



THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

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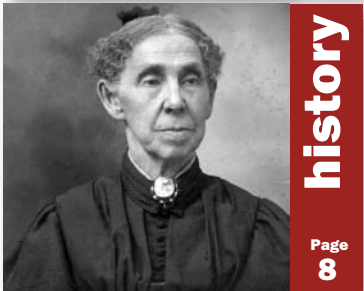
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September Song

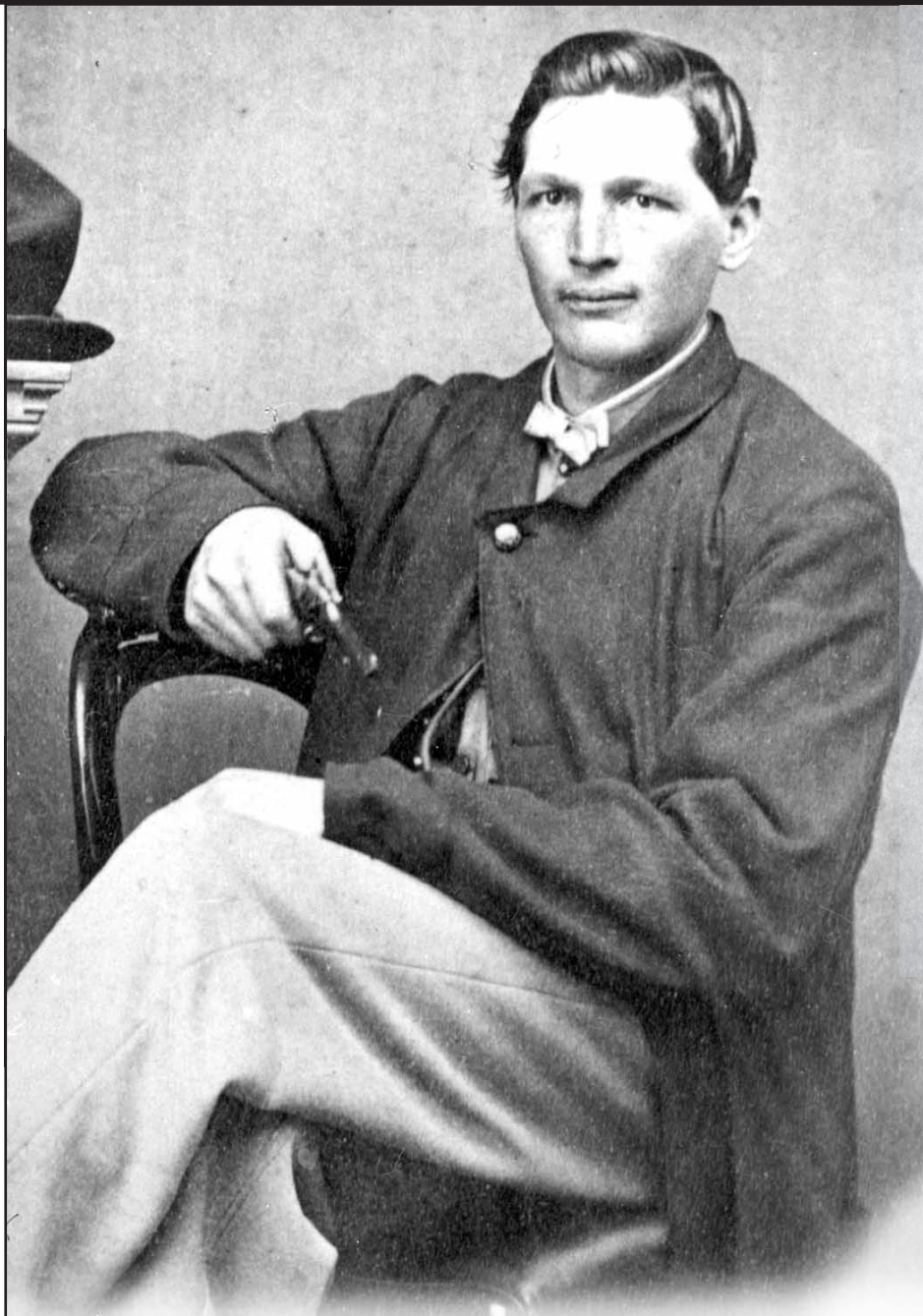
BY NATHANIEL TRIPP

For me, the September song is a sad song not because it signals the end of the summer season, but because it signals the beginning of school. Although it has been a very long time since I have darkened the doorway of a schoolhouse, I still feel a tinge of dread every time September rolls around.

Otherwise, September is a really wonderful month. The fishing gets better, the lawns don't need mowing as much, the fields and orchards and gardens are producing the fruits of our labor at last, and it is still warm enough to swim. These are all also excellent reasons why just about the last thing I wanted to do as a kid was go back to school.

There was always so much to

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The Eyes of History

Peacham soldier's manuscript relays a gruesome account of life in the Civil War's most infamous prison camp

By Michelle Arnosky Sherburne

It was 1890 in a farmhouse on East Hill in Peacham when Mark Wheeler, a 51-year-old farmer sat at the kitchen table with a stack of blank school paper in front of him. He was a Civil War prisoner of war. Wheeler decided it was time to record all the images, people, places and events that were emblazoned in his memory.

For 25 years, he had captured the attention of family, friends and fellow veterans by sharing his war experiences and time in Andersonville Prison. Wheeler was revered by his fellow members of the Barnet-Peacham Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. People gathered around the general store woodstove to hear Wheeler's stories. Wheeler wanted to share his story not only with those around him, but with posterity. He did just that, leaving a memoir that exists today.

Wheeler's manuscript is one of the few surviving complete, firsthand accounts of a Vermont soldier's imprisonment at Andersonville. Wheeler's is a piece of history that is an important part of Vermont's collective memory of the Civil War. It has survived 119 years and is now in the possession of the Peacham Historical Association.

Though Wheeler epitomizes thousands of men who de-

fended our country during the Civil War, he didn't end up as just a name on an Andersonville inmate list or listed on Civil War rosters or given a paragraph in town history of his service.

Wheeler set himself apart by writing a personal eyewitness account. Though only having an elementary education and coming from a poor family, his manuscript is well written and captivating. His story comes alive as a down-to-earth, realistic, graphic adventure of cavalry raids, prison life, suffering, survival, unimaginable hardships and the horrors of war.

Who was Mark Wheeler? Born in Marshfield, Vt. in 1839, Wheeler was from a family of nine children. Around 1850, his family moved to Peacham when Mark was a teenager. Wheeler was probably finished his schooling and helping his father. They were poor and his father rented a house, working as a farmhand.

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call to arms when war was declared. Wheeler was 22 years old. Before he left to enlist Nov. 12, Wheeler married his sweetheart, the girl next door, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Clark on Nov. 8. Eleven days later, Wheeler was headed off to war.

Wheeler served in the Vermont 1st Regt. Cavalry Co. D which was involved in 76 engagements including Gettysburg,

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Photo Courtesy of the Peacham Historical Association

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Fishing for chi

While listening to Vermont Public Radio a few days back, I caught the tail end of a study, which found that adult professionals who take vacations live longer and have less stress. I'm not sure who spent the time, or the money, on this project but I fear both were wasted.

I spent summer days with my grandfather learning how to pile both brush and firewood with meticulous precision.

I think we all know that time away from our jobs is important for our mental health and those who live with us. The study may not have been a revelation, but it did get me thinking about a few things. I had just returned from a mini-vacation in Maine.

While we were there, Ginni said, "Don't you always feel like you're on vacation?"

There is some truth to this. My last job was fast, stressful and very unfulfilling. My current job is the opposite. The people I deal with on a daily basis are some of the best and most interesting people around. Those I work with are dedicated and conscientious.

Aside from all that, I think there is more to it. It's not the long vacations that recharge our weekday batteries. It's our activities and hobbies that help us while we're still in the normal day-to-day grind.

For me it's fishing.

My fishing days began early, though I can't remember how old I was. I know I was a long way from driving myself around so I spent summer days with my grandfather learning how to pile both brush and firewood with meticulous precision. Even before that, he would walk into the room where I was watching television and instruct me to "get in the truck, we're going fishing."

When I got older and it was time for me to strike out on my own in a fishing sense, he bought my first rod and reel for \$35 at the hardware store. My friends and I, still a long way from being able to drive ourselves, would hitch a ride with a friend's mother during her lunch break. She would drop us off along Joe's Brook or Water Andric then head back to work. We'd have five hours, until she left work, to reach the rendezvous point and no time was wasted. Well... maybe some time was wasted. We did that practically every afternoon.

In high school, many other interests interfered with my time on the water. In college, I was lucky enough to fall in with a crowd of like-minded fisherman and we frequently threw my grandfathers 12' aluminum boat and portable Evinrude motor in a truck and headed for parts unknown.

Priorities and equipment have changed, but most of the members of our "Stand By Me" fishing group still cast the occasional line. I go whenever I get the opportunity.

Surprisingly, it has little to do with catching a trophy or a meal. It has everything to do with a quiet environment and simple thoughts.

However brief it may be, that's a useful vacation.

From the Editor

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Lorna Quimby	Vanna Guldenschuh	Michelle Amosky Sherburne
Van Parker	Woody Starkweather	Dick Boera
Nathaniel Tripp	Peter Dannenberg	Jane Woodhouse
Rachel Siegel	Van Parker	Bets Parker Albright
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Jeff Gold	Lois (Field) White	

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

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

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EDITORIAL OFFICES:
 P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Street
 Danville, VT 05828-0319
 (802) 684-1056

PUBLISHERS/OWNERS: Justin Lavery
 Ginni Lavery

EDITOR: Justin Lavery

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Lyn Bixby

ADVERTISING / CIRCULATION: Vicki Moore
 Angie Knost

ART DIRECTOR/ PRODUCTION: Tina Keach

PROOFREADERS: Woody Starkweather
 Ginni Lavery
 Judy Lavery

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Vanessa Bean

OFFICE MASCOT: Lynsey Lavery


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Fairbanks Scales wins prestigious award in Paris while relations between Texas and Mexico worsen over asylum for horse thieves

The North Star
 "WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"
 1807-1889
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THE NORTH STAR

September 6, 1878
Valuable Discovery - A St. Louis inventor, Mr. C.W. Johnson, thinks he has discovered a method for arresting decay in animal and vegetable matter. His invention is founded on the germ theory of decay propounded by Pasteur and expounded by Tyndall, Lister and other scientists. He believes the air to be filled with infusoria, or microscopic animals, and that decay in animal and vegetable matter is caused by these creatures. He believes that consumption is caused the same way. Impure air carries infusoria into the lungs, and though they may be expelled by respiration, the visits are so frequent that the lungs soon fall prey to them. His invention protects animal and vegetable matter from their encroachments either by a coating the air cannot penetrate or by keeping the matter in a purified atmosphere. He claims to have discovered several liquids and gases in which the microscopic animals cannot live and also a method for puri-

fying air. He proposes to introduce his discovery to the world by shipping a car load of fresh beef to St. Louis as soon as he can raise money enough to perfect his apparatus. He is also trying the experiment on an unidentified body in the morgue.

September 13, 1878
Relations with Mexico - For a long time it has been the opinion of those best informed that the irritating collisions that are constantly occurring between our government and that of Mexico along the southern Texas border will eventually lead to war. When the Diaz government was recognized by the United States, it was with the understanding that the latter reserve the right to make military incursions across the border after cattle thieves. In accordance with this, and in obedience to orders received from Washington, Col. MacKenzie has twice crossed the Rio Grande in search of plunderers, who rob American settlers, and then escape into the wilderness and escape molestation so far as the Mexican authorities are concerned. This, of course, cannot be endured by the Texans without appeals to their government and the result has been the raids mentioned.

Tragedy in Hardwick - Mrs. T.B. Boynton of Hardwick, was accidentally shot by a man in the employ of her husband while Mr. Boynton and daughter were at the state fair in St. Albans. The hired man went into the house to get the rifle to shoot a hen hawk, but in taking it out from where it stood, was discharged, the contents striking

Mrs. Boynton in the head, killing her instantly.

Survey of Vermont - Gov. Fairbanks has secured the extension of the geodetic triangulation of the U.S. Coast Survey, over the state of Vermont, and C.P. Watterson, the superintendent at Washington, has appointed Prof. Volney G. Barbour, of the Vermont University, to conduct the proposed survey. It will be remembered that Prof. Quimby of Dartmouth College has been conducting a similar survey for the state of New Hampshire for several years past.

West Concord - A.B. Colby, of North Concord, started off horseback with a scythe on his shoulder to grind it. In crossing a stream, the horse stumbled, all went into the water together and Colby came out minus a little finger and with two other fingers badly damaged. His vest and pocket book disappeared at the time and they have not been found.

September 20, 1878
Fairbanks Award - The cable announces the prizes won at Paris in 15 classes of the American section. E&T Fairbanks & Co. received in the class 15 the highest and only award to any scale manufacturer.

Corner Stone - Last Monday afternoon, public exercises were had in the laying of the corner stone in the new Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. The program included singing, reading scriptures, prayer, and a brief historical address by the pastor. Articles were deposited in a lead box in the stone fol-

lowed by an address from President Bartlett from Dartmouth College. A large audience was in attendance.

Fire at McIndoe Falls - The blacksmith, carriage and paint shop of Eugene Sears has been totally consumed by fire. The cause of the fire is unknown. The loss is partially covered by insurance in the Vermont Mutual. The hotel and Weeks barn also caught on fire and for a time, it seemed like they would also burn. With the well-directed efforts of the people present, the fire was kept under control and Mr. Sears is the only sufferer.

September 27, 1878
Narrow Escape - The last Lyndon Union says, on Monday last George Petette the horse tamer at Lyndon Center, narrowly escaped a very serious accident. As he was riding past Henry Chase's in a skeleton wagon, his horse commenced to kick and got his back leg over the crossbar. Petette fell off the back and somehow got his foot lodged in the wagon frame and was dragged halfway from the bridge to the dirt bank, but his boot heel ripped off and he rolled over in the dirt while the horse ran to the bank and was caught. All damage to property and the Petette was avoided.

Country Fair - The Caledonia County Fair last week was in every regard a success. In the first place, there were three days of warm, beautiful weather, and the crowds could enjoy themselves without fear of interruption by rain. In the next place, there was a very creditable show in all departments; and although the

contemplated balloon ascension was a failure and perhaps a disappointment to many, yet that was not the fault of the managers. It was certainly an unexpected, if not an avoidable accident. As a while, it was the best fair that has ever been held on the grounds. In another place, we publish the premiums on cattle, horses, and other prominent articles, omitting quite a number of the small and fancy articles, for want of room.

