting the lighter cream float above the more-dense skim milk. St. Johnsbury once had a Cream Top Dairy whose one-quart glass container had an expanded portion at the top which collected the risen cream, thus displaying the then valued richness of the product and making it easier to decant for desserts or coffee.

Modern dairies preparing butter or ice cream can't wait for earth's gravity to separate the milk. They depend on a centrifuge similar to the DeLaval invention. The DeLaval could separate milk from a 25 cow herd in about half an hour. With moderate exertion on the crank handle the mechanism inside the DeLaval cream separator spins at 6000 rpm, creating an artificial gravity 4000 times the force of natural gravity. Separation is instant. A stack of steel cones guides the heavier skim milk to the outside of the spin, where a

spout takes it to a container. The lighter cream "floats" to the inside where it collects and travels by another spout to the cream container. This arrangement of continuous flow made the DeLaval separator more successful than the batch processors of its competitors. At its butter maker in West Springfield Mass, Cabot Farms has a centrifuge that can process 440,000 lbs an hour as the first step in making 20,000 lbs of butter an hour. A cream separator stands as an ornament at the front of the Cabot Farms presentation room, and although unmentioned in the talk, it has a lot to say about the dairy industry.

Cream, of course, goes on to be churned into butter, leaving behind buttermilk. And it goes on to support another big Vermont industry - ice cream. H.P Hood once made ice cream in the building that houses the bagel bakery in St. J. The cream arrived as 40 lb cylinders of unsalted butter and departed in ice cream sandwiches prepared on a continuously flowing belt of ice cream attended by summer hires, consisting, on one occasion, of four young ladies and a distracted young man: an equation for disaster.

The second major way of di-

viding milk into product-streams involves precipitation of solids by means of enzymes. Milk is a colloid. Unlike solutions, such salt water, light shown through a diluted milk will show the path of the light beam as it reflects off the particles - phosphorus bearing proteins (caseins) held in clumps by calcium. Rennet or other enzymes can break specific protein bonds and let the caseins form as curds which, upon being strained, leave behind certain valuable proteins in a watery solution called whey. The whey goes on to be refined as a food additive. The curds go on to be washed and packaged a cottage cheese, or pressed, dried and aged to form various kinds of cheddar. This manufacture can be observed on the Cabot plant tour.

Other enzyme-producing bacteria lead to other kinds of cheeses and cheese-like products. Yogurt relies on the action of lactase, an enzyme produced by bacteria that can ferment milk sugar. Back in the crunchy granola era, many people made their own yogurt by gently incubating milk infused with starter bacteria from a previous batch. Lactase is the main ingredient in digestive aids for lactose-intolerant people. The Germans use a different bacteria to produce a yogurt called quark

which they use with herbs as "green sauce".

As a third kind of division, water is removed by vacuum evaporation and mild heat to produce evaporated milk, as well as a sweetened form called condensed milk. Perfected and patented by Gail Borden in 1851, the equipment was the foundation of Borden, Inc. In this form, milk had a longer life and cans of it were provided to Union soldiers during the Civil War.

The number and variety of milk products in the supermarket aisles surpasses any other food. An activity for restless children with shopping parents might be a treasure hunt for dairy products. Even more fun might be a trip to the Cabot Farms showroom, where two-dozen kinds of cheese can be sampled before and after the plant tour. This activity is available Monday through Saturday, 9 to 4. The tour fee is \$2, and free for children under 12. From St. Johnsbury, take Route 2 to a short distance beyond Molly's Pond. At the bottom of the long hill, take a right up over the hill to Cabot. Turn left in the village. On the way home, slide down Route 215 to Marshfield and stop in at the Rainbow Sweets. Wow! You won't need supper.

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The definition of love and charity changes with time

by SUSAN BOWEN

Here's an example of a senior moment: I can't bring to mind the names of two singers, a soprano and a tenor, who were popular in my youth, perhaps the late 1920s or early 30s.

Their specialty was romantic operettas, and therefore the subject was, of course, romantic love. Ah, I can hear them now... "Love, ah Love! At last we've found you, now we know the secret of it all. Love, the source of happiness...the reason for living." The voices fade away on their thrilling high notes. I can still remember some of the notes, some of the words, and even some of the adolescent thrill of that special word, love,

but what were the names of the singers? So maddening, so typical! Then some days later my brain brought up part of the answer - Jeanette MacDonald! Of course, how could I have forgotten! But the tenor's name was still lost in the past. It is all too clear I was, in those long-ago days, trying out the role of the loved one, but not ready to put a face on the lover. Nonetheless these songs, these operettas, represent one meaning of the word, the powerful word, love.

In a modern scientific sense, love is seen as the propelling device to ensure continuation of the species, perhaps overdone today on this already over-populated planet. It can be seen, in some societies, as something that needs to be controlled. An extreme example would be in

societies ruled by a king and his court, where daughters became almost a commodity, given in marriage for diplomatic reasons. The rising middle class, in its turn, often arranged marriages for business or social reasons. Nowadays, conditions vary. There is no clear message for our young people, except perhaps that pregnancy is to be avoided as long as possible. Is it the end of romantic love? Or is there a wish to make it last a lifetime? Is it desirable, or even possible, to maintain that single-minded giddiness for a lifetime? All too often that seems to lead to an unsatisfying marriage or "on-the-side" love affairs. On the other hand, young love can mature naturally into family love, a generous, sustaining love and then to broaden again into

concern for one's community, large or small. This continual natural change seems at once a sign of personal growth, and a source of strength to support that process.

To anyone raised on the words of the King James Bible, there is another word for this broader meaning of love, "charity," a word that has almost lost its original sense. In my dictionary, the first meaning given to charity is "love," and later, as a fourth definition, "benevolence." This latter definition is clearly today's accepted meaning.

To understand the original meaning we need to turn to Paul's inspiring words in his first epistle to the Corinthians. There he describes a love which is lasting, is not easily discour-

aged, is kind, without envy or pride, allows no thought of evil, but rejoices in truth. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels" he tells us, "and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

Some people are afraid of seeming naive or unsophisticated in their understanding of love but lack any sense of responsibility -- surely a childish wish. Perhaps we should learn to keep some of the joyousness of the romantic lover to be able to make the journey through life with love in both its meanings -- caring responsible love as well as joy and pleasure, and perhaps even more important, to let the next generation realize that love isn't just for youth, but for a lifetime!



Gardening & Growing

Marsha Garrison

Contemplating Tomatoes

by Marsha Garrison

I know. It's too early to think about tomatoes. So why consider the tomato now? I'm thinking about the tomato because it isn't really at home in northern Vermont -- and this time of year, when no one in his right mind wants to live here, is an excellent time to consider the tomato's needs and how to satisfy them.

The tomato hails from the tropics; it wants heat, and heat

with a capital H. We don't have what the tomato wants; the typical tomato plant thus responds by sitting there in the ground and sulking. It refuses to grow at all for what often seems like an eternity. It blossoms reluctantly. It fruits stingily and late. And in a soggy summer like last year's, it may succumb to one or another fungus and fruit not at all.

To be sure, there are some tomatoes that do better than others. And there are undoubtedly tricks that some of you have discovered to make your tomatoes feel more at home in our inhospitable environment. So, I'm writing about tomatoes now in

the hope that you will let me know what has worked for you.

As an encouragement, let me begin with my own experiences. First, what tomatoes to grow? I have not been as adventurous here as I would like because I don't have good conditions for starting seeds and so have relied on local nurseries. Sadly, none of our local plant sources offers a really good range of tomato varieties. I invariably plant Sungold, a cherry tomato that no one should be without, and Lemon Boy, a surprisingly prolific yellow tomato with just the right blend of acidity and sweetness. I usually plant Early Girl, even though she offers a relatively boring product; flavor is just OK and the size is fairly small, but she produces lots of fruit and is fairly reliable. If I can get it, I plant Pruden's Purple, an heirloom variety that

produces huge, pinkish fruit with great taste and texture. I discovered Tip Top a couple of years ago and liked it a lot; the fruits are top shaped and the flavor is fine. I have tried others, but none have done better than these in my garden.

How to enhance the prospects of the tomato varieties we choose? On this count, I will confess to sloth. I have tried red plastic, and I think that it does help a bit. I have not tried other forms of coddling. This coming summer, I intend to plant some tomatoes in pots and put them out on the stone patio behind the house. My theory is that the soil will warm faster and that the tomatoes will additionally benefit from the heat they soak up from the stone. And then, elevated off the ground, it should be harder for them to catch whatever fungus

is lurking. I'll let you know how it works.

In the meantime, send me your own tomato tales. Tell me what varieties have worked best for you and what tricks you've used to make your plants produce as if they were in the tropical climate that they crave. Of course, I don't need to know that a greenhouse or plastic grow tunnel is useful; what I want to hear about is tricks for those of us who don't have these costly and bulky artificial environments.

We all want tomatoes with excellent flavor. We want them early, and we want them in bulk. I'm hoping that our shared experiences will help us get closer to these elusive goals. You can write to me at PO Box 43 in Peacham 05862. I'll pass on what your suggestions so that we all can benefit.

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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

Lynn A Bonfield



In 1843 the trustees of the Caledonia County Grammar School, more familiarly known as the Peacham Academy, decided to erect a new building to house the growing school. John Mattocks, a former Vermont governor, donated a slice of his garden at the Corner in the center of the village. In his Peacham history Ernest Bogart reported that "Professor Young of Dartmouth" prepared the plans, the town subscribed \$500, and the Academy trustees contributed \$2,000.

What remains unknown is the identity of the architect. The two most likely candidates are the Young brothers: Ammi B.

Young (1798-1874) and Ira Young (1801-58). Ammi was the noted architect of many buildings in the Greek Revival style, including the Vermont State House in Montpelier, 1833-37; Timothy Follett House in Burlington, 1840; Wheeler House in Burlington, 1842; and the Federal Customs House in Boston, 1837-47. He earned an honorary degree from Dartmouth in 1841 and helped plan at least one Dartmouth building. Ira Young, a graduate of Dartmouth, Class of 1829, lived in Hanover most of his life. A noted mathematician, he was appointed the Appleton Professor of Natural Philosophy, 1833-38. Neither the obituaries of these men nor the many articles on Ammi Young's works nor the biography files in the Dartmouth College Archives give any clues as to which was the architect of the Peacham Academy. Was the lesser known brother the more likely person to accept a job such as a schoolhouse in a small Vermont town or was the prominent regional architect the chosen one?

Bogart described the new building as "a handsome struc-



The second building of the Peacham Academy, ca. 1870. The building was expanded in 1886, removing the Doric columns. The Academy closed in 1971 and the building burned in 1976.

ture, well adapted to its purpose, with imposing Doric columns in front to give it a classical appearance." He put the building costs for this second Academy building at approximately \$3,000. In the 1845 letter printed below, William Mattocks, Peacham lawyer, responded to Z. Newell, of Bath, New Hampshire, who wrote to ask about the building plans and

cost. A busy lawyer, William Mattocks, who served on the board of trustees for the Academy and also was the town representative to the state legislature, kept his reply short and not helpful in answering the question of the architect.

April 8, 1845

Dear Sir

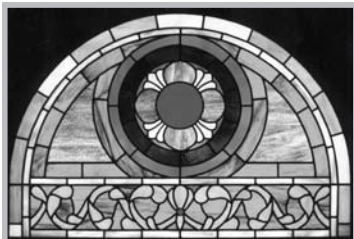
Yours respecting your Academy was duly recd & I am under the necessity of making an apology for not answering it sooner but the fact is I have been absent a good part of the time since its receipt & very much engaged - & it entirely slipped my mind. Mr Young the architect who built our building when he left took away the plans. I am not craftsmen enough to draw any kind of a plan I can only give the dimensions - length 62ft and 38ft in width Height of Posts-14. [The] building [is] divided in the center by folding doors making two school rooms-with a small building in the rear for a

Laboratory 16 feet square. [It has] 2 doors in front with a false door between them, raised about 6 feet from the ground with a basement for wood &c. Cost exclusive of fixing the ground \$2600.

All well as usual I send love to all.

Yours &c
Wm Mattocks

The original of this letter is preserved at Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont where Sylvia J. Bugbee provided information on Ammi Young. The editor also thanks Sarah Hartwell, reference librarian at Dartmouth, for facts on the Young brothers, including a third one, Dyer H. Young of Lebanon, a building constructor. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Brackets enclose editor's additions and ellipses indicate missing words.



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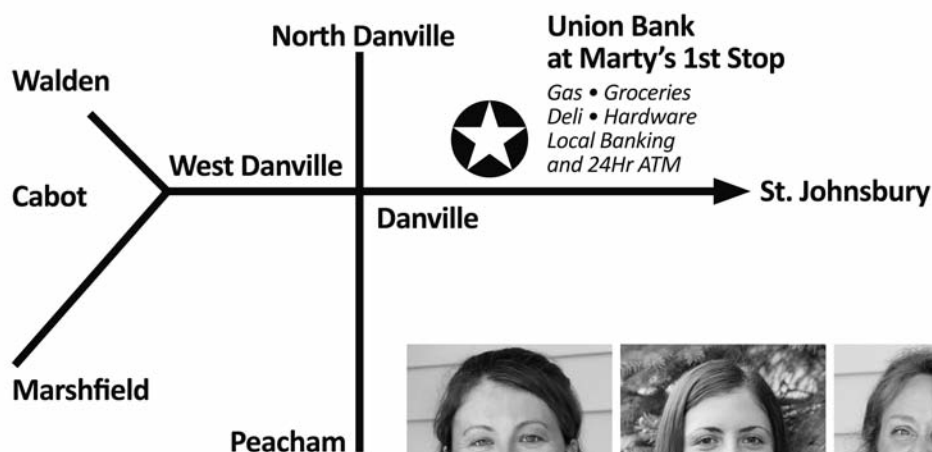
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No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

Basic Dough

There is nothing quite as rewarding as baking a fresh loaf of bread. The process, the smells and the reactions of everyone around the kitchen make this task worth the effort. It's a lot easier than you think (the yeast does most of the work) and is a wonderful culinary enterprise.

The most versatile dough I've found is a simple baguette dough that can be turned into a crusted loaf, a savory focaccia, a tasty pizza or a filled calzone. It is easy to handle and can be made ahead of time and used right before you need it. Bread dough like this is very hardy and can take some rough treatment and a small amount of neglect. This makes it the perfect busy cook dough.

Don't let the long instructions fool you. This is a recipe that gets easier all the time and is as simple as making cookies or cakes. It will become a favorite thing to do.

You can use an electric mixer with a dough hook, but kneading it by hand is more fun and I think makes for a better product. I don't use a food processor for this dough, but if that is what you are used to and know the technique then go ahead. Feel free to double the recipe.

You can substitute some (about one third of the recipe) whole wheat or white whole wheat flour in this dough. It does make a denser product.

3 cups lukewarm water
(remember heat kills yeast - so not too hot)
3 packages active dry yeast
2 teaspoons salt
2 tablespoons olive oil
6 cups flour

Make the Dough:

Pour the water (remember - not too hot) in the bottom of a mixing bowl. Add the yeast and swirl it around to dissolve. Add two cups of the flour, stir together and set aside in a warm spot for about an hour. It will get nice and bubbly and create a simple 'sponge' that starts the rising process. Add the salt to two cups of the remaining flour. Add the olive oil to the 'sponge' along with the salted flour. Proceed as below.