What Becomes of Wealth - A boot and shoe dealer has hanging in his shop a pair of boots worth seven dollars. They constitute a part of his wealth, and a portion of their world. A man buys them and begins to wear them; by friction against the pavement little particles of the leather are rubbed off, and this separated from the rest of the sole. Every particle thus removed takes out a portion of the value of the boots, and when the boots are entirely worn out, the seven dollars of wealth which they formed is consumed. The wheat, corn, etc., which was raised by our farmers last summer is being eaten up. No particle matter is destroyed by this process, but the value which was in the grain is destroyed. As, while men are wearing out clothing and eating up food, they are generally busily employed producing wealth of some kind. The wealth of the world is not easily diminished by the consumption, but it is changed. This applies, however, only to personal property. Town lots and farmland retain their value while personal property is subject to perpetual destruction and renewal.

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Finding our way

By ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

Finding Our Way
"They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again
And now you would never know
There was once a road through the woods..."

I have always liked the poem, "The Way Through the Woods", by Rudyard Kipling. It is so evocative of the old country roads of Vermont that are now "thrown up". I enjoy looking at maps, especially those that show Roman roads or ancient tracks and settlements, but my husband will tell anyone who asks that I have a crazy way of following a highway map. He may be right, but, unlike him, I am not hesitant to ask for di-

the difference in price — a mere \$1,500. Our daughter, who was car hunting with him, laughed at the salesperson, "You are wasting your time with that option," she said. "You're looking at a man who has a personal GPS in his head!" I think this is a genetic trait because one of our grandsons has the same ability, though his father does not.

When I look at a map I have to orient it in the direction I am going in order to make left and right turns correctly, because I am also one of those people who cannot quickly tell left from right! It takes time to orient myself.

Now I know why, and I shall NOT suffer indignity anymore! Colin Ellard has saved me! He is a Canadian experimental psychologist, and in

Ellard also states that this difference may account for why many men do not like to ask for directions – they find it difficult to follow a route described by 'turn-by-turn' directions rather than compass orientation.

rections. I recently received vindication of my ridiculed behavior and I shall get to that shortly.

When I first came to this country I spent a week in New York City. The grid system of streets and avenues made it easier to find my way around there than in any other city I had lived in or visited. European cities are not like that. They have evolved over hundreds of years from their simple beginnings as small settlements connected by meandering cow-paths or pack-pony tracks, used by peddlers taking their wares from village to village.

In England, there still remain the vestiges of a system of direction finding that I call the Saints and Sinners method: the primary landmarks for way-finding are churches and pubs! Within a town or city, many roads and streets are still named for the businesses that were originally there: Smithy Lane, Mill Street, Market Walk, Butchers' Row, and even the more ancient Castlegate, or the Barbican. This is truly living history, a rich and powerful connection to the roots of a community. I was sad to lose that connection to the past, when the 911 system caused many Vermont towns to change some of their historic street names for the sake of "efficiency".

In the European countryside, villages are so close to each other that the roads are often named for the next village. The major roads are numbered, but many older folks refer to them by the name of the next town or city. The modern motorways, numbered like those anywhere, are a rapid, direct but often sterile way to reach a destination quickly.

Imagine my distress when I arrived in the U.S. to find that travel directions are based on the points of the compass! Of course I was aware of this scientific principle but I had never depended on it for finding my way. On the other hand my husband has a very strong sense of compass direction. When he went to buy a new car he was offered a choice of models with or without GPS,

his book, *You Are Here: Why We Can Find Our Way to the Moon, but Get Lost in the Mall*, he explains some of the differences in way-finding between men and women. He also explains why many men do not like to ask for directions!

According to Ellard's research, he has found that men are much more likely to navigate using compass directions whereas women navigate by noticing features along the way. These include: buildings, especially those with unusual design or colors; store fronts, especially those with unique signs; natural features such as trees, unusual patches of vegetation, gardens; geographical features or particular vistas along the route. I know that this is true for me. As a young child, playing in the fields and woods near my home, I could have described in detail special features of the paths I walked: where there would be mud after a rainstorm; where certain flowers grew; where to find blackberries in the summer. I found myself walking those same paths, noting the old familiar landmarks, when I recently went back to my childhood home.

Ellard also states that this difference may account for why many men do not like to ask for directions – they find it difficult to follow a route described by 'turn-by-turn' directions rather than compass orientation. I like to believe that these differences are related to the hunter and gatherer lives of our ancestors in which women depended on their intimate relationship with the environment to find the fruits, seeds, nuts and greens to feed their families. The men needed a wider orientation to find the game animals for meat, clothing and shelter. We think we are so modern, but buried deep in our brains are some parts of our ancient past and I like that!

One further point of interest - - in Canada the main title of Ellard's book is *Where Am I?* Apparently Canadians don't mind admitting they are lost and are not embarrassed to ask for directions ...and I like that too!

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Here's the scoop

»This icy business is on fire and the Wilsons are just trying to keep up



By JUSTIN LAVELY

Years ago, there was a television commercial that presented a group of new entrepreneurs tracking sales on a computer screen. When the very simple counter clicked over to one, they started celebrating and congratulating. When it started to flip faster than they could read, they looked shocked. One member turned to the other and said, "We need to expand."

The owners of Slick's Ice Cream are in a similar situation. The wholesale side of their business, which opened three years ago, is growing, but their



In the late 60s and 70s, my mother could take the whole family out for ice cream and spend less than \$10. Times are tough now, so my plan was to give people a good product at a fair price.

new retail stand on Route 302 in Woodsville is soaring. In some cases, sales have increased tenfold since the stand opened last July in a former antique shop. On summer nights, the traffic along the route forms a bottleneck thanks to lines of parked cars on both sides of the road. The atmosphere is friendly and the ice cream is top notch.

The primary owner, Michael Wilson, a tall middle-aged man, talks to us in his ice cream stand at 9 am on a Friday. He explains that later on, he will be joined in the stand by his wife and three sons as the family tries to keep up with the hundreds who will stop for a taste. As he's talking, at least one car pulls into the parking lot and is saddened by the "closed" sign on the front of the building.

"If they had come to the window, I would have gotten them something," Wilson says.

There is no secret ingredient to Slick's recipe, at least not in terms of food. Michael believes people are simply attracted to local businesses making local products and phenomenal customer service. Slick's products may have unique names like "Starry Night," "Bite this" and "Mounds," or familiar names like "Grandma's Apple Pie," but stopping at the stand produces a very familiar and comfortable feeling.

The names and flavors are a far cry from three years ago, when with the help of a friend, Wilson made his first batch of vanilla ice cream. It was nothing special, but a seed was planted. A small business loan from Northern Community Invest-

ment Corporation in St. Johnsbury helped the endeavor sprout and Slick's, named after the family's pug, was on a path to notoriety. Slick's now has more than 30 flavors to offer with prices from \$1.50 to \$3.50.

"In the late 60s and 70s, my mother could take the whole family out for ice cream and spend less than \$10," Wilson says. "Times are tough now, so my plan was to give people a good product at a fair price."

Last summer, Wilson, who partners with his two brothers-in-law, said the family would get excited about a \$100 day, and now the ice cream stand brings in more than \$1,000 a day on the weekends. Wilson takes nothing for granted as he points to the first dollar ever earned by the business hanging on the wall.

During the interview, Wilson stops to field a call from his wife. She tells him he needs to find time to come home and start making ice cream before the stand opens for the night. He shakes his head as he hangs up the phone as if to say, "Just another day."


Slick's growing popularity has been very rewarding for Michael and his family.

"It's been all word of mouth," according to Wilson who also emphasized his great location on a major state highway. People from Chicago are stopping by and telling Wilson they heard about his place from a friend.

Wilson emphasizes to his employees the im-

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Craft fair

From apples to wood carvings and everything in between

BY PEGGY PEARL

The Festival of Traditional Crafts has been a tradition of its own for well over thirty years. The Friday and Saturday of the next to last full weekend of September have seen the grounds of the Fairbanks Museum and the North Church covered with tents. Visitors observing the “white city” might speculate that the church might be having a revival meeting and the Museum a carnival - or visa versa!

The longevity of this event is a tribute to dedicated volunteers from all walks of life. Volunteers are the life's breath of non profits and the Museum is truly blessed. They load up their vehicles from East Burke to demonstrate how to make and use dyes from natural materials; the use of natural materials to attract the “big” one when fly fishing; the use of the spinning wheel and the use of the gasoline engine to provide the power for making butter, washing clothes or sawing wood. They descend on us from Danville to show us how to use hand tools in woodworking and provide a look at the clothing

worn and the chores preformed in 1800's everyday life. Visitors can learn the drum beats of the Civil War soldier and the firing of the musket. Wagon rides are offered and different varieties of apples are displayed. Craftsmen shows how to hand hew a timber, how to make an eight foot pump log and the use of herbs by early settlers.

The Barnet area volunteers offer up the arts of blacksmithing, candle dipping, broom making and the spine tingling thoughts as an 18th century surgeon shows his instruments. Sheep graze on the Museum lawn amidst maple sugaring and butter making. Early American Decorating brings volunteers from Barnet, Burlington and Cambridge - this trio offers stenciling, painting on tins and reverse painting on glass, etc. Groton volunteers offer boat building and the multi tasking of the spring pole lathe - both your hand and foot are engaged! Further to the north - from Derby and Barton - come our basket maker and pottery ladies. Lyndonville and Lyndon area volunteers include a rug hooker and toys and games folks. The “What's it?” ladies who can stump you with their odd and unusual tools and gadgets. Con-

>> Page 5

portance of smiling and treating customers properly. There are days when Wilson will walk around and speak with his customers. He often asks them for feedback and flavor requests. The customers seem to appreciate that attention and sometimes they even return the favor, such as a Grantham, N.H., man's letter in New Hampshire Magazine that raved about Slick's.

“That was nice to see,” Wilson says. “It's all about them. Without them, none of this is possible.”

While the former substitute teacher is no stranger to entrepreneurship, neither of his other businesses, a music shop in Woodsville and a traveling gig pressure washing cars at local car dealerships, have reached this level of success.

In fact, the success has Wilson and his family a bit nervous.

“We've had a terrible summer weather-wise. What's going to happen next year if we get a really hot summer?”

As for employees, the business relies heavily on Wilson's three sons, Adam, Jordan and Samuel. When they go back to school in the fall, Wilson may be scrambling to fill their shoes.

“They're so important to running the ice cream stand, I don't know what I'm going to do when they leave,” says Wilson.

The family has broken down

responsibilities to maximize efficiency. Wilson, and his brother in law John West are the only two people that make the ice cream. The product is made a few miles from the stand at Wilson's house in a converted carriage barn with an attached walk-in freezer.

“We feel it's important to maintain the consistency of the product,” John says.

Wilson's wife and three boys, along with other hired help, man the ice cream stand on a regular basis. In addition to making all the ice cream (sometimes Slick's goes through 360 gallons a week), Wilson also handles distribution to retail stores, such as the West Barnet Quick Stop, Barnet General Store, Aldrich General Store in North Haverhill, Newbury Village Store and the Littleton Co-op. Hundreds of pints are loaded into generator-powered chest freezers in the back of a truck and driven to their destinations.

“If things keep going like they have, we're definitely going to have to get a real truck,” he says.

Between, making the product, selling the product and transporting the product, Wilson puts in upwards of 100 hours a week, but you won't hear him complaining. “You do what you have to,” he says. “I'm not looking to get rich at this, just make a good living and support my family.”★

cord keeps us clean with soap making and Waterford tells us stories. From the other side of the state, Burlington brings us "green woodworking" showing us how to create a wooden yoke, firewood carrier, etc. Barre sends dowsers and their instruments for finding underground water – we don't need any from above!

St. Johnsbury also offers up many talents from its foresters, including a split rail fence demonstration, bee keeping and shingle making. Other St. J. talents include the weather sage, the weaver, the sheep shear paper cutter and the chair maker. You can watch the making of cane and rush seats for chairs and see the 18th century English long boat and its mate! Ryegate offers expertise on a model sawmill. Only from Victory do we have a traveling drag saw. We gather in volunteers from Hardwick and Fairlee for apple head dolls and braiding rugs. The longest ride goes to a couple from Connecticut who hauls their very old press to the festival to make apple cider.

For two days, the volunteers teach and demonstrate while receiving food and shelter. The public day is Saturday (Sept.19) which grew out of the Friday event that was offered to school children that participate in the Museum's Education program.

A history program started back in the seventies by yours truly, was more of a show and tell lesson. The lesson could only take you so far when you had an empty bee hive; a piece of a pump log with a hole in it; a picture of a barn loom and a broad axe that only made their eyes pop out with its size. The one day demonstration event started in the seventies with about a dozen crafts and has grown to over forty. The Friday event now has around 700 students attending with 25 minute demonstrations and a series of bells indicating the changing of classes. The students are on the grounds from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. As you might well imagine the logistics could easily become a nightmare if not for a very capable staff and yet another set of volunteers. Probably the most hair pulling task was the schedule which meant keeping every demonstrator with only one class at a time. The students come from as far north as Newark and East Haven with Lyndonville, Sutton, Millers Run and Burke between. From the south we have Blue Mountain, Barnet with the east and west represented by Guildhall, Lunenburg, Gilman, Concord and Waterford; joined by Danville, Walden, Peacham and Craftsbury. St. Johnsbury has the Town School participation as well as good Shepherd. There are schools like Lancaster and Plainfield, New Hampshire that take advantage of the day too.

The volunteers certainly get a workout and are the happiest when they have a crowd around them. If you have put off attending Craft Day, this might be the year to attend for like the Bob Dylan song – "the times, they are a changing." It is an event that is fit for both young and old; some will reminisce while others learn something new. It is an interesting mix with some demonstrators from



year one still participating while other demonstrators have passed their knowledge to the next generation.

A special feature on the 19th at 1 p.m. will be the Professional Lumberjack Demonstration put on by Leo Lessard and crew. This features ax-throwing, crosscut sawing and possibly springboard-style chopping. This event takes place on the south lawn of the North Church. This is a "must see" as old and new technology go head to head.

We are also pleased to announce that another family event will be an organ concert by Lyn-

nette Combs, organist at the Universalist Church in Barre. This will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 18 at the North Church. Marking the 400th anniversary of the exploration of Samuel de Champlain, the concert will feature music from the Age of Exploration and Lynnette will provide us with music that Europeans were listening to in the 1600's. Lynnette was named Artist of the Year by the Vermont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Start the Festival weekend off on a musical note on Friday and then return on Saturday for other sounds of the 1800 settlement.