Mixing Machine:

Start the machine. Set a timer for 10 minutes -- It is possible to knead dough too long with a machine and a timer is a big help. As the dough mixes, add the remaining flour a little at a time until you have a cohesive but very sticky dough. You may not use all the flour or you may need to add a little extra. This is where the chefs' eye comes into play. After making this dough a few times you instinctively know when the texture is just right.

Kneading by Hand:

Stir in the salted flour, adding more flour to make a very sticky dough. You may need more flour or you may not use it all. This is always a judgment call. Turn this

dough out onto a floured surface and knead it, incorporating only as much of the remaining flour as you need to keep it from sticking. This is by nature a soft and sticky dough. You may want to flour your hands when you are kneading and keep lightly flouring the surface to prevent the dough from sticking. Knead for about 10 minutes.

Rising the Dough:

Form the kneaded dough into a ball and put in a large bowl (oil it, if you want) and cover with plastic wrap or a damp towel. Set in a warm (not hot) place until it has doubled in bulk - about 1-1/2 hours.

I like to softly punch the dough down at this time and let it rise a second time, but you can use it now to make loaves, pizza, calzones or focaccia.

The Crusty Loaf:

This dough will make a French style baguette, a hearty Italian loaf or crusty rolls, depending on how you shape it. It is all the same good bread with a crunchy outside crust and a substantial but airy middle. They all like to be cooked in a hot oven - as close to 500 degrees as you can get.

Turn the risen 'basic dough' onto a lightly floured surface and knead for about a minute. Cut the dough -- long and narrow for the baguette, thicker for the Italian loaf and small rounds for the rolls. Place the cut dough on a floured sheet and let sit, covered for about 20 minutes until it relaxes. This step makes it easier to form the shape of the desired product and is less stressful to the dough.

Baguette:

Flatten the relaxed dough on a lightly floured surface into a long rectangle. Fold it over itself lengthwise and shape by rolling and stretching into a long thin loaf. Lay the loaves on a cornmeal or flour sprinkled tray (cookie sheet is okay). Cover and let rise for about 30 minutes. Before placing in the oven, put a few slits on the top of each loaf with a very sharp knife or razor blade. Place in a 450-500 degree oven for 10 minutes and then turn down and cook for another 10 or 15 minutes at 375 degrees.

Italian Loaf:

Follow instructions for the baguette except for the shaping of the loaf. An Italian loaf will be wider, but not as long. Put a few diagonal slits on the top of the loaf and place in a 450-500 degree oven for 10 minutes. Turn the oven to 375 degrees and cook for another 15 - 20 minutes.

Rolls:

Shape the dough into 3-4 oz. small rounds, slightly elongated ovals or flat rounds. You can make a great dinner roll, grinder roll or hamburger style bun with these shapes. Shape them right on the cornmeal or floured tray to be used for baking. Cover and let rise about 30 minutes. Put a couple of slits in the top before cooking. Place in a

450-500 degree oven for 8 minutes and then turn down and cook for another few minutes at 375 degrees.

Focaccia:

Focaccia is an Italian flatbread that takes on many shapes and flavors. The classic is a rectangular shaped bread that lays flat in a jellyroll type pan and is seasoned with coarse salt and rosemary. It can be cut in squares to provide a tasty accompaniment to stews, soups or salads. The focaccia I make most often is an individual round flatbread, seasoned with an assortment of herbs. It makes a great sandwich when cut in half horizontally.

1 recipe basic dough - already risen and punched down
Plus the following ingredients for the mixed herb focaccia
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
1/4 cup coarse salt
1/4 cup fresh chopped parsley
1/4 cup fresh chopped basil or 1 tablespoon dried
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon dried or fresh rosemary

Individual Mixed Herb Focaccia:

Preheat the oven to 475 degrees. Lightly oil the biggest flat tray that will fit in your oven. Shape the dough into baseball sized balls and put them a few inches apart on the tray. Cover and let them relax for about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, combine the olive oil, coarse salt, rosemary, parsley, basil and oregano and mix well. Push down on the relaxed dough with your fingers to make 5 inch rounds, about 1 inch thick. Spread the herb mix on top and let rise, covered, for about 30 minutes.

Bake in the hot oven for 5 minutes and then lower the heat and cook at 375 degrees for about 8-10 minutes. The focaccia should not get too brown on the top - it will harden the olive oil crust.

You can use these focaccia as is or cut them in half horizontally for sandwiches. They also make great, already seasoned, croutons.

Calzone:

This spinach and mushroom calzone is only one variation on a theme. There are many vegetables, meats and cheeses that are adaptable to this filled bread.

Make the filling:

3 cloves garlic - chopped
1/4 cup olive oil
1 pound fresh spinach or 1 large package frozen spinach
2 cups sautéed mushrooms
Parmesan cheese
1 1/4 cups ricotta or gorgonzola cheese
1 recipe basic dough - already risen and punched down
Salt and pepper

In a large frying pan sauté the garlic in the oil until lightly browned. Add the mushrooms and sauté until they are browned and

dry. Add the spinach and cook until it is just wilted - only a few minutes. If using frozen spinach just pour the mushrooms and garlic over thawed spinach that has been drained of water. Salt and pepper the spinach mix generously. Set aside.

Make the calzone:

Shape the already risen dough into fairly thin 8 inch rounds on a floured surface. It always helps to let the dough relax for a few minutes before shaping it. Place the spinach filling on the front half of each round, cover the filling with ricotta or gorgonzola cheese. The gorgonzola cheese makes for a pungent calzone while the ricotta makes a milder product. Top with freshly grated parmesan cheese. Fold the back half of the dough over the filling to form a half moon. Pinch the edges of the dough together to secure the filling and lift each calzone onto a floured baking sheet. Cover and let sit for about a half hour. Bake in a 450 - 500 degree oven for 12 minutes or until nicely browned.

Serve immediately. Put a small bowl of your favorite marinara sauce on the side for dipping.

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Woody on Words

The Origin of Specifics

by Woody Starkweather

We've just celebrated the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, the father of modern biology. So, it seems fitting to consider the origin of things, and I'm interested in words. Where do they come from? Words specify meanings, distinguishing them from slightly different meanings. And meanings change as society changes – new inventions, new ideas, fads, creations, styles, etc.

The newest, hippest ideas often get names that are concise, descriptive, even graceful or witty. Such a name – brief and gently satirical – developed to label the oral contraceptive when it appeared in the 60's. It was so new and so likely to revolutionize society that calling it The Pill -- as if all other pills were as nothing -- was exactly right. We know it was exactly right because everyone adopted the term

in a linguistic instant.

Had we left the naming of this new meaning to the pharmaceutical industry, they would probably have come up with Babee-Gard or Antipregmol. Ugh. Language gives birth to new words with no apparent labor. And, as in some human cases, one wonders who the father might be. Who coined this term that caught on so quickly? We'll probably never know, but a good guess would be some journalist. Then, the rest of us, hearing the rightness of the word for our own vocabularies, grabbed at it like underwear on sale.

In the same era, the words "hawks" and "doves" came to describe politicians with contrary attitudes toward military adventure. These words too are brief, descriptive, and tinted with a light wash of self-ridicule. It's hard to take a politician seriously under the best of conditions, and all the more so when they are seen as squabbling birds, feathers flying, squawking.

One can imagine the birth of

these words: a news reporter, after hovering over his battered typewriter (no macs and pc's in those days), his kidneys awash in stale coffee, goes home late, picks distractedly at his dinner, ignores his wife, snaps at the kids, and spends a restless night, his mind searching for "le mot juste." And waking the next morning before the first blush of pink appears in the Washington sky, he hurries off to make his deadline with "hawks and doves" on his lips and a peaceful look in his eye. This kind of invention brings no fortune, but what satisfaction when millions of English-speaking people hear and echo.

Language adapts to new ideas the way species adapt to new environments. When a new variation fits the environment, the species catches on and proliferates. Biological forms and language forms both develop through a process of selection, and they share certain characteristics. There is the same sense of rightness and economy in a dolphin's streamlined shape as in a term like "The Pill. On the other hand, a flounder, with its two eyes on one side, is slightly silly, just as "hawks and doves" is. Silly perhaps, but just right for

the circumstances, and ready to proliferate.

Other changes in language -- syntax and phonology -- arise from a different process altogether. They are not a result of new ideas, and they develop with glacial slowness. For example, in the 14th Century, Chaucer wrote

Whan that Aprille with his
shure sote,
The drought of Merche hath
perced to the rote,
And bathed every veyne in
swich licour,
Of which vertue engendered is
the flour.

(When April with his sweet
shower,
The drought of March has
pierced to the root,
And bathed every vine in such
liquour
Of which virtue engendered is
the flower.)

The spelling, the pronunciations, and the archaic constructions have changed slowly over many generations, first into the forms we know as Shakespearean English, which we can understand with a little effort, and then into modern English. It took only 700 years. These shifts are not a response to social change but instead an aimless drifting of language and speech. Genes also drift, blown by slow winds of randomness, testing the environmental waters with a careful toe. Phonetic and syntactic drift ("drift" is the term linguists use, by the way) may do the same thing, providing opportunities for the language to change, keeping it flexible, alert

to new possibilities. The drifting of pronunciation gives us the rich variety of dialects which develop whenever societies are geographically or socially separated.

"Pragmatics" is the term linguists use to refer to the different ways we use language under different circumstances -- from the formal cadences of oratory to the slang of street talk. This aspect of language also changes, not as quickly as new terms, but faster than syntax and pronunciation. Time was when you used your surname with people you didn't know well. Today the trend is for informality. Some years ago, in California -- a trendy place -- I was surprised to find that when I left my name at a fast food counter so they could call me when my order was ready, they expected me to leave my first name. Now of course it happens everywhere. But then, leaving my surname, I got a peculiar look that said I was Hopelessly Out of Date and Stuffy -- a look that, in the dawn of time, emerging homo sapiens might have given to a woolly mammoth. Such things change quickly, like the fame of celebrities.

We are in a period now when society is about to change, this time because of an altered economy. There will be new words and new usages. "Localvore" has already appeared because the extra expense of transporting food drains our wallets. "Green" is definitely in. It wouldn't surprise me if the modern meaning of "green" became so common, that we have to find some other word for the color. Keep your eyes and ears open.

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Lyndon Institute Spring Athletics 2009

Varsity Baseball

| | | | |
|--------|--------|--------------|-------|
| Sat. | May 2 | @ Randolph | 4:00 |
| Tues. | May 5 | Northfield | 4:30 |
| Tues. | May 12 | @ Oxbow | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 14 | U-32 | 4:30 |
| Sat. | May 16 | Randolph | 11:00 |
| Tues. | May 19 | @ Northfield | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 21 | Harwood | 4:00 |
| Sat. | May 23 | Oxbow | 11:00 |
| Tues. | May 26 | @ Montpelier | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 28 | @ Lamoille | 4:30 |
| Sat. | May 30 | @ U-32 | 11:00 |

Varsity Softball

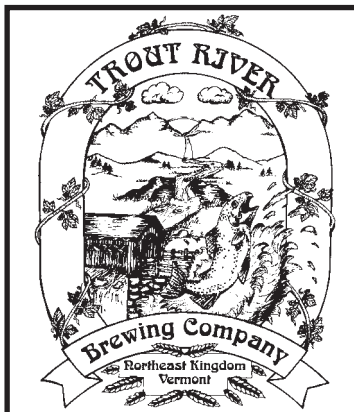
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|--------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Sat. | May 2 | @ Randolph | 4:00 |
| Mon. | May 4 | @ Harwood | 1:00 |
| Sat. | May 9 | @ Otter Valley | 4:30 |
| Tues. | May 12 | @ Oxbow | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 14 | @ Randolph | 11:00 |
| Sat. | May 16 | U32 | 4:30 |
| Thurs. | May 21 | Harwood | 11:00 |
| Thurs. | May 28 | @ Lamoille | 4:30 |
| Sat. | May 30 | @ U-32 | 11:00 |

Track & Field

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

Golf

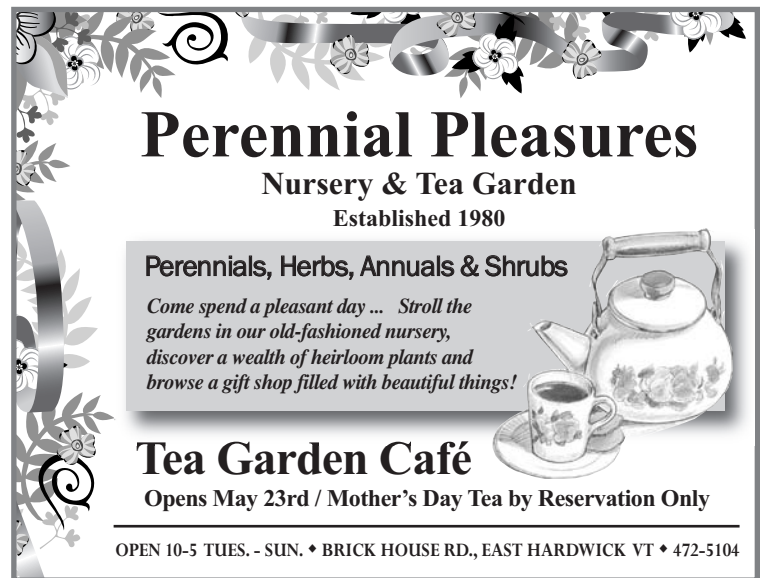
| | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Mon. | April 27 | STJCC | 3:30 |
| Wed. | April 29 | @ Montpelier | 3:30 |
| Mon. | May 4 | @ Oxbow | 3:30 |
| Wed. | May 6 | @ Lamoille | 3:30 |
| Mon. | May 11 | @ Lake Region | 3:30 |
| Wed. | May 13 | @ Stowe | 3:30 |
|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



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The romance of seed catalogues

by VAN PARKER

It arrived in late March. The seed catalogue looked larger, bulkier than in previous years. I counted about 100 varieties of lettuce alone, selecting eight or ten of them. Going through seed catalogues is a sort of spring ritual for some of us.

Many people start the growing

season in a kind of home greenhouse. We arrive in Danville a little late to do that. But it's fun to go through the catalogue and pick out the things that you want to grow.

Over the years I've come to realize my limitations as a grower of vegetables. There has never been a year when everything has done well, but always some things have come through. I don't bother anymore with vegetables I've had trouble raising, like eggplant and

lima beans. I can't claim any great success with tomatoes. Beans have turned out to be generally plentiful and reliable. Cucumbers and summer squash have had on and off years. Our raspberry and blueberry bushes seem to alternate bountiful yields with leaner ones. I'm slowly learning how to grow carrots. Lettuce and other greens have been reliable and plentiful.

But the excitement of getting the catalogue and the prospect of

making a fresh start remains. This year a kind neighbor brought over a chart, which listed "Approximate Outdoor Planting Times For Vegetables." It named, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce and onions (among others) as "very hardy." Cucumbers, squash, kale and tomatoes were described as "not cold hardy."