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The diary of Emily Bickford Kinerson

Recording the history of a well-known Peacham family

BY LOIS FIELD WHITE

Emily Bickford Kinerson, of Peacham, kept diaries, which she called memorandums, for a nine-year period from January 1, 1891, through December 31, 1899. The 10-year diary is an interesting and informative glimpse into life in Peacham Corner, Vermont, in the 1890's and is a good resource for historians and genealogists. Her diaries were discovered by chance in an old desk that had been tucked away for many years in a Peacham home.

In addition to her diary, Emily also kept a record of payments to several engravers (carvers) and profits from sales of the Kinerson butter molds and prints. James Richardson Kinerson, her husband; Flora and Mary Bickford, her nieces; Lucy Bailey Kinerson, her daughter-in-law (wife of her son Russell); a Mrs. Etta Darling; a Mrs. Dr. Thomas, and John Varnum, a neighbor, engraved the butter prints. James Kinerson later sold his business to John Varnum.

James and Emily were in their late 60s and living on the farm about one mile north of Peacham Corner as the diaries began. The farmhouse is shown in the book "Historic Homes of Peacham" on page 206. The "Little Kinerson House" is attached to the farmhouse in that picture, taken in 1897.

Emily is seated in the buggy, with James standing alongside. Grandchildren Ray, Ellen and Minnie are standing in front, with Lucy holding the hand of little Philip at

the far right. Granddaughter May is seen at the far left; next to her is Flora Bickford, then Carrie Bickford Varnum, Emily's sister. The elderly lady in front might be James' sister Ellen Kinerson Ferguson.

James and Emily purchased a house in Peacham Corner from the Mary S. Underwood Estate on June 3, 1892, and soon moved there. That house sits on the corner of the road going towards East Peacham, across from the Peacham Library, and is pictured in "Historic Homes of Peacham" on Page 46.

The Kinersons rented rooms in their farmhouse and the Corner house to students at Peacham Academy and other folks, a common practice in that era.

Emily fell out of bed on July 6, 1895, when she was 74, and was lame for the rest of her life. It is said that she got around by pushing a straight chair. Several months after her accident she was walking across the road to the store with help. It is likely she broke a bone or bones. She never consulted a doctor.

Emily duly recorded her families' illnesses, accidents, and the childhood diseases and other epidemics raging around town. Her daughter-in-law Ella (son Charley's wife) had frequent bouts of asthma. Emily often wrote "I have been up home," meaning her earlier years on Cow Hill and Penny Street. She described the weather, church doings, and the activities of her sons and their families. Her two Peacham sons sugared and planted in spring, hayed and went berrying in summer, harvested, worked in the woods, got up woodpiles and butchered in fall, and broke out



(rolled) the Peacham roads in winter. Emily often wrote, "Breaking roads is the order of the day". The boys worked on their farms and on town roads in between times. Her oldest son Jerome, a traveling salesman, and his wife Jennie occasionally wrote home. Emily and James' grandchildren (four born during that decade) visited often, especially May the oldest.

Notable events during that decade were the Spanish-American War; the Columbian Exposition (the Chicago World's Fair); the election of William McKinley as President of the United States; the erection of and blowing down of the Observatory; the centennial celebration of the founding of the Caledonia County Grammar School (Peacham Academy); the installation of a telephone in John Christian Frederick Richter's Store, and visits from Emily's sister Carrie and her husband Harvey Varnum from Marshalltown, Iowa.

James and Emily's home farm, called "the farm" in the diaries, had been conveyed to their son Russell. Their son Charles purchased a farm on East Hill from Charles and Kate Hutchinson in January, 1898, shown



in "Historic Homes of Peacham" on Page 154. Prior to that Charles, Ella and their children, Charles Raymond (Ray) and Minnie Florence, lived in the "Little Kinerson House" pictured in "Historic Homes of Peacham" on Page 208.

Emily's last diary ended on December 31, 1899. She became 80 years old on February 16, 1901, and received many congratulatory letters from her Western siblings and their children. Emily and James lived on in the Corner house for a while; then in declining health they agreed to deed that property to Augusta Hunt for \$1,100. They went to live at the homes of Russell and Charles. James died September 23, 1902, of prostatic disease at age 78; Emily died November 27, 1903, of bronchitis at age 82.

Sons Russell and Charles were appointed executors of James and Emily's "joint will". One expense shown was a "crape (mourning) bonnet" (sic) for \$4.75 and gloves for 25 cents for Emily, for James' funeral. Russell and Charles held an auction, sold the Corner house to Augusta Hunt, paid the debts, settled the estate and divided the remaining assets among themselves

and their brother Jerome.

The oldest son Jerome continued traveling around the country, occasionally visiting his brothers and their families. He had no children. He died in Colonie, New York, in 1937 of myocardosis at age 87. No further information is known of his wife Jennie.

Sons Russell and Charles continued farming, raised their children, became upstanding citizens, town officials, and were elected to the Vermont Legislature. They lived to see over 20 grandchildren, and there are now many descendants. Russell died in Peacham in 1926 of chronic myocardosis at age 69. His wife Lucy died in 1930 of cancer at age 69. Charles (Charley) died in Woodstock, Vermont, in 1944 of pneumonia at age 84. His wife Ella died in Peacham of measles and pneumonia in 1913 at age 51. Charles' second wife, Jane Rebecca Warner, died in Boston, Massachusetts in 1944 at age 65.

Lois Field White will discuss the contents of the diaries, numerous family letters from Emily's siblings who went West, account books and other documents at the Peacham Library at a date to be determined. The public is invited.

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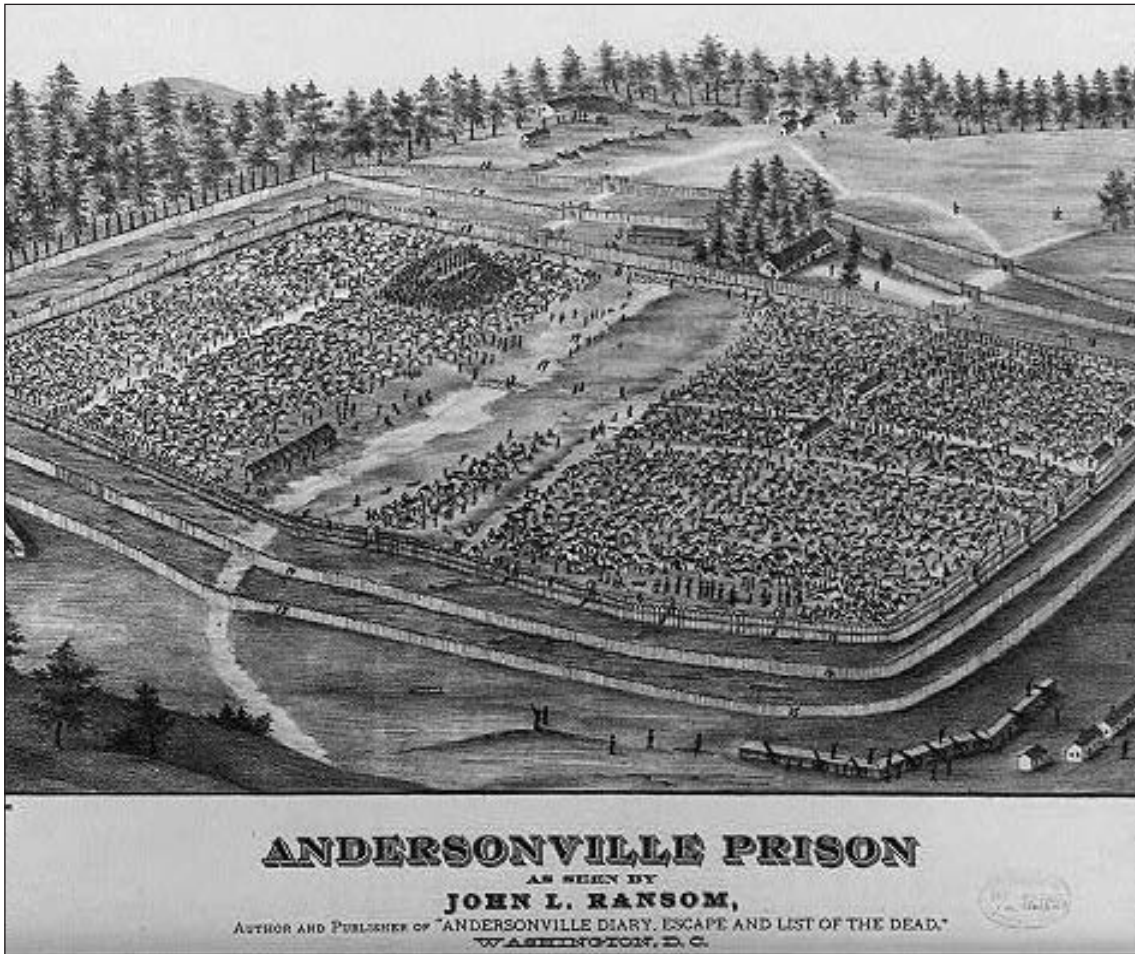
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Wheeler Manuscript



>> Page 1

Overland campaign, Cold Harbor, Spotsylvania, and the Wilson-Kautz Raid. He was captured June 29, 1864 during the Wilson Raid. He was a prisoner of war from June to November 1864.

Wheeler begins his story in late June 1864 on the Wilson-Kautz Raid, eight days prior to his capture. The Union raid, ordered by Union Gen. Ulysses Grant, destroyed the South Side and Richmond-Danville railroads in Virginia which were major supply lines to Petersburg, Va. The Wilson-Kautz Raid, consisted of 5,000 Union

as "Hell on Earth," the largest Confederate prison camp. It was opened in February, 1864, and was a 26.5-acre area with no shelters or buildings for prisoners, surrounded by a 15-foot high stockade fence built in a valley. Within six months, when Wheeler was there, the population peaked at over 32,000 prisoners, averaging 1,100 prisoners per acre. Approximately 49,500 Union soldiers were held in Andersonville and 13,000 died from diseases, poor sanitation, malnutrition and exposure to the elements.

For 25 years, he had captured the attention of family, friends and fellow veterans by sharing his war experiences and time in Andersonville Prison.

cavalry soldiers, was successful and lasted from June 22 to June 28, covering 500 miles, destroying 60 miles of railroad tracks, numerous stations, locomotives, and artillery. After much success, the raid was halted when the Confederates ambushed and cornered Wilson's troops at Stony Creek, Va.

"I can not describe the feeling when we found that we had got to surrender to the rebels they came on to us like a lot wild Indians they wanted to butcher us."

His tale continues with his five months as a prisoner of war and describes the four prisons he was in: Salisbury Prison in North Carolina, Richland District Jail in Columbia, S.C., Florence Stockade in South Carolina, and worst of all, Andersonville Prison in Georgia.

Wheeler described the conditions Union soldiers were forced to endure. They were herded like cattle into train cars then into stockade prisons and left to the elements. They were fed small rations of food that farmers wouldn't feed pigs, given rancid water that made them sick, and suffered in the brutal heat of the day and freezing in the night temperatures. Prisons had no buildings or shelters so most prisoners dug large holes in the earth as their only shelter at Salisbury and Andersonville.

"Imagine this picture if you can and then people it with sick ragged and starving men who could be seen some of them slowly tottering and dragging across the pen only waiting to die their only hope of liberty."

The worst he experienced was five months at Andersonville Prison in Andersonville, Ga., beginning July 6, 1864. Andersonville was known

Just as his unit entered Andersonville, the prison was in the midst of the famous Raiders episode. The Raiders was a large gang of 400+ who preyed on new prisoners, stealing, terrorizing and killing them. Tensions escalated and a majority of prisoners appealed to the prison authorities for autonomy to deal with the Raiders. Six ring leaders were caught and an official trial was held by Andersonville prisoners with judge, lawyers, and jury. On July 11, 1864, Wheeler was an eyewitness to the hanging of the ring leaders.

Andersonville, like so many Rebel prisons, was a cesspool with horrid water supplies, barely clothed men living in their own filth, suffering the summer heat with no tents, lean-tos, or buildings. Rations were sparse and consisted of a small daily portion of corn bread, then as time went on, rations were one pint of corn cob meal a day. Once a week they would get a serving of beans, infested with bugs. Wheeler went into minute detail about cooking the beans and bugs and how the soldiers were grateful to eat bugs because it was the only meat they got while there.

Due to the poor diet and terrible water supply, Wheeler suffered from chronic diarrhea and scurvy the entire time he was in prison. Men were reduced to "living skeletons" and many died of starvation. Wheeler came close to dying himself but he held onto the hope of returning to his family.

"By the last of July we had 33 thousand men in the prison was so crowded that was not hardly room to lay down in goin back and forth

>> Page 10

Vermont's Northeast Kingdom

Annual Fall Foliage Festival

September 27 through October 3

The Northeast Kingdom Fall Foliage Festival brings a piece of "Old Vermont" to life for visitors with local crafts, hymn sings, band concerts, church suppers, historical tours and the most beautiful fall colors you have ever seen! Seven unique festivals are held over seven consecutive days, now over 50 years running. The communities of St. Johnsbury, Walden, Cabot, Plainfield, Peacham, Barnet, and Groton invite you to come celebrate rural Vermont in all of its splendor.

ST. JOHNSBURY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Come spend a glorious fall Sunday on St. Johnsbury's Victorian Main Street. Visit Information Booth to pick up schedule on day of event. Arts & Crafts fair/Cookie Walk, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Farmer's Market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Historic walking tour at 10 a.m., historic cemetery walk at 11:30 a.m., town band concert at 1 p.m., planetarium show at 1:30 p.m. and parade at 2 p.m. Pancake/Ham Brunch, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at St. Johnsbury House, featuring Maple Grove Farms of Vermont maple syrup (\$3 for pancakes/\$6.50 for all). Varieties of food served during the day. Tours possible of Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium (nation's oldest science education museum) and St. Johnsbury Athenaeum & Art Gallery, a National Historic Landmark. Bus tours welcome; call to RSVP. Contact Northeast Kingdom Chamber, 51 Depot Square-Ste. 3, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. 800-639-6379, 802-748-3678. www.nekchamber.com, nekinfo@nekchamber.com

WALDEN - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Join us for Walden's Day in the Country. The day's festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. Arts and crafts demonstrations. Scenic tours. Country music. Hymn sing. Soup and chili luncheon with Vermont apple cider and homemade cookies available at 11:30 a.m., \$5. Ham supper with choice of homemade apple or pumpkin pie for dessert at 5 and 6 p.m., \$9. For supper reservations, call 802-533-7122. For information, contact Jane Muraro (Iron Horse Morgan Farm), 687 Orton Road, East Hardwick, VT 05836. 802-533-9802.

CABOT - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Welcome Coffee Hour begins at 8:45 a.m. in the Cabot School Gym. Make a day touring old school houses, craft shops, the public library, Cabot Creamery and Historical Building. Crafts available in the gym from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Three sittings for Beef Stew Luncheon at Cabot Church: 11:30 a.m., 12:30 & 1:15 p.m. In afternoon, enjoy a hayride to a sugarhouse. A hike to Nichols Ledge begins at 2 p.m. Turkey Dinner at 5 and 6:30 p.m. at Cabot School Gym. The day ends with a musical program by local players at church, 7:15 p.m. For reservations: Beef Stew Luncheon (adults \$5, children \$2.50, Rose Bothfeld at 802-563-2715); Turkey Dinner (adults \$10, children \$5, Jane Brown at 802-563-2381); and Craft Tables (Vickie Bean at 802-563-2368). Beef stew luncheon, turkey dinner and tour tickets can be purchased at same time. For details, contact Fall Foliage Chairman Blanche Lamore, 1097 West Hill Pond Road, Marshfield, VT 05658. 802-563-2457.

PLAINFIELD - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

A full day of activities begins with Coffee Hour at 9 a.m. and registration at Grace United Methodist Church. Foliage tours available at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.: Rock of Ages Granite Quarry, glass blowers, Grandview Winery and scenic spots, including hike to Owls Head and two nature trails, with lunch at the summit shelter. Other activities include touring the beautiful flower gardens at Goddard College, presentations by three local farmers on helping the community, as well as crafts and baked goods for sale. Cafeteria style luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$5. Entertainment in the afternoon. Barbecued Chicken-Mostaccioli and Baked Bean Supper at 5 and 6 p.m., \$10. For reservations, contact Joanne Martin, 802-454-7301, or Joyce Fowler, 802-454-8306.

PEACHAM - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Registration at 9 a.m. and arts & crafts sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Peacham Town Hall. Tickets for lunch, ghost walk and dinner can be picked up at town hall. Exhibits at the Blacksmith Shop and at the Historical House (homemade treats) and Peacham Library Book Sale, all 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Scenic bus tour at 10:15 a.m., \$2. Lunch at the Elementary School, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ghost Walk at 2 p.m., \$4. Harp music in the Sanctuary, 4-6 p.m. Dinner at the church, 5 & 6:30 p.m. Spaghetti Supper, vegetarian and meat sauces, salad bar, garlic bread, homemade apple crisp and ice cream: \$10 adults, \$5 children, kids under 6 free. Tickets on sale the day of event. No dinner reservations needed. Coordinators, Marilyn Magnus, 2888 E. Peacham Rd., Barnet, VT 05821 (802-592-3320); Mary Williams, P.O. Box 192, Peacham, VT 05862 (802-592-3135); and Sharon Fuehrer, P.O. Box 15, Peacham, VT 05862 (802-592-3326).

BARNET - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Come to the Barnet Center vestry at 8 a.m. to 12 noon for pancakes, Vermont maple syrup and sausage. Arts and crafts will be in the vestry all day. A bus tour will leave from the vestry at 10 a.m., visiting churches, the Goodwillie House, Ben Thresher's Mill and traveling scenic back roads. Gifts are also at the McIndoes Church, with a soup and sandwich lunch served at noon. A European Coffee House runs from 1 to 4 p.m. at the West Barnet Church. Enjoy a ham dinner at the Barnet Center vestry, starting at 4 p.m. and continuing until all are served (\$10). For reservations, contact Robert Gibson, P.O. Box 131, Barnet, VT 05821 (802-633-2242); or Mrs. Pauline Urie, 1583 County Hill Rd., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802-748-8246).

GROTON - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Join us in Groton for our Festival Day. Start with a Lumberjack Breakfast at the Methodist Church from 7-10 a.m. Visit our new Library, where there will be a book sale throughout the day. McClure's Band will perform at the bandstand at 11 a.m. Boy Scout Troop #702 will serve a light lunch on the Methodist Church lawn. Our Annual Parade starts at 1:30 p.m. Browse in the Peter Paul Historical House anytime during the day. Participate in the Old Fashioned Hymn Sing at the Baptist Church at 8 p.m. to close the day. Serving times for our Famous Chicken Pie Supper are 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available after July 1 at \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. You must make reservations. Contact Peter Lyon, 848 West Shore Drive, Groton, VT 05046. 802-584-3020. (Take-out reservations are also available.)

FOR MORE DETAILS OR LODGING LIST, CONTACT:

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www.nekchamber.com, nekinfo@nekchamber.com

(This complete calendar can also be found on chamber web site, under Visitor Information.)

>> Page 9

through the camp we had to step over men lying on the ground and every morning passing through the camp I would see men laying around on the ground dead and some dying”.

The reader gets a descriptive rundown of the daily struggle the prisoners faced to rid themselves of lice, maggots, and mosquitoes. He described a daily routine of ridding their clothes of lice. Wheeler wrote of men dying beside him during the night and the following morning, seeing them covered in a solid mass of lice.

As in any war, prisoners

were deprived of decent, humane conditions, but they were abused psychologically as well. The Confederate soldiers, which Wheeler referred to as Rebels, used head games, lies, trickery, and coercion to beat down the prisoners’ morale and hopes. Wheeler described the punishments in minute detail from the stocks, buck and gag, cat-o-nine-tails, to hanging by the thumbs. Many tried to escape, and large forces of prisoners planned a huge tunnel escape and takeover only to be thwarted by a traitor.

Despite the horrid stories Wheeler wrote, the reader gets a

strong sense of hope and desire to survive. Wheeler wrote with wit and stayed positive — not in a bitter or angry tone. Wheeler conveyed his Yankee stubbornness in not allowing the Rebels to kill his spirit and hope. Wheeler wrote: “I use to tell the rebels that they wood never have the privilage of carrying me out” [to be buried]}.

In mid-October 1864, Wheeler was fortunate to leave Andersonville in a small group to be paroled. The parolees were loaded on a train and thought they were being exchanged only to be moved to Florence Stockade, S.C. It was a similar prison setup as Andersonville and just as terrible except medical treatment was available and a large shed built for sick prisoners where Wheeler sought shelter.

On Nov. 30, 1864, Wheeler was paroled and handed over to Union troops. He was taken north to Annapolis, Md. and received medical treatment. He survived on doctor-prescribed doses of whiskey and brandy to build up strength because he couldn’t eat. After two weeks in Camp Parole hospital, Wheeler was released.

Wheeler survived the journey and was reunited with his wife and family at the end of December 1864. He returned a “living skeleton,” weighing only 90 pounds. Wheeler recuperated at the Sloan General Hospital in Montpelier until the end of the war.

The Caledonian-Record in St. Johnsbury published articles referring to Wheeler’s imprisonment and on Dec. 30, 1864, an article titled “From Andersonville” reported Wheeler’s and another Vermont soldier’s return home. The article states: Wheeler “is a pitiable object and a living monument to the bar-

barous cruelty of those men who call themselves the ‘chivalry’ and ‘gentlemen’ of this country. We know now what ‘chivalry’ means: it is ‘chivalry’ to starve a Union soldier by inches.”

Wheeler returned to farming, eventually purchasing a hill-top farm on East Hill in Peacham. He married three times, being widowed by the first two, and had five children. For 40 years, Wheeler was active in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Peacham which was located where today’s Peacham town offices are. In later years, Wheeler moved to East Peacham Village.

He was a charter member of the X.C. Stevens Grand Army of the Republic Post of Barnet and Peacham and served as chaplain. The GAR fought for pension legislation, established veterans’ retirement homes, and later evolved into the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs. In the 1880s, he was a founding member of the Relief Corps, a women’s auxiliary to the GAR with the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the GAR.

Tragedy struck in the year 1882 when he lost his 17-year-old daughter, infant son, and his second wife all in that year. Two years later, he married for a third time.

Wheeler spent the rest of his life years educating people about the realities of war and the immense sacrifice soldiers made for our country and freedom. On Decoration Day [our modern-day Memorial Day] Wheeler visited the local school and shared war experiences with schoolchildren. He had a mission he was dedicated to and he left his mark. Despite his weakened constitution, Wheeler lived a long life, dying in 1916.

In the 1916 St. Johnsbury

Republican, Wheeler’s obituary was published as well as a “Memorial to the late M.M. Wheeler” by his GAR Post that stated: “Comrade Wheeler was ... ever seeking to [inculcate] in the hearts of both young and old the spirit of true patriotism and devotion to our beloved land; and possessing a character such as to know him was to respect and love him.” “we further express our own sense of loss and the loss to the community generally through the passing from among us of our brave, patriotic, faithful, lovable, and honored comrade and friend.”

His 1890 memoir and the map he drew of Andersonville Prison was kept by Wheeler’s eldest son Elwin “Ellie” Wheeler. Elwin passed it on to Wheeler’s friend and fellow veteran, John (Millen) Farrow. Wheeler’s memoir was kept in the Farrow family, transferred from John to his daughter Mary Farrow Moore who in turn gave it to her son Francis Moore. At some point, John Farrow’s wife Emma or his daughter Mary Moore made a copy of Wheeler’s Andersonville map onto a 4-foot by 5-foot oilcloth mounted on cardboard.

Wheeler’s memoir was read in Peacham classrooms throughout the years and at family gatherings. In the late 1980s, the Moores donated the Wheeler memoir and large oilcloth map to the Peacham Historical Association for safekeeping.

One hundred and forty-five years after Wheeler returned from the Civil War, people are still reading his story. Wheeler’s manuscript survived 119 years and has remained in the town he loved. His story continues to be passed on, just the way he would have wanted it. ★

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 Thursday 10 am - 4 pm
 Friday 10 am - 4 pm
 Saturday 10 am - 2 pm
 Sunday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

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Grant will help historians preserve manuscript

BY MICHELLE ARNOSKY SHERBURNE

Peacham Historical Association will be unveiling their Civil War treasure, a manuscript written by a Peacham soldier 119 years ago. Pvt. Mark M. Wheeler served in the Vermont 1st Regt. Cavalry Co. D from November, 1861, to July, 1865. Wheeler was captured June 29, 1864, and spent five months in four different Confederate prisons, the worst of them being Andersonville.

In 1890, Wheeler penned his memoir for posterity. He wrote a fully detailed account of his experiences from the Wilson-Kautz Raid in June, 1864, his prison time to his final release and reunion with family in December, 1864.

In May, 2009, the Wheeler memoir, in the possession of the Peacham Historical Association (PHA), received a grant from the Vermont Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to have the original 119-year-old document conserved. The original Wheeler manuscript consists of 55 two-sided, loose, handwritten pages, measuring 7½ inches in length and 5 1/8 inches in width.

PHA President Jutta Scott is pleased that this project has come to fruition. She said, "The original is amazingly in good shape. The Peacham Historical Association received it in the 1980s but up until then, they used to pass it around, reading it page by page. In the classrooms, the kids handled it. No white gloves! And it survived despite all the handling."

The manuscript is written on acidic paper, which is less stable

and durable than earlier alkaline paper. They contracted experienced Vermont paper conservator M.J. Davis of WASHI in West Burke to properly conserve the document. Long-term preservation requires conservation treatment to stabilize the document through deacidification and encapsulation. Davis found the Wheeler document had suffered so much from contact and poor quality and storage conditions over the years. But she was able to preserve it properly.

The second stage of the grant was having the document sent to the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Mass., to be digitally scanned to create an electronic facsimile.

PHA archivist, town historian and former town clerk Lorna Quimby worked with Sherburne to proof the transcription. Quimby said, "Wheeler was a good writer. You can see that in the construction of his account." She enjoyed working through Wheeler's document, finding it a challenge to figure out his words since spelling was not his forte. But Quimby noted evidence of Wheeler's wit and sense of humor.

But why now? What brought Wheeler's document out of the vault?

The original had been given to the PHA in the 1980s for safe-keeping. Upon learning of the PHA's latest addition, the late Peacham native Herman Alden Clark, of Groton, Vt., requested that the document be transcribed so people could read it. Herman's grandfather, George Clark had married Mark Wheeler's sister, Luthera Wheeler, so there was a family connection there.

Quimby enlisted a Peacham college intern, Lisa Marceaux

Moore, to transcribe it. The Wheeler account was once again in circulation, but on a limited basis. It was used in local Peacham classrooms and it was read by a few. Soon the transcription got filed away in the historical society vault.

For over 25 years, Wheeler's story sat unread.

In 2009, Michelle Arnosky Sherburne of Newbury, Vt., a freelance writer and granddaughter-in-law of Herman Clark, came across a photocopy of Wheeler's account in family files. Upon reading Wheeler's story, it was apparent that people needed to learn about Pvt. Mark Wheeler's story and contribution to Vermont's Civil War literature.

Though it had been transcribed before, it had been heavily edited. Sherburne volunteered to transcribe it with stricter guidelines and that got the Peacham gears moving.

With the approaching 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2011, the PHA had a renewed mission to preserve Wheeler's manuscript.

Sherburne said, "Wheeler's manuscript is an incredible piece of literary history that details a perspective of the Civil War that is unique, from a farmer's viewpoint as a soldier and prisoner. It is descriptive, captivating, alarming and personal all at the same time."

Sherburne commented that Wheeler writes in common man's language, portraying the events and horrible conditions that Union soldiers suffered. Writing in retrospect, Wheeler had time to analyze what prisoners had to endure, what sacrifices they gave and the precious commodity that freedom is in this country. "Learning about this person, I found that he was dedicated to patriotism and educa-

tion despite all he lived through, which is admirable."

Sherburne is working with PHA members Scott, Quimby, Lynn Bonfield and Diane Senturia to get Wheeler's story online in late 2009 on the PHA website, www.peachamhistorical.org. Marking the 145th anniversary of Wheeler's return home from the war, his story will go global.

On Sept. 17, 2009, Mark Wheeler's experiences will once again take center stage in Peacham. The conserved original Mark Wheeler manuscript will be unveiled at a Vermont Humanities Council event* hosted by the Peacham Historical Association at 7 pm at the Peacham Congrega-

tional Church.

The original document and the 4 by 5-foot oilcloth version of Wheeler's Andersonville map will be displayed for the first time in years. The event will feature guest speaker and Vermont Civil War expert Howard Coffin, paper conservator M.J. Davis and Michelle Sherburne. The event is free, open to the public and accessible to people with disabilities.

*Under grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the NEH or the Vermont Humanities Council.

David Toll, M.D.