Peppers, lima beans, pumpkins and eggplant "require hot weather."

At any rate, for all you vegetable gardeners out there, the wind is at our backs in the year 2009. We are told that more people than ever are starting vegetable gardens. Kimberly Stoner writes in a horticultural newsletter: "Growing our own food addresses many concerns in our current society – the need to save money; a desire to eat local foods; worries about the safety of imported food and foods from large industrial farms and interest in getting outdoors and pursuing hobbies close to home." We know a couple that many years ago turned most of their front lawn (which was sunny) into a vegetable garden. It seemed

a bit unusual then. I doubt if it would now.

Our First Lady has become an advocate of vegetable gardens and organic ones at that. She has enlisted school children from the city of Washington to help her.

The White House head groundskeeper (or whatever he is called) appears to be enthusiastic about this new enterprise and is putting in a variety of good, healthy seeds and plants in the raised beds. This summer White House dinner guests, as well as the Obamas themselves will be eating some very local foods.

As I write this in central Connecticut, we're getting quite a bit of rain and it's starting to thunder. I can only hope that northern Vermont is getting some of these April showers. We'll be there for a few days in late April to get things started.

Meanwhile the seeds have arrived, as of yesterday, ready to go north with us in a couple of weeks. The seed catalogue sits here as a reminder of things to come, a sign of hope for what is not yet seen.

Outdoor Adventures:

In search of salamanders

by TONY SMITH

The month of May is a month where things seem to start over and refresh after a long cold winter. Birds start to come back. Bears start to come out of hibernation (actually called torpor). Buds on trees start to break and many other activities occurring with the warming weather.

One animal that often gets overlooked, perhaps because they only come out during the warm rainy spring nights, is herpafauna, or herps for short. This is just a fancy name for frogs, salamanders, snakes, and turtles. Salamanders specifically, are the early spring arrivers and the easiest to see in great numbers. These guys like vernal pools, ponds, and any other fishless body of water to reproduce. Let's focus on the spotted (yellow spotted) and blue spotted salamanders. The spotted salamanders are much more common than the blue spotted, but they are found in similar habitats.

First we need to start with where and when to look for these guys? These mole salamanders are underground all winter, hiding in rocks, ledges, stumps, etc. They just need to be below the frost line so that they don't freeze to death. They will always be found in deciduous forests (hardwoods) and not in coniferous forests (softwood). The rea-

son behind this is the coniferous forests usually have soils that are too acidic. The easiest way to find them is to locate a road that is between a suitable water source and deciduous forest and drive it on a rainy night about 45 minutes to an hour after dark.

At this time, they are leaving their holes and heading towards the water source to reproduce. That being said, don't drive too fast otherwise you will be running them over before you have a chance to see them. There are actually "friends of salamander groups" out there that get together on these "migration" nights to help these guys across busy roads. It's not uncommon to see hundreds of dead amphibians in the middle of busy roads the next day after a rainy spring night. Their whole mating season lasts for only a few weeks in the spring.

Depending on the snow amount on the ground, late March to the beginning of May is a good time to look. Next time you are driving a road on a rainy night in the spring, slow down

and look for these creatures. Try to avoid them and give them a chance to make it to that pool. Keep in mind that any vernal pool in the middle of the woods is also a good place to look in the spring. If you are interested in more information, visit http://community.middlebury.edu/~herpatlas/herp_index.htm.


Jim Andrews, a professor at Middlebury college a Vermont's herp expert is interested in what you see and where you saw it. On the web site, you can follow herp activity in towns across the state.

If you find a salamander, frog, snake or turtle that hasn't been documented in a particular town, you fill out a sheet and get your name in the herp atlas. For more information on good places to look for herps in the spring, send me an email and I will give you some of my hot spots. I have only found blue spotted salamanders on one road in the Northeast Kingdom, so I challenge you to find them on another. If you do, fill out a report on the web site and be famous.

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What's happening at town hall

Barnet

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

March 30, 2009

Highway Access - Paul Toney Jr. appeared to present the board with an Application for Highway Access Permit. With Toney's consent, Faris passed the permit to Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs for review. Decision on permit will be made at next Selectmen's Meeting.

Mowing Bids - Bids were to include mowing and/or trimming and cleanup of seven town properties, including: public library building lot, fire station lot, Soldiers' Monument lot, Steven's Cemetery, Palmer Cemetery, Town Hall lot, Town Clerk's Office lot, and triangle across from the Barnet Center Church. Seven bids were submitted. After brief discussion, motion made by Bunnell to accept the \$2,100 bid of William Warden. Motion seconded by Roberts and unani-

mously approved.

Highway Damage - A Wells River Chevrolet bill, previously submitted by Susie McGuire, related to tire damage on town highways was read. Faris mentioned that he had received a call from Keith Emmons related to a similar matter. As neither McGuire nor Emmons were present, the Board did not discuss the matter.

Town Garage - The Board read three bids for labor charges for installation of existing roofing materials for the new town garage, and for installation of new fascia materials. After brief discussion, Bunnell made a motion to accept the \$6,400 bid of J.W. Smires. The motion was seconded by Roberts and unanimously approved.

Pedestrian Safety - An E-mail was read indicating that funding is "available to communities interested in making their environment more 'walkable' for residents." Highway Safety Research Center seeking proposals from communities interested in

pilot-testing a new guidebook for improving pedestrian safety in exchange for \$2,000 and technical assistance.

Town Garage - The total cost of construction of the new garage to date is \$357,926.93 (not including land purchase).

Road Foreman - Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs appeared to discuss pending purchase of a Freightliner dump truck. Gibbs has spoken with Freightliner and secured a proposal involving a lower price. The current truck under consideration is approximately \$66,000 with \$44,000 in equipment for a total approximate price of \$110,000. The truck previously under consideration was approximately \$140,000. A lengthy discussion regarding specifics of the truck, equipment and financing options ensued. The Board approved the purchase of the truck.

Cabot

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

April 1, 2009

Development Review Board - Gary Gulka has information on a grant to run a feasibility study on a Cabot Development Review Board. Further discussion was postponed until after the Vermont League of Cities and Towns workshop is attended.

Land Donation - The Board of Selectmen discussed an opinion they received from the town attorney regarding the donating of property to the town.

Permits - The board discussed and took no action on an Act 250 permit for Cabot Creamery.

Doors - New doors are being installed at the Willey Building to reduce the amount of heat that is lost through the auditorium during the cold months.

Danville

Town Clerk: Wendy Somers
Town Administrator • Merton Leonard
Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Denise Briggs, Doug Pastula,

Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

April 2nd, 2009

Tax Collections - John Blackmore, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes, was present to review the policy that he has been following to collect taxes. While this is the same policy he has been following for years he wanted to confirm that the Board was still in agreement with it and understood how he was operating. While the final stage of collection is to sell the property at a tax sale, he does work with the people to try to find a payment schedule that will allow them to get their tax bill caught up.

Route 2 - Ken Robie project engineer from VTrans was present to update the Board on the current status of the Route 2 reconstruction project. They have finally completed the abutting landowner list and have identified the land that they will be requesting each property owner to sell to the State. They also have a package for the town land that they wish to obtain. Much of the land is under the road and is a state policy to obtain ownership of all state highways Right of Way, particularly when a major reconstruction takes place. They have scheduled a meeting with all the land owners for April 29.

Obstructions - David Crucitti was present to discuss a situation whereby a person is placing objects on the side of the road to keep vehicles from driving on the side of the road. He states that the objects are a hazard to travelers, particularly if they meet someone on this section of the road. The Board agreed with his evaluation of the problem and will take measures to get the objects removed. Willfully placing objects in the road can carry a fine of \$1,000 plus any damages caused by them.