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Athletic Events ~ Fall 2009

VARSITY FOOTBALL

09/05/09	at Rice	1:00
09/12/09	(H) U-32	1:00
09/19/09	at Oxbow	1:00
09/25/09	at North Country	7:00
10/03/09	(H) COLCHESTER	1:00
10/09/09	at Middlebury	7:00
10/17/09	(H) MILTON	1:00
10/24/09	(H) MMU	1:00
10/31/09	(H) ST. JOHNSBURY	1:00

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

09/08/09	(H) OXBOW	4:00
09/14/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:00
09/21/09	at North Country	6:00
09/28/09	(H) SPAULDING	4:00
10/05/09	at Essex	5:00
10/12/09	(H) NORTH COUNTRY	4:00
10/19/09	(H) ST. JOHNSBURY	4:00
10/26/09	at Hartford	4:00

FROSHMAN FOOTBALL

09/09/09	(H) BRATTLEBORO	4:00
09/16/09	(H) SPAULDING	4:00
09/23/09	at Rice	4:00
09/30/09	(H) ST. JOHNSBURY	4:00
10/07/09	at BFA	5:00
10/14/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:00
10/21/09	(H) NORTH COUNTRY	4:00
10/28/09	(H) HARTFORD	4:00

CROSS COUNTRY

09/02/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:00
09/05/09	at Mt. Pisgah	10:00
09/08/09	at Lamolille	4:00
09/12/09	at Bald Mountain	10:00
09/16/09	(H) KINGDOM TRAILS	4:00
09/22/09	at Harwood	4:00
09/26/09	at U-32	10:00
09/29/09	at Lake Region	4:00
10/03/09	at Thetford Invite	10:00
10/06/09	at U-32	4:00
10/10/09	at Peoples Invite	10:00
10/13/09	(H) KINGDOM TRAILS	4:00
10/19/09	at Lake Region Relays	4:00
10/24/09	at U-32 League Champ	10:00
10/31/09	at Thetford STATES	10:00

FIELD HOCKEY

09/02/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:00
09/05/09	at Mt. Pisgah	10:00
09/08/09	at Lamolille	4:00
09/12/09	at Bald Mountain	10:00
09/16/09	(H) KINGDOM TRAILS	4:00
09/22/09	at Harwood	4:00
09/26/09	at U-32	10:00
09/29/09	at Lake Region	4:00
10/03/09	at Thetford Invite	10:00
10/06/09	at U-32	4:00
10/10/09	at Peoples Invite	10:00
10/13/09	(H) KINGDOM TRAILS	4:00
10/19/09	at Lake Region Relays	4:00
10/24/09	at U-32 League Champ	10:00
10/31/09	at Thetford STATES	10:00

VARSITY & JV GIRLS SOCCER

09/05/09	at Lake Region	11:00
09/09/09	(H) OXBOW	4:30
09/15/09	(H) ST. JOHNSBURY	4:30
09/17/09	(H) RANDOLPH	4:30
09/23/09	at U-32	4:30
09/25/09	(H) North Country	4:30
09/29/09	at Stowe	4:30
10/03/09	(H) HARWOOD	11:00
10/07/09	at Montpelier	4:00
10/10/09	at Peoples	1:00
10/13/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:00
10/15/09	(H) NORTHFIELD	4:00
10/21/09	at Spaulding	4:00
10/23/09	(H) THETFORD	4:00

VARSITY & JV BOYS SOCCER

09/04/09	(H) LAKE REGION	4:30
09/08/09	(H) LAMOILLE	4:30
09/10/09	(H) OXBOW	4:30
09/16/09	(H) NORTH COUNTRY	4:30
09/18/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:30
09/22/09	(H) MONTPELIER	4:30
09/30/09	(H) RANDOLPH	4:30
10/02/09	at U-32	4:00
10/06/09	at Northfield	4:00
10/10/09	at Peoples	4:00
10/14/09	(H) STOWE	4:00
10/16/09	at Spaulding	4:00
10/20/09	(H) HARWOOD	4:00
10/24/09	at Thetford	11:00

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Af-fjord-ing Norway

By A.R. BOERA

Accidental destinations are more the rule than the exception in military 'Space Available' travel for retirees. There is a lot of zigzagging as long as you have the time and the patience to travel like a nomad; the general rule is to keep moving - hopefully in the general direction of the places you'd like to cross off your "Bucket List." A case in point is illustrated by one of my earlier travel articles. My plan was to re-visit Australia via Hawaii and Samoa. The eventual trail took me to the intended target, but via detours to Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bali (including a couple of commercial links) with a stop on American Samoa on the way home. Another example followed a flight back from New Zealand. Instead of heading as directly as possible from the Charleston (SC) Air Force Base to the Plattsburgh (NY) AFB - where my car was in long-term parking - the "scenic route" took me to Panama and an opportunity to tour the Canal Zone.

The subject of this travelogue will be another unintended destination back in 1993. The easy part was a hop to the Royal Air Force Base at Mildenhall, England - from Plattsburgh. (Coincidentally, Alex Trebek was at the recreation center on this British base auditioning for potential "Jeopardy contestants.") One day was profitably spent bussing to nearby Cambridge, and wandering - for seven hours - into and around hallways and courtyards of the various colleges of the University, touring the (world-renowned, but previously unknown to me) Fitzwilliam Museum, browsing through half a dozen antiquarian bookstores, beautifully decorated shops, a crafts fair and flea market, watching tourists being "punted" along the River Cam, "spectating" at a very formal wedding inside an ancient church,



and stopping for a snack and a pint of lager at one of the historic town's quaint pubs.

Another day I took advantage of a shuttle to Heathrow Airport where I purchased a ticket for unlimited one-day use on London's underground, trolleys or busses. I covered a lot of territory making the rounds of St. Paul's Cathedral (its awe-inspiring basement crypts housing the remains of renowned British heroes - notably Horatio, Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington), the Tower of London (with its ravens and scintillating display of crown jewels), and the British Museum (enriched with the Rosetta Stone, the Elgin marbles from the Parthenon, and its priceless manuscripts among a myriad of treasures) all of which "must-see" landmarks I hadn't yet covered on earlier visits or tours. Also enjoyed browsing again through bookstores along and near Charing Cross Road, as well as revisiting Westminster Abbey and checking my watch against Big Ben.

While waiting for some way to get closer to Poland - to take a bus excursion from whatever base - an interesting flight opportunity appeared on the air terminal's monitor Oslo. Sounded good to me! I hadn't thought about Norway before since I wasn't aware of any allied air base there. There is none, but I learned that there is a NATO base near Oslo Gardemoen and I was soon manifested on a mission to Fornebu Airport. There were just three passengers. On the train ride from the base, I teamed up with a retired Army major from Tacoma, WA, on his third visit to Norway. On previous trips he had traced his roots, visiting the home towns of both sets

of his grandparents and making the acquaintance of relatives along the way. We shared a room at a decent hotel downtown to help offset the incredibly high rates. We took a walk before dinner with Karl serving as my guide along the way, pointing out the National Theater, the University, and the Parliament Building, as well as the palace of King Harold, sitting atop a hill on Karl Johans Gate in a park open to the public. He told me that the royal family requires minimal security, enjoying an informal relationship with their subjects. When they go skiing, they take public transportation and commercial lodging. For our "dinner," a tasty grilled cheese dish with delicious brew, the tab was a hefty 70 kroner (about \$10) each. Most stores were open late into the evening. Sidewalk artists, street-corner musicians and outdoor vendors abounded. I took with me the hilarious memory of a German shepherd dog's reaction to a very realistic toy lizard cleverly manipulated by a vendor-puppeteer; the performance attracted quite a gathering. Already my legs ached and my feet were dog-tired. A late night call to Julie before hitting the sack was a brief "Hilsen fra Oslo, Norge!"

First impressions: Friendly, handsome, healthy-looking people; clean city - minimal graffiti; lots of birds, mostly magpies; floral-lined parks...tulips, daffodils, lilacs, apple blossoms, forsythia, all coming into bloom as the country erupted with its late spring rebirth.

The next day Karl learned that he would have a difficult time obtaining an auto rental because of his age (78). I volunteered that I'd be glad to be his chauffeur and share the costs if he wanted me to drive him around the country to visit relatives and friends, proposing to leave him at his destination(s), go to the nearest town for lodging, and pick him up a day or two later at each stop. He was most appreciative and agreeable to the offer. It never quite worked out that way. At every stop along the way west across the country to Bergen, it was invariably the hosts' insistence that I join them for a meal or two, as well as overnight lodging in two instances, and I was made to feel equally welcome as a



*Tourists don't know where they've been,
travelers don't know where they're going.*

Paul Theroux

friend of Karl's. At every stop, it always seemed to be snack time, and I enjoyed watching the animated discussions - in broken-English and broken-Norwegian - between Karl and his relatives, mainly close or distant cousins. The food on the farms was memorable, and I particularly appreciated those stops since it gave me the chance to wander off and tour the immaculate cattle barns and pens of the largest swine I'd ever seen, or watch the goats being milked. The whole family, including strapping sons and older relatives, would take time off from farm chores to gather with us for a lunch break - cheeses, wholesome homemade bread, grapes and the inevitable "kaka" and coffee. The hearty farm breakfasts provided enough nourishment for a full day! Many of the younger folks spoke English fairly well, saving a lot of frantic referencing to Karl's phrasebook; his grasp of Norwegian was about on a par with my mastery of Spanish.

Along the way, we stopped at country churches and ancient graveyards, hundreds of waterfalls and cascading mountain streams; drove around and through mountains - there were dozens of tunnels cut into sheer rock, many of them two or more miles long. Our route took us on a winding drive along the fjords with towering "Rockies" on both sides and, at one point, the "highway" becomes a 25-mile ferry cruise on the sparkling (and frigid) blue waters of the fjord, between snow-capped mountains that met the shoreline precipitously. A thousand (or more) waterfalls cascaded spectacularly down from the snowy heights all along the way. Everyone

was out of their cars and on the upper decks enjoying the view. Despite the breeze over the waters, we were dressed for it, and the midday sun made it quite comfortable outside.

When we finally arrived in Bergen on the fourth day, we parked along the wharf and browsed through the flower, fish and crafts marketplace in the center of the city, then took a funicular ride to the 1,050-foot high overlook atop Mt. Floyen, gaining a fantastic panoramic view - from the restaurant terrace - of the surrounding harbor, fjords, mountains...and the North Sea. After descending, we did some more window-shopping downtown which was interrupted by an entertaining Trade Fair parade through that part of the city, each business or organization represented by either a float, band, or costumed group advertising their products or services. Apparently, it was an annual event enjoyed equally by participants and their appreciative audience of townspeople and tourists.

We retraced our journey eastward; there aren't any optional routes, just side spurs, and even this one is closed during several winter months due to snow and ice. We made just a couple of stops to visit other friends of Karl's along the way back; we couldn't extend the auto rental since the company's inventory was small and the vehicle was promised to another party.

Back in Oslo, we toured the 75-acre Frogner Park which is the showcase for the fascinating outdoor sculptures of Gustav Vigeland -- hundreds of granite and bronze nude statues depicting the cycle of life. It was Sunday, so the park was



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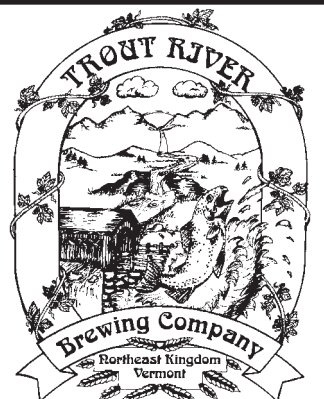
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crowded with families, picnickers, sunbathers, lovers, and many tourists like us. Because of the weekly flight schedule from Fornebu, we never had time to take in the (Edvard) Munch Museum or go out to the several maritime museums on the Bygdøy Peninsula; would have liked to see explorer/anthropologist Thor Heyerdahl's famous raft and reed boat, "Kon Tiki," about which I'd read so long ago. Our parting dinner at one of Oslo's outdoor cafes ended with a toast to Norway -- "Mangettusentäkk!" (Many thousand thanks!) -- for its hospitality and the uniformly superb weather vouchsafed for us this past week.

Other interesting Norwegian words...all self-explanatory:

Resepsjon
Velkommen
Konferansenter
Sykkelparkering
Tobakk
Bibliotek
Frukt
Parfymeri
Takk = 'Thank you'

Karl and I parted company at the Fornebu Air Base with a heartfelt "Farvel" as he left to take advantage of an unscheduled diplomatic flight to Stuttgart, Germany, in the hope that it would be more advantageous for him to connect with a flight to Dover. (We kept up a correspondence for seven more years until a son advised that he had passed away.) My (virtually private) C-141 "Starlifter" took off with its single passenger and reached Mildenhall without incident. Since I was alone, I was invited to sit in the jump seat of the cockpit for the entire flight as a guest of the captain who was giving another pilot a check ride. Aside from being a unique experience, it helped pass the flight time quickly. From Mildenhall I had just an overnight wait for a hop over the Atlantic back to Plattsburgh. Not all 'Space Available' travel is this serendipitous, but I've generally been among those who've been able to "keep on moving."



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The ecological importance of hidden worlds. *Bill Amos, educator, journalist, photographer and author of Hidden Worlds.*

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Catamount Arts

Trends in Vermont Bird Populations: Are we helping or hurting? *Rosalind Renfrew, conservation biologist, Vermont center for ecostudies, coordinator, Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas.*

► Thursday, Oct. 8 at 1:30 p.m.

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Disturbance and succession in Vermont Forest: Natural and unnatural. *Charlie Browne, executive director, The Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium.*

► Thursday, Oct. 15 at 1:30 p.m.

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Aliens Disturbing the Balance. *David Houston, ecologist and tree pathologist (ret.), U.S. Forest Service.*

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Wildlife Restoration and Recovery: Should wolves return to Vermont? *Walter Medwid, executive director, Northwoods Stewardship Center, former director of the International Wolf Center.*

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Wildlife Management Success in Vermont: Lessons from the Common Loon. *Ray and Evelyn Richer, wildlife photographer, wildlife artists, owners of the Gallery at Loon Cove.*

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Water: The Next Great Crisis? *Kim Greenwood, water scientist and policy advocate, Vermont Natural Resources Council.*

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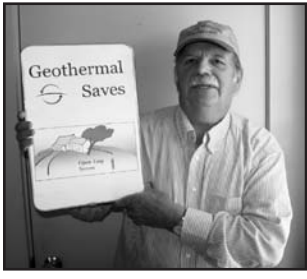
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Riding across America

By WOODY STARKWEATHER

A few years ago my wife and I took a trip across the country by train. We did it for a lark, but it turned out to be a much larger bird.

Our reason for traveling was that we were giving a few papers and attending some committee meetings at a conference in San Francisco. Living in Philadelphia at the time, we found out that the trip would take four and a half days if we went via Washington, D.C. We were both busy people, and four and a half days seemed like an extravagant expenditure of time for a frivolity. Spending the same amount of time again for the pleasure of the return trip was out of the question, so, we chose a plan that enabled us to make our return trip by air. This turned out to be a very wise decision, although it was based on faulty reasoning.

The entire round trip cost only slightly more than if we had done it all by air, so it seemed to us, as we set out cheerily from Philadelphia, that we were going to have quite a lot of fun for not much money. We would be meeting interesting people over white tablecloths in a dining car that served fine meals. We would be able to watch the passing grandeur of America. In between these pleasures, we had a good supply of books to read and a couple of New York Times crossword puzzles, just in case we got bored. Maybe we would work a little too.

We had to get ourselves to Washington, D.C. first, and being purists, we did this by train too. We lived not more than a half mile from the Philadelphia station, so we rolled our carefully packed suitcases along the sidewalks, pleased at our independence from automobiles.

The train came and left on time, and we showed the conductor the first page of our thick booklet of tickets. We even bragged a little to one or two fellow travelers that we were going to travel across our great country by train, and we were too caught up in our own adventurous excitement to take note of the skepticism that rolled like ocean swells across their faces.

We arrived at D.C.'s Union Station on time, but the departing train to Chicago would be about an hour late. This was actually an omen, but if it had been the entrails of a sheep we could not have misread it more. We had plenty of time, we thought, so we had coffee and waited.

Time passed quickly and our train was called. We boarded with undiminished enthusiasm and were further pleased to find a special compartment where luggage could be stored, located cleverly close to the entrance to the car but also not far from our compartment. Our compartment was, of course, small, but this had it all to ourselves, and in this there was a kind of coziness, a feeling I recalled when, as a boy, I crawled into a pup tent to spend a night "camping" on the beach in Connecticut. We had paid

the extra amount to have the convenience of a toilet and shower in our compartment, and there it was, startlingly tiny but functional. The most surprising thing about it was that the toilet and shower were in fact the same appliance. To shower, you lowered the toilet seat, and sat on it if you wanted to. To use the toilet, you just had to make sure that the shower wasn't on and that the seat was dry. There was no shelf to put razor and toothbrush on, but that was OK because they would have gotten wet in the shower anyway. I believe my wife's reaction to the shower was an enigmatic "Oh my."

The toilet/shower was not enough to dampen our enthusiasm. Dampening did occur, however, a half hour after we pulled out of the station when all the lights went out and the train abruptly stopped. At this point in the journey we had clearly not reached the grandeur of America, for the scene outside our window was dominated in the foreground by a large, rusted steel beam from which a wire hung loopily. These objects were arranged against a background of soot-colored, ancient concrete buildings with a repeating pattern of greasy lightless windows through which nothing could be seen. We examined this still life for about a half an hour – it was too dark to read. No one ever told us what the problem was, but we asked the porter, an elderly and most accommodating gentleman, and he explained that the train had lost power. I refrained from saying "Well, duh!" He went on to say that it would take a while to find the break, and it did. My sense was that a plug had fallen out of a socket somewhere, and they were looking over the whole train to see where the two-pronged thing was hanging down bouncing on the ties. I never knew that the electrical circuitry on a train was like that on a string of Christmas tree lights. One break in the circuit and the whole string goes dark. Eventually, the lights came on, and we heard muffled cheers from the other compartments. The train started up again. We were by this time about two hours late, but we thought we'll just spend a little less time in Chicago.

Dinner was served at different times for different sections of the train. We understood this. We knew there was only one dining car and, we imagined, one staff of well-trained waiters with serving towels draped over one arm, and one chef with his tall white hat, so we would have to wait our turn. Our turn came at 7:00, when our section was called to dinner and we made our way to the dining car. Soon, a plump, middle-aged woman trundled a cart down the aisle of the dining car, asked us curtly if we wanted spaghetti or a hamburger, and deposited four plastic food trays on our table before she moved down the aisle to the next set of tables. I revised my imagination. The tall white hat was gone, as were the serving towels. The "staff" was just the one lady. Something to drink came later, after we were finished. I have a lit-

tle trouble swallowing and like to have something liquid to sip on while I am eating. It saves me from really serious choking. On a plane, one of the flight attendants will always take a few minutes to accommodate my desire, but it wasn't possible on the train, where you would expect there would be more time. So I had to eat my hamburger very slowly, which was not difficult. It was awful, and slowly was OK. Not at all would have been better. I brought a little bottle of water with me to future meals.

Our dinner companions were an elderly couple from Belgium, who had never traveled on an American train before. I think it is reasonable to describe their reaction to the dinner service as "appalled amazement." We tried to talk to them about their life in Europe, but they were so shocked at the poverty of service and the quality of the food that they had little energy left for conversation. Belgium has one of the world's finest cuisines, and the trains of Europe have been providing first-rate service for years, so their reaction was not out of line. I wondered, though, why someone in Belgium hadn't warned them. They may have good food, but their travel agents don't know everything.

We were scheduled to reach Chicago by noon of the following day, but of course we had spent an hour looking for the plug, on top of the late departure. On an airplane, the pilot apparently has ways of making up time that has been lost in delays. I can't imagine how they do this; maybe they just crank her up another couple hundred miles an hour, or take some unimaginable aerial shortcut. Certainly, there are no shortcuts in the rail system, but somehow I expected that in the morning we would wake up and discover that we were back on schedule. Unfortunately, it didn't happen. We had a reasonably undisturbed night's sleep, followed by a horrible breakfast, and rolled into Chicago late by exactly the two hours.

We had now about two and half hours to spend in Chicago, a luxury of time off the train we would not see again, and we decided to find a good restaurant and enjoy a really fine lunch. By this time we knew we were not going to find anything but high-school cafeteria food on the train.

We walked just a few blocks and found what we wanted. That, in a nutshell, is the advantage of train travel. When you get off an airplane, you are in an airport, and they are all pretty much the same. You can exhaust your interest in an airport in a half hour. But when you step off a train, you are probably in the middle of a city, where anything can happen, and with the right connections and a little planning, you can spend some time there. We found an elegant sidewalk café and sat leisurely watching the city walk by us. The food was fine.

As we re-entered the train station, we were immensely surprised to run into someone we knew, a young Taiwanese man who had

>> Page 15

lived with us the previous year, then moved to Chicago.

"That man looks like..."

"It is! It's Jim Wang!"

We then had a brief conversation with Jim, and hurried off to our train with not much time to spare. We didn't know it at the time, but running into Jim Wang in Chicago would turn out to be the highlight of our train trip. Had we known, we would have talked to him a little longer. Even a few seconds would have made a difference.

cafeteria food, when the train came to a halt again. No one told us what had happened, so we had to ask our porter again. He explained to us that there had been severe thunderstorms ahead, even a tornado, and we had to wait until it was safe to proceed. There may have been flooding on the tracks.

It made sense. We didn't want to go charging into a dangerous situation. But I wondered if they hadn't exaggerated a little. If it were a square-rigged sailing vessel on the Atlantic in the 18th Century, I could

where a new crew was waiting for us, the train came to a stop. This time, the delay was very long – about two hours – and during this time we saw outside the window the back lot of a place called the "American Earth Compaction Machinery Co." It was Sunday, so all the earth compactor people were at home, but most of the machines they sold, some of them very large and impressive, were right there in front of us, to be examined at our leisure. And we did. We came to know a little bit about earth compaction dur-

ing for favorable winds, the crew had accumulated eleven hours of operating time. Of course they weren't actually "operating" during that time. Probably, in fact, they were snoozing in comfy cots. Federal regulations, which the unionized workers had to abide by according to their contract, disallowed them from driving, or apparently even occupying, the train for more than that amount of time. So when they hit eleven hours at the wheel, they stopped, 15 minutes outside of the next

scramble to get them all together and into a taxi. I could imagine them piling out of the taxi like a bunch of circus clowns, out there in the cornfield, laughing and shaking their heads, "Boy, you really had us going with that one. Imagine using up the eleven hours. Who'd a thunk it! Well, here we are. Let's get going."

With the new crew in place, the train moved the remaining 15 minutes into the station. Things seemed back to normal. But as we progressed there were more delays, not as long, but quite a few, and each one of them added on to the previous ones, so that in the end we were over eight hours late to our destination. I will say that the Rockies were beautiful, but later when we passed through the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains, which I had been looking forward to, it was night so we couldn't see anything. After that, then the train turned south and made a long leg down through California, which took another day. We read some more. There may have been something to see out the window, but we were too tired and disgusted by this time to even bother trying to look.

We had been scheduled to arrive in San Francisco at about five in the afternoon. There was no more food on the train, which was actually a good thing. We finally arrived at 2:00 AM, and there was some kind of delay with the luggage, so it was almost 3:30 AM when we got to our hotel, checked in, and we were able to get a few hours of sleep before the first paper, one of mine, which had to be presented at 8:30 that morning. My wife was lucky. Her paper was a couple of days later, and she was well rested by that time.

We had read eight books between us and seen the grandeur of America.

... we were going to travel across our great country by train, and we were too caught up in our own adventurous excitement to take note of the skepticism that rolled like ocean swells across their faces.

The train was delayed leaving Chicago, and we sat in our compartment reading and occasionally saying things like "Hm, hm, Jim Wang! Imagine!"

After an hour or so we started rolling out of Chicago, and we watched the passing scene: warehouses, poor neighborhoods, old factories, some of them abandoned. Trains don't go through the nice parts of town. An apartment next to the train tracks is a place to live if you can't afford anything better. We soon found out that whenever we came to any good-sized towns, we could count on a good look at the ugliest part of it.

Out in the countryside, however, it is a different story. At many times during our trip we could look out our window and see nothing but corn in every direction available to us. Sometimes it was wheat, but mostly corn. Because there is so much of it, the train traveler is able to really savor the experience of looking at a cornfield. Occasionally, some small scene breaks up the beauty of the field – a car waiting to cross the train tracks perhaps, and it would be interesting to look at it, see if it's a man or woman driving, or try to figure out the model of the car, some little amusement like that, but usually the scene flashes by too quickly. Your head swivels to follow it, but the enjoyment is over in a moment, and you're back to the corn. We read more.

In a later part of the trip we were pleased to see the corn give way to salt flats. These are very much like cornfields in their size and overall interest, but they are white and they do not move in the wind.

We had been doing the corn for a good long while and had eaten several meals, waxing nostalgic about mystery meat, jello pudding, and other memories of high school

see it. You would need to wait for favorable conditions before proceeding. But a train is such a big, heavy, metallic thing it ought to be impervious to the vagaries of weather, but apparently not. We read some more.

We wandered up and down the train, which was easy to do when it wasn't moving, smiling at people. We had been seated with some of them in the high school cafeteria, and they smiled back. I should add here that we didn't actually meet any interesting people on the train. Some of them were afraid of flying; others were trying not to spend too much money. Most were traveling shorter distances than we were. We didn't see the Belgian couple again. We didn't meet anyone else who was doing it for the fun of it.

After exploring the train several times, we went back to our compartment and read some more from our books. I think we did the crossword puzzles at this time too. It was easier to fill in the squares when the train wasn't moving. After a while, maybe an hour or more, the winds were favorable and the train started again.

That evening, there was going to be a big event. A movie would be shown in the lounge car. My wife and I like movies and go often, so we were looking forward to seeing this one, even though it was one we had seen before. We got there early to make sure we had a good seat. There were larger windows than in our compartment and while it was still light, we could enjoy the passing corn. Show time came and went, but there was no movie. After a while we flagged down a passing train employee who told us that someone had forgotten the movie – it was still in Chicago.

About 15 minutes before we were due to arrive in the next town,

ing that time, something you can't usually study in a place like Philadelphia for all its museums, theaters, concerts by a world-famous orchestra, or its many fine restaurants and quality movie houses, or its high-class shopping, its history of involvement in the birth of America, or its extensive waterfront where something is always going on, or its many universities, institutes, and colleges. Nope. In Philadelphia there's just nothing about earth compaction. We could have used a brochure, though. We had to guess sometimes about just what kind of job a certain machine could do. A brochure definitely would have helped.

After about an hour and a half, some of us were beginning to contemplate mutiny, if that's the right word for when the passengers on a train charge into the locomotive and take control, but we restrained ourselves. We again flagged down a passing employee and asked what was going on. What had happened is that, because of the earlier delays, when we were wait-

stop. It didn't matter that for more than an hour they were not doing anything. A new crew had to be driven by car out to the train. This explanation sounded unreasonable to us. We had no problem believing the part about the Federal regulations and the absolute impossibility of extending it by 15 minutes to accommodate the comfort of several hundred passengers. Sure. That sounded like the government work rules and the unions we knew. What was hard to figure was the fact that we were only 15 minutes from the station by train, yet it took two hours to get the crew to us by taxi. It just didn't add up. We had the impression that no one could possibly have anticipated this star-crossed eventuality, that the new crew was scattered all over the countryside. If the train hadn't run out of time, they would have been waiting on the platform, waiving to their colleagues as they rolled in, but because the train was off by 15 minutes, there was some kind of time warp and they had to really

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Follow the Money

AS WE SOW

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



Before there was an eight-hour day, there was Labor Day. First organized as a day to honor “the working citizens” in 1882, Labor Day quickly caught on, and was a recognized federal holiday by 1894, thirty-one years after the formal end of slavery in America. The eight-hour day, although hard won in a few union contracts, was not recognized by law until the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, over forty years later. What happened in those seventy-five years between the end of slavery and the eight-hour day were a redefinition of labor, and a re-imagining of working life.

For millennia, most people were farmers, peasants, serfs, or slaves who did what needed to be done, scheduled by the seasons. The discipline was simple: sow and reap wherever and whenever possible to maximize harvest yields. Food preservation was relatively primitive, so most food was relatively perishable, so work—creating and preserving food—simply had to happen all the time.

People worked to live, and lived as long as they could work. The relationship between employer and employee was simple. Either a person worked his own land or someone else’s. Legally or practically, labor belonged to whoever owned the land.

Time became a measure of labor when labor focused on producing goods other than food. Things that could be stored could

be produced—or not—anytime. Time is a frustrating measure of productivity. It can lead to the skewed incentive of waiting out the clock or just putting in the hours, but it is a way, however imperfect, of giving us a measure for un-measurable efforts.

The technological breakthroughs of industrialization were in harnessing energy that could replace human energy: mechanical engines to power machines that could mimic human labor. But even as we invented leisure for the masses, the revelation of scale economies suggested maximum use or round the clock production.

With a market-based economy came a labor market. Labor had always been a commodity, but now each worker could trade it for himself. Very quickly the mobile and competitive labor market tipped in the factory owner’s favor. The response was labor organizing, unions, strikes, scabs, violence, revolution in some places, and finally, legal recognition of standards for workplace conditions and behavior.

This was all an attempt to come to some new understanding of the roles of employer and employee, of bourgeoisie and proletariat, based on the hope of freedom from labor. Our solution was to frame those roles by measuring them in time, a way of establishing a unit that can be priced for trade. The working life was framed as well: retirement was manufactured and then mass produced, as were the mutual funds and investment markets that seemed to effortlessly multiply savings.