Proposals - Merton Leonard reported that the Legislature continues to discuss the state aid to municipal highway issue. The town has received 15 percent less than last year. He also reported that there are nine disabled veterans in town and that would cost the town \$6,130 to increase the

veterans tax deductible to \$40,000. He received notice that VTrans has officially cancelled the town's lease on the old gravel pit near the railroad trestle. The Board's still not anxious to give up the lease. Rita Kitchel's request to use the green for a yard sale is for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity directly. The deck on the front porch of the town hall has further deteriorated and should be fixed this summer. The Planning Commission proposes to use their Healthy Living grant to help improve the skating rink on Hill Street.

Decisions - After some discussion Michael K. Walsh moved to request bids to rebuild the deck on the Town Hall porch, motion was seconded by Denise Briggs and approved. The proposal to use the Healthy Living Grant to help improve the Hill Street skating rink was approved on a motion by Denise Briggs that was seconded by Marion Sevigny. The renewal of the Creamery Restaurant liquor license was approved on a motion by Walsh that was seconded by Marion Sevigny. Briggs moved to approve Marvin Withers to sign for the Board on the High Risk Roads Grant, seconded by Walsh and was approved. Walsh moved to approve Withers to sign for the Board for the sale of the 2000

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DANVILLE SCHOOL

2009 Schedule

Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

Softball

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

Baseball

| May | Day | Location | Time |
|-----|----------|-------------------------|-------|
| 2 | Saturday | Lake Region @ Danville | 3:00 |
| 7 | Thursday | Stowe @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 9 | Tuesday | Danville @ Winooski | 11:00 |
| 11 | Monday | Danville @ Blue Mtn. | 4:30 |
| 12 | Tuesday | Hazen @ Danville | 4:30 |
| 14 | Thursday | Danville @ Peoples | 4:30 |
| 19 | Tuesday | Danville @ BFA Fairfax | 4:30 |
| 23 | Saturday | Williamstown @ Danville | 11:00 |
| 26 | Tuesday | Danville @ Richford | 3:30 |
| 28 | Tuesday | Enosburg @ Danville | 4:30 |

Track & Field


| May | Day | Location | Time |
|-----|-----------|---------------------|------|
| 8 | Friday | @ Peoples | 3:30 |
| 13 | Wednesday | @ North Country | 3:30 |
| 20 | Tuesday | @ Harwood | 3:30 |
| 21 | Thursday | @ U-32 (Frosh/Soph) | 3:30 |

| June | Day | Location | Time |
|------|----------|-------------------|------|
| 6 | Saturday | @ Chester, States | |

Lacrosse

| May | Day | Location | Time |
|-----|----------|-----------------|-------|
| 2 | Saturday | @ Lamoille | 5:30 |
| 7 | Thursday | @ St. Johnsbury | TBA |
| 12 | Tuesday | @ St. Johnsbury | 5:30 |
| 23 | Saturday | @ St. Johnsbury | 11:00 |

| June | Day | Location | Time |
|------|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| 6 | Saturday | @ Middlebury | 2-Game Tournament |




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May 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.

May 5 - Homemade chicken dumpling soup, grilled cheese and tomato sandwich and tropical fruit salad.

May 7 - Maragaret Ide's American chop suey, peas and carrots and bread pudding.

May 12 - Chicken and biscuits, stuffing, carrots and cranberry sauce.

May 14 - Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, california veggies and fruit crisp.

May 19 - BBQ chicken, pasta salad, veggies, whole wheat rolls, oven roasted veggies and fruit juice.

May 21 - Liver, bacon and onions, hamburger, rice, salad, mixed veggies and peach cobbler.

May 26 - Scalloped potatoes with ham, asparagus, whole wheat rolls, apple sauce and ginger bread.

May 28 - Grilled hot dog, potato salad, cole slaw, strawberry shortcake and watermelon.

Dump Truck, seconded by Marion Sevigny and was approved. Briggs moved to sign the contract with J.P. Sicard Inc., Walsh seconded the motion which was approved.

Lyndon

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

April 13, 2009

Gravel Bid Results - The Board of Selectmen reviewed the gravel bids submitted. Kevin Calkins moved to accept the Gingue bid to purchase 12,000 yards of gravel at \$6.15 per yard with \$11,000 to be paid in 2009 and the remainder in 2010 and to purchase 12,000 yards of sand in 2010 at \$3.25 per yard. The rest of the Board approved

Liquid Chloride Bid - The Board reviewed the two bids received. Fisher moved to accept Gorman's \$0.87 per gallon bid. The Board approved.

Dead River - Calkins moved to accept the wastewater application of Dead River for their retention area in the industrial park for a connection fee of \$1,200, with the condition the applicant include a flow meter at the site. The board approved

Request for Car Wash - Dan Hill explained that the 8th grade

at the Lyndon Town School has requested permission to hold a car wash at the fire station to support their graduation trip. Calkins moved to allow the car wash on a trial basis with the condition that the water meter be read prior to the event and again afterward to check water usage. The board approved.

Request for Traffic Control - The Board reviewed the request of William and Merry Cote concerning lack of safety at their home at 416 Center Street due to vehicles hitting the building. It was decided that the placement of boulders or fencing to protect the house was the responsibility of the owners not the Town. **Park and Ride Issue** - Dan advised that the Park and Ride was vandalized by people driving vehicles over the lawns and gardens. The Board decided to ask Kara Lawrence to investigate planting some ornamental trees to block access and that the road crew place large rocks between the trees to further discourage driving on the lawns and gardens.

Boys & Girls Club - Mike Ferrant was present to discuss a grant that a group led by Sue Teske is working on to create a Boys and Girls Club in Lyndon. Hill and Ferrant explained the grant and the work being done to write it and to gather public support. The group will return to the Board to ask for formal support at a later meeting as the grant must be channeled through the Town.

drainage class. A proposal to go to a 10-hour, four-day week in the summer was discussed.

Tree Warden - The Board discussed two bids that have been received for the removal of a pine tree in the cemetery and a maple tree on Keiser Pond Road. Neil Montieth, town tree warden, will find more detailed information about the quote he received and will talk with Sexton Cheryl Stevenson.

Energy - Dave Stauffer and Dave Magnus, town energy coordinator, have measured the town hall, school, and town garage for possible energy savings/conversions.

St. Johnsbury

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

March 23, 2009

Reappraisal - Jon Beck asked about the status of the reappraisal. Town Manager Mike Welch said residential inspections are essentially completed and Peter Whitney is now in the process of finishing up commercial inspections.

Main Street - Welch reported that a small group of business owners and interested parties met this morning to discuss Main Street metered parking and concerns relative to long-term parking on the easterly side of Main Street. Welch said the consensus of the group was short term metered parking (1/2 hour) be installed on the northerly end of the eastern side of Main Street; that letters be sent to all businesses and property owners requesting that all day parkers do not park in the metered zone. Dinah Yessne asked how this would be enforced. Welch said it would be enforced with signs, and possibly a different color post for the short term meters. Yessne encouraged a different color

Peacham

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

April 1, 2009

Highway News - The Road Crew has been filling potholes and thawing frozen culverts. Crew members attended a road

May 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.

May 1 - Buffet

May 6 - American chop suey, tossed salad, garlic bread and pudding.

May 8 - Happy Mothers Day! Roast pork, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, rolls strawberry and shortcake.

May 13 - Chipped beef with egg gravy, buttered beets, boiled potatoes, biscuits and peaches and cream.

May 15 - Turkey with stuffing, mashed potato, buttercup squash, rolls, cranberry sauce and jello.