The more an economy focuses on producing ideas or services

rather than goods the harder it is to measure output, let alone effort. Our modern economy can often be relieved of the common, centralized workplace. After all, minds can work anywhere as long as they can communicate: laborers become mobile devices, practitioners of “distance working.” Networks are replacing hierarchies as organizational designs.

As hierarchies flatten and markets grow longer tails, the working relationships that we have struggled to define are melting. Hourly wages are disappearing and salaries are not far behind, as are any benefits. In their place is the billable hour of the independent contractor, the worker—but not employee—who pays the taxes, health care premiums, and retirement contributions that employers used to pay.

Ideas are perishable—only good until the next one comes along—and investments are too. Once again workers must labor continuously, scheduled not by the time clock but by the work itself, so as to maximize their yields. The freelancer must always hustle for jobs, and always turn around whatever comes in. As farmers used to say, make hay while the sun shines.

Whether working in the fields, in the factories, or in cyberspace, the discipline is still simple. Labor belongs to whoever owns the farm, the factory, or the way to create value. For a while there, about a century more or less, the idea that our inventions could relieve our toils and perhaps our souls was seductive enough to inspire struggle and sacrifice and to defy that apparent truth.

So here’s to Labor Day: one eight-hour day set aside to honor the dream of owning our own time. Enjoy the parade and the barbecue. Next morning, it’ll be back to work.

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.



Off to the races

The Kingdom puts its own spin on the television show

The Great Northeast Kingdom Great Race landed in Danville at about this time last year. On a cool September Saturday, three Danville area businesses hosted “challenges” for participants.

The NK Great Race is based on the hit TV series, “The Amazing Race” and pits teams of four against each other in a daylong event with “challenges” that are both mentally and physically demanding. This is an annual event sponsored by The Northeast Kingdom Skating Club. The 2009 NK Great Race is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19.

Last year’s race started at the Burke school with team members completing a mentally challenging sudoku puzzle. The teams were then directed to Band Stand Park in Lyndonville where teams had to recruit the help of someone passing by the park to climb into a wheelbarrow while team members raced around the park pushing. Next, teams filled gallon jugs with water from the park fountain. The catch being the jugs and the fountain were several yards apart and only a sponge could be used to transport water relay style from the fountain to the jug. Next, contestants jogged to the Lyndonville Fire Department where they put out a mock fire. From there teams built a fence at The Caledonia County Fairgrounds before driving to Danville for three more challenges.

The first stop was the Vermont Corn Maze in Danville. Some

teams with skilled maze travelers made it through in roughly 40 minutes, while others took up to three hours to complete the challenge. After the corn maze, teams were directed to InJun Joe’s Court where they hopped into paddle boats and paddled their way across Joes Pond to the public beach and back again. Then it was off to Sugar Ridge Campground where everyone’s scouting skills were put to the test as teams struggled to build a camp fire using only a handful of hay and a flint.

The 2009 NK Great Race will start at the Burke Town School in West Burke. Cash and other prizes will be given to the first, second and third place teams. Each team consists of four participants, all of which must be over 18 years of age, and in good physical health. One member of each team needs a valid driver’s license. The entry fee for each team of four members is \$100. Team registration forms are to be received by Sept. 11. Late registrations will be accepted after that date but will be subject to an additional \$50 late fee per team. No registrations will be accepted after Sept. 16. Forms can be downloaded at www.neksc.org or may be picked up at Currier’s Market in Glover and the Village Sports Shop in Lyndonville. For more information, or to request a form by mail contact Krystal Ingalls at (802) 525-4576 or Sonia Peters at (802) 328-3886.

This event is sponsored by The Northeast Kingdom Skating Club. The NKSC consists of skaters ranging in age from four to fifty and is based at The Fenton Chester Arena in Lyndonville.

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Old Fashioned Horse Power

Photographed by Jim Ashley



The Danville Fair Horse and Pony Pull set a new record of teams participating this year in several classes, thanks to active sponsors and community support.

"We had twice as many teams in the 3,300 pound class than we did last year and more teams in the Free For All Horses class than I've ever seen" said Dave Hare, the Horse and Pony Pull Chair for the Danville Chamber of Commerce. Raymond Thayer of North Haverhill NH was the announcer and Dave Welch operated his "cherry picker" to add new weight each time the teams progressed to a new level.

The Danville Fair Horse and Pony pull featured a 1,800-pound Pony Class sponsored by Gilmour Ford and a Free For All Pony Class sponsored by Crosstown Motors on Friday evening Aug. 7. Nineteen teams from as far away as Sanbornville, N.H. competed in the pony classes with trophies for first through third place and ribbons and cash prizes going through 6th place. In the 1,800-pound class, the Craig Foss team from Sanbornville, N.H., won first place pulling 6,500 pounds. The Pony Free For All was won by the Phil Morse team of Arlington, Vt., pulling 9,500 pounds. Only two inches separated 1st and 2nd place in the Free For All which was won by the Gould and Royce team of Townsend, Vt.

Saturday's pull featured two classes of horses; a 3,300-pound class sponsored by Maple Hill Horse Farm and a Free For All Sponsored by Marty's First Stop. First place in the 3,300 pound class went to the Stone and Ingerson team from Jefferson, N.H., who pulled 10,500 pounds and the Daniels and Whitaker team from Irasburg, Vt., took First Place in the Free For All Class pulling 11,000.

New this year was an expanded Teamster Award given in memory of George Surridge, Jr. consisting of a special trophy and a cash prize sponsored by Littleton Chevrolet in each class over the two days. "All the teamsters put in a lot of work during the season and it's nice to see them recognized this way. This year, younger teamsters pulled and one of them, Dustin Thayer of Piermont, N.H., won the award in the 3,300-pound class.

"I'm sure this is a trophy that he will treasure for many years" Hare said. "A lot of people work hard to make the Danville Fair Horse and Pony Pull happens each year and to see so many teams participate is a real tribute to each of them and our sponsors." For more photos please go to www.northstarmonthly.com.

»Results:

Pony Pull 1,800 lb Class

- 1st Craig Foss
Sanbornville, NH
- 2nd Dupony & Sons
Lancaster, NH
- 3rd Gould & Royce
Townsend, VT
- 4th John Lahaye
Etna, NH

Pony Pull Free for all

- 1st Phil Morse
Arlington, VT
- 2nd Gould & Royce
Townsend, VT
- 3rd Craig Foss
Sanbornville, NH
- 4th Gould & Royce
Townsend, VT

Horse Pull 3,300 lb Class

- 1st Stone & Ingerson
Jeffersonville, NH
- 2nd Wade & Savage
Erroll, NH
- 3rd Johnson & Perkins
Putney, VT
- 4th Johnson & Perkins
Putney, VT

Horse Pull Free for all

- 1st Daniels & Whitaker
Irasburg, VT
- 2nd Jeff Simpson
Barton, VT
- 3rd Art Connolly
Brownington, VT
- 4th Johnson & Perkins
Putney, VT

»Thank You:

»A Special Thanks to Dave Hare, who coordinated the horse and pony pull on behalf of the Danville Chamber of Commerce.



Berries and wildflowers

Walden Hill Journal with Jeff & Ellen Gold

Sept. 2, 2008

More clear weather to welcome in September. Our thermometer showed a high of 83° today but low humidity kept the day comfortable. I dug more potatoes today. The white Onaways have matured before the red variety. It's a good yield so far with some large spuds. Without deer eating the plants or beetles devouring the leaves, we have a very

acceptable harvest. Lots of rain seemed to encourage this year's crop as well. We did a third and probably final basil harvest for pesto. There's still one small container left from '07 and plenty from '08 to enjoy throughout the winter. Fresh pesto is a tasty treat but we'll enjoy the frozen servings too. The sun took temporary shelter behind the clouds before setting. I took advantage of the

coolness of early evening to mow a bit of the yard. Mosquitoes weren't as much of a problem as long as I kept on the move.

Sept. 10, 2008

Yesterday was a total washout with residual hurricane winds and rain gushing through. Remaining clouds are trying to make way for the morning sun. It's a chilly 48° with temperatures predicted to

drop into the 30's and even high 20's. Our first frost warning of the season is in effect for tonight. I'll bring the potted plants in for sure and see what in the garden might need harvesting. I'll probably throw a sheet over the dahlias as well.

Sept. 11, 2008

Perfect weather for a day out at the Tunbridge Worlds Fair.

Fortified with a blueberry pancake breakfast at the Danville Inn, we headed down the Peacham Road in the rising mist. A lone loon was floating on Ewell Pond, soaking in the morning sun. We headed west in Groton, hooked up with 110 south through Chelsea and finally to Tunbridge. Our friends from Great Britain were in search of giant pumpkins and were not disappointed in the

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Heated and Cooled Front Seats	✓		
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Genuine Wood Trim including Steering Wheel	✓	\$330	\$645
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SYNC [®]	✓	—	—
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displays at the Fair. I was delighted by the fanciful animals and people created out of various gourds and vegetables by children of all ages. A display of contra dancing put on by 70 and 80 year olds in full top hat, tails and old time long dresses and bonnets was surprisingly lively. One man even wore his oxygen tank while dancing. It was good advertisement on how to keep fit late in life. We continued our tour on to Strafford, Thetford, Lake Fairlee and finally Bradford for dinner at the Perfect Pear.

Sept. 19, 2008

We picked a perfect 3-day window for a Maine mini-vacation on the coast. Our home base was Ogunquit: "beautiful gem by the sea". We arrived there after a scenic drive across the Kancamagus highway, enjoying the early color, broad vistas and intimate waterfalls. In Ogunquit we walked the Marginal Way along the coast; one-way in the late afternoon with the tide receding and the return walk the next morning with a boisterous rising tide. We enjoyed strolling along Perkins' Cove and visiting the Ogunquit Museum of American Art, beautifully positioned on a rocky ledge above the ocean. Our big discovery there was a magnificent Maine watercolorist, Robert Eric Moore. Side trips from our home base brought us south along scenic Shore Road to Cape Nedick and its famous Nubble Lighthouse. Heading north, we visited the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge for a self-guided walk along the salt marsh. From there we headed to the Gray Gull for a delicious and memorable seafood meal overlooking the cove. Seals came in with the outgoing tide to find a single exposed rock for the night. A beautifully silhouetted great blue heron, waited by the receding waves for his dinner to arrive. We returned home via Lake Winnepisaukee and a stop at The Basin in Franconia Notch. It was a very full 3 days with varied natural areas to explore and enjoy.

Sept. 20, 2008

We definitely had a frost while we were away. Thursday night, Sept. 18th was evidently the guilty date. Basil and husk cherries got zapped and some of the dahlias succumbed as well. There wasn't much zucchini left anyway. I had picked some before we left and made zucchini drop cookies, half of which remain in the freezer. Fortunately we had brought in the pots of tuberous begonias and geraniums just in case. We can start thinking about bringing in the wood while the weather holds. It feels like it's time to blacken the stove and be ready for that first slow burn.

Sept. 23, 2008

Fall officially arrived at 11:44 A.M. yesterday. Vivid color gradually spreading through the valley and cooler temperatures concur with the calendar. Frost again this morning is winding down the gardens while bright

sunshine has helped warm the days. It was absolutely perfectly clear for a Riverglen outing through the Dixville Notch with a stop at the Balsams clubhouse for a wide vista of the mountains and valley below. Color is quite a bit further along up north and made for spectacular views. Coming back along the wide Androscoggin River beautifully completed a long but wonderful Fall outing. It's a bit of a trek especially from Vermont, but well worth further exploration in the future.

Sept. 25, 2008

More sunshine but very hazy today. Rains are predicted to move in tonight and stay for the whole weekend. We took advantage of clear weather and dry wood to bring our generous 1 1/2 cords into the garage. We have a good supply left yet from last year to burn first. I took a quick walk through the woods yesterday. The beaver pond is slowly beginning to fill and it looks like fresh sprouting twigs capping the lodge. I'm not sure if that's new cuttings or just leftovers from before the dam broke. The logging road is clear now all the way down to Kittedge Road. What was a meandering stream is now a gouged out, debris strewn ravine ending in a large delta by the road. I still haven't ventured up to the old beaver dam above the active one that gave way but I suspect I'll find that dam breached as well.

Sept. 29, 2008

We finally learned the answer to "why did the chicken cross the road?". Our neighbor's free-range hens came a-calling and nipped off all of my beautiful tuberous begonia flowers. I think they were looking for insects and were just too forceful for those delicate blossoms. The remaining dahlias fortunately fared somewhat better. So the answer is: "to graze or free-range on gardens on the other side"! Or maybe they were visiting April the cat, who sat majestically and ineffectively on guard in the window.

Sept. 30, 2008

A very wet ending to the month that saw an extended period of sunshine and frost before the rains set in. Color is peaking in Danville, being hurried along by colder weather then reined in (or should I say "rained in") a bit by warmer moister days. Mark Breen attributes the vivid reds we're seeing to the early sunny spell but the progression of color is marked by the diminishing hours of daylight. The sun is down by 6:00 and dark sets in by 7:00. Today's reluctant sun made a brief appearance around 4:30 so we took a quick stroll up Gore Road for the gorgeous panoramic color in the hills. The valley remained hazy in the humid air but the vibrant trees glowed in the setting sun. A soft pink light spread gently across the east as the sun dropped below the hills.

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Fall marks the oven's return



No Small Potatoes *with Vanna Guldenschub*

The Northeast Kingdom's beautiful autumn season begins in a couple of weeks and along with it comes crisper air, cooler temperatures and fall fruits. We can start to think about using our ovens again to bake goodies from the bounty surrounding us. Look around – local apples abound and concord grapes (my favorite) start presenting themselves at the supermarkets. And, there are those green tomatoes on the vine waiting for you to deal with them. Let's make dessert!

The following recipes are custom made for the fall season and utilize foods you can only get this time of year – so take advantage of September to make a different sweet treat.

Concord Grape Pie

I only make this pie once a year when fresh Concord grapes are in season. I know that these grapes are not usually grown locally, but the supermarkets have them for about a month at this time of year

and you will love this different pie. It is an amazing color – you have never really seen purple until you make this pie. A true autumn treat and worth the effort of preparing the grapes.

[see recipe]

Wash the grapes and separate the skins from the pulp by popping the center of the grape out into one bowl and putting the skins into another bowl. Over low heat cook the grape pulp (that contains the seeds) for about 10 minutes. Press this pulp through a strainer to remove the seeds. Add the strained pulp to the skins. Combine sugar, salt, cinnamon and tapioca and add to the grape mix. Let stand while you roll out the crust and line a 9 inch pan with the bottom crust. Fill with the grape mixture. This pie looks a little skimpy when you add the grape mix but it is very rich and does not need to be filled to overflowing. Put the top crust on and crimp the edges. Slash a few holes on top.