May 20 - Meatloaf and gravy, mashed potato, mixed veggies, dark bread, vanilla pudding, mandarin and oranges.

May 22 - Pork chops, rosemary potatoes, carrots, apple sauce, rolls and brownies.

May 27 - Spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread and fruit.

May 29 - Chicken and biscuits, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce and cake and ice cream.



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Attorneys

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Law Offices of Jay C. Abramson

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Law Office of Deborah T. Bucknam, PC

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Clarke D. Atwell, Esq.

Small business, Zoning, Cottage Law, Residential and Commercial Real Estate, Property Law, Rights of Way, Estate Planning and Trusts, Probate Estate Administration, Elder Law, Guardianships, etc. 364 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT. (802) 748-5338 or clarke@neklaw.net.

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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.

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Walden Hill Journal

Cold and rainy gives way to blooming flowers

May 5, 2008

We're finally seeing some May sunshine after a chilly, rainy start to the month. It's a good day for line drying the laundry and adding my annual "moo doo" to the garden. Swallows are entertaining us with their aggressive, territorial, swooping and diving aerial ballet. We have four bird boxes nicely spaced throughout the yard, but the swallows always seem to fight over the same one. A very yellow goldfinch was at the feeder this morning but didn't stay long. I haven't filled the feeder with seed yet because of the threat of hungry

bears emerging from their winter dens. Took my first spring walk sans snowshoes through the woods. A patch of snow here and there is all that remains of winter. A few trout lilies and yellow violets are in bloom. I heard the beaver pond long before seeing it. A shrill chorus of peepers and creaking, quacking larger frogs announced the presence of water. The frogs seemed to be congregating at the shallow end in the cattails. The beaver have been very active, gnawing through larger beech trees and denuding the hill of any usable saplings. Long drag trails fan out from the



main pond. A few stumps much higher off the ground indicate that the beaver were active long before the snow melted.

May 8, 2008

I've been enjoying these rare bug-free spring days to start planting the garden. Snowpeas, lettuce, spinach, cilantro and

chard seeds are in. It's a waxing, 1st quarter moon so the phase is right for all we planted. I gave the asparagus bed a thorough weeding and fertilizing. The first spears are just beginning to poke through. We did some thinning in the Siberian Iris rings. Hopefully it's early enough not to disturb their blooming. We got a start re-

setting the walkway stones and even had some energy left for an evening walk to the beaver pond.

May 13, 2008

The shads are in bloom; profuse, delicate white blossoms against russet leaves. If there were such a thing as cotton trees, this is what they would look like. Spring seems to be right on schedule this year. No sitting around impatiently waiting for that burst of fresh color. All we need now is a little rain to encourage the garden. Hummingbirds are back. It's time to hang out their feeders.

May 17, 2008

Trees are leafing out, filling the hills with pastel shades of green and red. It's not the shocking, vibrant color of fall but a gentle, soft palette of spring. The evergreens that dominated the winter landscape now blend into the hillside tapestry. I've picked the first few asparagus and got my first black fly bite. Spinach seeds have sprouted but the peas are still underground. They are usually my indicator that the soil has warmed enough to do more planting. The basil and kohlrabi plants are doing well in the cold frame, waiting out the final days of possible frost. Kohlrabi would be fine with a light frost but not the basil.

May 19, 2008

The air aloft is cold enough to produce snowflakes, but the ground is fortunately warm enough that they're not sticking. We've got the woodstove on to take out the chill on this cloudy, rainy, cool day. I've closed up the cold frame and brought the tomato plant into the garage for the night. Later, when I saw ice building up on the dome of the cold frame, I panicked and brought all the plants inside. The thermometer is at 37° and dropping. On the bright side I can report that hobblesh and marsh marigolds are in bloom and dandelions carpet the fields in a sea of yellow.

May 25, 2008

An overcast, chilly and rainy start to the weekend has given way to mild, breezy weather and full sunshine. It was a perfect day for planting spuds. Even the moon was in its recommended

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3rd quarter phase and dandelions are in bloom. According to what I've read, dandelions are a perfect indicator that the time is right for planting potatoes. We did some mowing and trimming as well. I had a brief sighting of what I think was a Parula warbler. At first glimpse I thought it was a bluebird but its yellow breast ruled that one out. On Friday we took a drizzly walk through the marsh and beginning woodlands trail at the base of Mt. Pisgah. Lots of bright yellow marsh marigolds were in bloom along with both blood and painted trillium. A pair of Canada geese made a graceful landing on the pond, loudly honking their arrival.

May 28, 2008

The temperature dropped down to a nippy 35° last night and frost was reported in the area. Kohlrabi was protected in the cold frame, but basil and my one potted tomato spent the night in the garage. Tonight looks like a repeat of the same. I picked most of the asparagus and hope that what was left was still enough underground to have weathered the cold. It's very possible that at ground level the temperature had dropped close to freezing. Cooler weather has prolonged Spring blossoms with apples and lilacs in full bloom. Vermont spring is usually quick to give way to summer but this year we've been treated to a drawn out, extremely vibrant and colorful awakening from winter.

May 31, 2008

An indigo bunting is feeding on the apple blossoms, a bit of bright, cheery color on this otherwise gloomy, wet day. Hummingbirds are in their "swing" mode and one male is being extremely aggressive about chasing intruding males away from "his" window feeder. Our first load of wood has arrived and is ready for stacking. Euphorbia is a mound of bright yellow and lilacs are open enough for picking, scenting the indoors with their pungent perfume. This has been a particularly colorful May and one to remember fondly, even with a day of snow and a couple of frosty nights.



Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

Our annual Plant, Bake and Book sale is coming up! Mark your calendars for Monday, May 25, 9am to 1pm. We ask that all our gardening friends remember the Pope Library as you divide your perennials for the summer season. Your plant donations are so appreciated and always make this sale popular and profitable. Please label all plant donations with the name and color of the plant. We will also accept book sale donations the week of the May 18 - 23, during our regular hours. We ask that the books are in good condition and please, no text books. Please drop off food and plant donations before 8:30 a.m. on Monday, May 25.

Our latest book acquisitions are: The Lost Quilter by Chiaverini,

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The Help by Stockett, All That I Have by Freeman, The Shack by Young, Always Looking Up by Fox, Columbine by Cullen and Caring for the Dead by Carlson.

Our new DVDs are: The Way We Were, The Weather Man, Vicky Christina Barcelona, Surrender, Dorothy, The End of the Affair, Sophie's Choice, Cold Mountain and The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking. Come in and check them out!

From the Children's Room

We have the full set of 2009/2010 Red Clover Award books including: A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever by Frazee, How to Heal a Broken Wing by Graham, Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City by Schulman and Sandy's Circus: A Story About Alexander Calder. We also have the 2009-2010 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award books just in time for summer reading!

Join us for Story hour on Monday mornings at 10 am for great books, songs, activities and snack.

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Around the Town Community Calendar

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesdays: Cribbage Tournaments, 6 p.m. Lake View Grange Hall, West Barret. (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 & 4th Tuesday: Bereavement Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 5:30 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

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

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

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

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: Gather to play music, 1 p.m. at the N. Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. (802)-748-2655.

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

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

Thursdays: Danville Town Band Re-

hearsal, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAY EVENTS

FRI.1

Dana and Susan Robinson's "Songs and Stories of the American Landscape." 8 p.m. at The Hardwick Town House, 127 Church Street. From Marshall, North Carolina Dana and Susan Robinson bring songs and stories of the American Landscape. With Dana on guitar and fiddle, Susan's clawhammer banjo playing, and harmony singing they bring a joyful energy to their concerts. Visit <http://nekarts.org> or call Shari at 472-5920 for more information.

Animal Buddies Night at the Museum. Bring the kids and their stuffed animal to the Fairbanks Museum for breakfast as we wake up from hibernation. 1302 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT. Call 748-2372 for more information.

SAT.2

Danville Bulky Waste Day from from 9 to noon at the Danville Stump Dump on Bruce Badger Memorial Highway. Bring in your mattresses, old chairs, rugs, apinted wood, pots and scrap metal for \$.15/pound. Car tires will be accepted for \$2/tire up to 16 inches and \$7 tire for over 16 inches and over. Other items accepted include computers, televisions, propane cylinders, appliances waste oil, flourescent light bulbs, pesticides, paints cleaners, batteries and any item containing mercury.

Green Up Day in Vermont - Get outside and make a difference. Over 40,000 bags of trash are collected annually with the help of over 250 volunteer coordinators and co-coordinators and over 15,000 participants. Many towns offer lunch and/or refreshments for volunteers. Local NEK Contact information is as follows: **Barnet:** Dennis Kauppila, 633-4791; **Burke:** Markus Vogt, 626-8317; **Danville:** James Jung, 684-1019; **Groton:** Nancy Spencer, 584-3717; **Hardwick:** Marie LaPre' Grabon, 472-6908; **Kirby:** Mary Kay Wood, 695-2216; **Lyndon:** Lisa Barrett, 626-5785; **Peacham:** Jo Anne Post, 592-3221; **Ryegate:** Makayla & Darryl Perkins, 84-4710; **St. Johnsbury:** Dennis & Donna Goodhue, 535-8370; **Stannard:** Anne Porter, 533-7764; **Sutton:** Ellen Doyle, 467-3672; **Walden:** Stuart Smith, 563-2630; **Waterford:** Ron and Elaine Gray, 748-8690; **Concord:** Donna Paquette, 695-8139; **Granby:** Reg & Deb Bunnell, 328-2191, **Victory:** James Morron, 328-2501.

JUMP Jazz Jubelee at the St. Johnsbury Country Club from 6-8 p.m. A night filled with music and fun to benefit NEK Youth Services and the JUMP Mentoring Program. Call 748-8732 for more information.

Dean Bornstein and The Perpetua Press on exhibit at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. Call 748-8291 for details. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. St. Johnsbury, VT.

SUN.3

Lyndon State College Spring Day Triathlon - swim, bike, run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The race starts with a 500 yard swim at the LSC pool. Following is a 9.5 mile bike leg on a paved course. helmet required. The run is 2.5 miles mostly on trails, but some paved roads. Call 662-6242 for more details.

North Country Chorus - Spring Concert in Peacham from 3-4 p.m. Tickets available at the door. Requiem by Maurice Durufle. Symphony of Psalms by Igor Stravinsky. Alan Rowe, Musical Director. At Peacham Congregational Church, Peacham, VT (7 miles south of the town green). Visit <http://www.northcountrychorus.org> for more information on all NCC events.

MON.4

NEK Audubon informational meeting from 4:30 to 6 pm at the Fairbanks Museum. Open to all. Call Laura at 751-7671.

LSC Student Guitar & Band Concert - Lyndon students perform their year end recital from 7-9 p.m. Admission by donation. Alexander Twilight Theatre, Lyndon State College, 1001 College Rd., Lyndonville, VT. www.lyndonstate.edu/arts

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

Please submit events to:
info@northstarmonthly.com

WED.6

1763 and How America Became American from 7-8 p.m. First Wednesdays Lecture Series is a Vermont Humanities Council program hosted by the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. Dartmouth history and Native American Studies professor Colin Caloway considers a time when a war of independence waged by Indian people set America on course for a second, more famous, war of independence. Call 748-8291 for more information.

FRI.8

The Dartmouth Dance Ensemble will perform contemporary and modern dance at LSC from 7-9 p.m. Alexander Twilight Theatre, Lyndon State College, 1001 College rd. Lyndonville, VT. www.lyndonstate.edu/arts

SAT.9

NEK Audubon field trip to Blue Mountain School to welcome the returning neotropical birds. Meet at the Park & Ride at Exit 18 off I-91 at 8 a.m.

NEK Winter Farmers Market from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Produce, baked goods, crafts and more... Call 626-1400 for details. Alexander Twilight Theater Lobby, Lyndon State College, College Rd. Lyndonville, VT.

LSC Community Chorus Featuring Ralph Vaughn Williams Dona Nobis Pacem from 7 to 8 p.m. Admission by donation. Alexander Twilight Theatre, Lyndon State College, 1001 College Rd. Lyndonville, VT.

THURS.14

Cyrano de Bergerac at 7:30 at St. Johnsbury Academy's Fuller Hall. Embarrassed by his large nose, a romantic poet/soldier romances his cousin by proxy in this classic tale. Call 748-8171 for more information. 1000 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, VT.

SAT.16

Annual Athenaeum Spring Gala 20/20. Join us at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center as we celebrate our annual Gala with an array of 20 delectable hors d'oeuvres and an auction of 20 works of art by well-known Vermont artists. Tickets available at the Athenaeum.

Feng Shui Workshop with Emily Lanxner at 2 p.m. at Jeudvine Memorial Library in Hardwick. Emily Lanxner will lead a workshop on Feng Shui ("wind and water"), is the ancient Chinese metaphysical science or art of living in harmony with your environment in order to promote health, wealth, and happiness.

Primitive Fishing Course -One of nature's most abundant foods sources lives beneath the waters of our rivers, lakes, ponds, and seas. ROOTS - Reclaiming Our Origins Through Traditional Skills, East Calais, VT. Call 456-1253 for more information.

-SUN.17

NEK Audubon field trip to Herick's Cove for a search for migrating waterfowl. Meet at the Park and Ride off Exit 18 off I-91 at 7 a.m.

FRI.22

Hardwick Farmers Market - local produce, baked goods, crafts and more from 3 to 6 p.m. Located at Granite Junction, Rte 15 West in Hardwick, VT.

SAT.23

NEK Audubon field trip to Conte WR to look for warblers and vireoes and boreal species. Meet at the White's Market parking lot, Exit 23 off I-91 at 6 a.m.

Spring Festival Craft & Garden from 10-3 p.m. at the Hardwick Elementary School. Sponsored by the Heart of Vermont Chamber of Commerce. Celebrating 26 years, the Spring Festival Craft and Garden Fair features jewelry, quilts, shrubs, perennials, candles, houseplants and other fine arts and crafts. Lunch is available. For more information call 472-5906.

St Johnsbury Caledonia Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locally grown, homemade baked goods, Vermont made crafts and more. Downtown St Johnsbury on Pearl St behind TD BankNorth.

Joels Pond Craft Shop in Danville VT Open Studio Weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Joels Pond Craft Shop is the perfect place to find an outstanding collection of fine traditional Vermont handcrafts. It is located in a beautifully renovated barn attached to Hastings Store (a quintessential Vermont General Store).The Craft Shop is participating in the Vermont Craft Council Open Studio Weekend. Joe's Pond Craft Shop, 2748 Route 2 West, Danville, VT. Call 684-2192 or 684-3648 from more information.

VT Open Studio Weekend - The magnificent newly renovated historic 1880s Greensboro Barn will be open to the public fro 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 491 Country Club Road, Greensboro, VT. Call 533-9281 or visit www.jenniferranz.com for more information.

Bread and Puppet Museum participating in VT Open Studios Weekend from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 753 Heights Road, Glover, VT. Call 525-3031 or 525-1271 for more information.

FRI.29

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Reading in the Gallery with Robert Bly at 7 p.m. Check www.stjathenaeum.org for details.

SAT.30

NEK Audubon Birdathon. Contact Charlie Browne at cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org for details.



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