Aside -If I have extra pie crust I like to make a stem of grapes for

the top of the pie. Cut small circles and overlap them on the top of the pie in the shape of a stem of grapes. Cut out a little stem for the top and a long thin piece of crust to turn into a curled tendril like grapes in the wild.

Brush with egg wash, sprinkle with a little sugar and bake in a preheated 400 degree oven for 40 minutes or until the crust is golden.

Serve with vanilla ice cream on the side.

Green Tomato Pie

It looks like September may yield a large number of green tomatoes – at least in my garden that is the case. Here is a different way to use them.

[see recipe]

Mix the sugar, tapioca, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt and lemon zest in a bowl and set aside. Line a 9 inch pie plate with the bottom crust. Sprinkle a little of the sugar mix in the bottom and layer tomato slices on top. Overlap the

»Green Tomato Pie

- Pie crust for a 2 crust pie
- 6 thinly sliced green tomatoes (you may need extra to fill the pie)
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons quick cooking tapioca
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Pinch of nutmeg
- Pinch of salt
- Zest of one lemon
- Juice of one lemon
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup raisins or dried cranberries (optional)
- 1 slightly beaten egg white and extra sugar for the glaze

»Concord Grape Pie

- 4 cups stemmed real Concord grapes
- 3 tablespoons tapioca (the small cooking tapioca)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
- pastry for a two crust pie

»Apple Cake

- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- pinch clove
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts
- 3 1/2 cups chunky pieces of apple
- 1/4 cup apple brandy or regular brandy

tomatoes so there is a good layer. Put some of the cranberries and raisins over each tomato layer if you are using them. Sprinkle more of the sugar mix on top and keep layering like this until the pie crust is full. Pour the lemon juice over all and dot with the butter. Put the top crust on and press the crust edges together. Slash a couple of holes in the top with a knife and brush the top with the egg white and sprinkle with sugar. Bake in a hot oven - 400 degrees – for about 30 minutes and then turn the oven to 350 degrees and bake for an-

other 20 to 30 minutes or until golden brown and bubbling.

Apple Cake

An old fashioned recipe that smells great while it's baking and tastes even better. This cake ages well and is full of chunky apples enhanced with a decadent glaze.

[see recipe]

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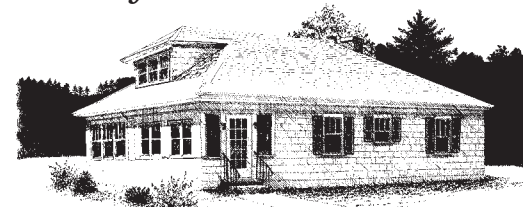
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>> Page 22

Beat the sugar and vegetable oil together (an electric mixer is recommended) until it is thick mass. Add the eggs one at a time beating well after each one.

Sift or whisk together the flour, cinnamon, cloves, baking soda and salt. Add to oil and egg mix and combine well. You can do this in the electric mixer – just don't over beat it.

Add the brandy if you need a little liquid in the mix.

Stir in the apples and walnuts. Pour the batter into a bundt pan that has been greased and floured.

Bake in a preheated 325 degree oven for about 1 hour and 15 minutes. This is a cake that takes a long time to cook and is a little unpredictable because some apples vary in moisture. Check it with a toothpick. When it comes out clean it can be taken out. I have had this cake take almost 1 1/2 hours to cook.

While the cake is still in the bundt pan pour about 1/4 of the glaze on the bottom of the cake. Let set for a few minutes and then unmold onto a platter and pour the rest of the glaze over the cake.

Glaze:

- While the cake is cooking make the glaze
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup cider

The most important piece of advice I can give on cooking with apples is to know your apple and make sure it is flavorful. A nice local apple either picked or purchased will outshine many of the supermarket apples that are good to eat raw, but don't have the flavor to withstand the cooking stage. So go pick some yourself or buy from a local orchard.★



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Up on the Farm Early

UPHOLSTRY BY LORNA QUIMBY

Dick and I recently repaired the chair I sat in after my hip replacement. I'd grasp the arms to help me stand on my feet so I could use my walker. The arms were finished wood and were glued to a support that was screwed to the seat. With a hardwood frame, the chair was well made—at least better made than most chairs you buy now—and the wooden parts were pegged. Over the years the glue had dried so the arms lifted off the peg. To make a long story short, last winter we noticed the chair was wobbly. We didn't want it to collapse under anyone's weight, and even I was cautious when I sat in it.

The chair was one of a pair I'd reupholstered. I took tacks out of the fabric in the sections we needed to work on. Dick put glue on the pegs and clamped the arm pieces together. He replaced loose nails with screws, then I tacked the fabric back in place and the chair was ready for use.

While I worked away, hammering in tacks and stitching fabric down, dealing with bifocals and an

artificial hip, I thought back to the time I learned to do this chore.

Back then, after spending my days with Kathy, our little girl, I was ready for an evening with adults. Dick stayed home while I joined a class in upholstery put on by the Home Dem group. Ethel Case, who did her own upholstery, had arranged for the class. We met upstairs over the library building, which later burned. I still have the booklet ("Sears easy Plan for Reupholstering at home"—note that "easy") put out by Sears Roebuck and Company.

In the crowded room, we stripped the old upholstery from our chairs. What a dusty depressing mess that step revealed! We stretched webbing, sewed on and tied springs, banged fingers already sore from handling rough twine. Slowly our work took shape. The results varied widely, but most of us took home something we could sit on until we could afford something better. I think the one clear lesson we learned was that upholsterers earn every dollar they charge.

While our girls lived at home, I did upholstery for others as well as making slip covers and doing dress-making. I liked doing upholstery better than making slip covers. In upholstery, when you get your fabric in place, you tack it down and it stays there. With slip covers, you

fit your fabric, take off the pinned-together pieces, sew them together and hope the finished product fits.

Louis Lamoureux had the most interesting and challenging chair I ever redid. It was an antique tufted rocker he'd bought. It was in several pieces that I had to put in their proper places. I worked out what went where, glued the frame together, put in the springs and so on and finally tacked on the outer cover and inserted the buttons that did the "tufting". When I delivered the final product, with its tufted back, wings and comfortable seat, Louis was delighted. I felt it was worth all the mess I'd made on our breezeway while working on his chair.

By that time I no longer went to Sears and Roebuck for advice. There was an upholsterer in St. Johnsbury on Caledonia Street. To

visit his shop and watch him and his workers was an education in itself. Like my grandfather, he'd come down from Canada. He had stories about his training in a company that made furniture, where he'd learned his craft from the ground up. Any problem I faced, he had solved years before and knew the best solution. He was generous in his advice to one whom some would have thought a competitor and not given the time of day.

Home Dem groups went the way of many other self-improvement programs. Women no longer have time or interest in such mundane subjects as upholstery or sewing. Most work for money outside the home. They use some of their wages for baby-sitters and go out with their husbands, instead of leaving him with the babies while they indulge in upholstery lessons.

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Boys High School Soccer

September			
3	Thursday	Danville @ Rivendell	4:30
10	Thursday	Cabot @ Danville	4:30
16	Wednesday	Danville @ Twinfield	4:30
18	Friday	Danville @ Richford	4:30
22	Tuesday	Lake Region @ Danville	4:30
26	Saturday	Danville @ Hazen	2:00
26	Saturday	Danville @ Winooski	4:30
30	Wednesday	Oxbow @ Danville	4:30
October			
2	Friday	BFA Fairfax @ Danville	4:00
6	Tuesday	Danville @ Enosburg	4:00
8	Thursday	Winooski @ Danville	B/G 4:00
14	Wednesday	Hazen @ Danville	4:00
16	Friday	Danville @ Oxbow	4:00
20	Tuesday	Richford @ Danville	4:00

Girls High School Soccer

September			
3	Thursday	Danville @ Rivendell	4:30
5	Saturday	Twinfield @ Danville	11:00
11	Friday	Oxbow @ Danville	4:30
15	Tuesday	Hazen @ Danville	4:30
19	Saturday	Danville @ Lake Region	11:00
23	Wednesday	BFA Fairfax @ Danville	4:30
26	Saturday	Danville @ Winooski	12:30
29	Tuesday	Richford @ Danville	4:30
October			
7	Wednesday	Danville @ Oxbow	4:00
9	Friday	Danville @ Hazen	4:00
13	Friday	Danville @ Lake Region	4:00
15	Thursday	Danville @ BFA Fairfax	4:00
21	Thursday	Winooski @ Danville	4:00
23	Thursday	Danville @ Richford	4:00

Boys & Girls Middle School Soccer

September			
12	Friday	Barnet @ Danville	4:30 Coed
15	Tuesday	Oxbow @ Danville	4:00 G/B
17	Wednesday	Danville @ Craftsbury	4:30 G/B
22	Monday	Danville @ Hazen	4:30 G/B
26	Monday	Twinfield @ Danville	4:30 G/B
29	Monday	Danville @ Concord	4:30 Coed
October			
2	Thursday	Danville @ Twinfield	4:30 G/B
6	Monday	Craftsbury @ Danville	4:30 Coed
9	Thursday	Concord @ Danville	4:30 Coed
15	Wednesday	Danville @ Barnet	4:30 Coed
20	Monday	Hazen @ Danville	4:00 G/B

High & Middle School Field Hockey

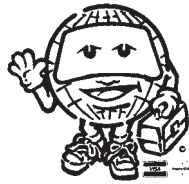
September			
9	Tuesday	Danville @ Stowe	4:00 (M.S.)
24	Wednesday	Danville @ STJA	4:00 (JV)October
6	Monday	Danville @ Stowe	4:00 (M.S.)
13	Monday	Danville @ LI	4:00 (Varsity)

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<<September Films>>

- »500 Days of Summer/O'Horten (9/4 - 9/10)
- »Away We Go/12 (9/11 through - 9/17)
- »Hurt Locker/Seraphine (9/18 - 9/24)
- »Paper HEart/TBA (9/25 - 10/1)

<<Live Performances>>

- »SAT.5: Cabaret Music Series - Stephen Herreid, 8 p.m.
- »SAT.12: Singer/Songwriter Showcase, 8 p.m.
- »SUN.13: Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, 4 p.m.
- »SAT.26: Belly Dance Circus - Cabaret, 8 p.m.
- »SUN.27: Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, 4 p.m.
- »TUES.29: Martha Graham Dance Company, 7 p.m.

<<Special Events>>

- »FRI.11: Artists' Reception, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- »SUN.20: Lecture: Bob Joli, Book Binding 3 p.m.

<<In the Gallery>>

- »The Art of Vermont / A touring art retrospective

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Market Musings

Festive fall markets *by Jane Woodhouse*

Writing in August, as weather turns hot for the next five days, I am reminded that fall really is not so far away. There is a tree on the Bayley Hazen Road, heading north out of Peacham that is showing its colors. It is an assertive reminder that cooler weather is soon to come. Summer lasted one week this year.

Changes at the farmers market follow a tradition of seasons and offer new discoveries or a change of focus moving into the fall season. There is an urgency and directness in shoppers as they come to savor the last month or so of market. Produce stands are full of fall crops. But fall is when another vendor shines. It seems to be the season that celebrates the artisans in our community. Fall travelers stop to find local fare to take home. Local shoppers come to find a treasure before the markets end in October. Many area events celebrate traditional crafts. But the market celebrates local handwork every week.

Julianne Mackey is a talented rug hooker ready to share her work and her knowledge with market customers. She

displays her own designs to sell finished or as kits. Her wool is often hand-dyed and reflects a depth of color that is interesting and original. Additionally, Julianne, with her sister Martha, brings baked goods and preserves. Diane Donovan has been a regular at markets in the area for many years where she brings paintings and hand painted and dyed scarves inspired by color and pattern.

Jean Elizabeth brings wonderful hand-made soap and herbal personal care products to the St. Johnsbury market. She has been crafting her products for over 15 years. Customers provide great testimonials to the success of her skin care products in dealing with a variety of problems. Jean Elizabeth is very generous in her advice to customers and is quick to point to a product. She seems to readily enjoy the challenge of a new skin issue and will work on products to answer the demand. Three Sisters Soap, bring their soap and herbal care products and teas to the Danville Farmers' Market. Alycia, Rosalyn and Heather Moore are 3 young women who have created a niche when summer jobs are hard to come by. Alycia and Rosalyn have been featured musicians at the market as well, providing traditional fiddle

tunes to shop by.

On Sept. 26, the St. Johnsbury Farmers Market will host a Family and Fiber Arts Day at the market as a prelude to the annual Foliage Day celebration on Sunday, Sept. 27. Funding for this special event is provided by a grant from NOFA-VT. Several special attractions are planned for the market. In celebration of local fiber we will have some animals on hand that are prized for their warm and lustrous fleeces and yarns. Brigid's Farm in Peacham raises goats, specializing in natural colored angoras, who produce soft mohair fiber. Visitors to the market will see white, pale gray and black angora kids. Tannery Farm Cashmires in Danville is home to cashmere goats that produce fiber in several natural colors. It is one of the finest of fine in terms of animal grown fibers. Boreas Farm in Newark will have cashmere spinning fibers and yarns at the market to sell.

Too Little Farm, a staple of produce at the market, raises a flock of sheep in West Barnet. Always available at the market are colorful worsted weight yarns, handknit hats and sheep skins. Visitors will find additional vendors with handspinning fibers, yarns and finished products at the Family


and Fiber Arts Day market.

Leo Rogers, a weekly vendor in St. Johnsbury, will provide musical entertainment. Leo carves beautiful kitchen tools, flutes, and ocarinas. His hands are never idle at the market as he works on a new tool or plays music. Early on Saturday mornings, Celtic tunes can be heard in his area of the market. He will share his music and his wooden instruments with us on September 26.

Miriam Briggs from Wool Away will be at the market for some knitting instruction and support. Brigid's Farm will bring spinning wheels to demonstrate and give some short lessons. Bring a chair and learn something new. Or bring a knitting project or spinning wheel to join us for a morning of spinning and knitting. Dana Karuza-Tulp will have children's activities, including needle felting. Children may also join us for some knitting and spinning activity.


As the weather cools our hands look for those projects that keep us warm. We focus on work that prepares for the coming winter and satisfies our sense of touch and sight in a way that food satisfies our sense of taste.

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Dr. Stephen Feltus
Dr. Rebecca Hogan
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Wild turkeys & blueberries

BY VAN PARKER

One day in early August, I strolled out to the blueberry bushes in back of our house and discovered that all the ripe and even semi-ripe blueberries were gone. It was puzzling.

Sometimes robins are the culprits, but this year we hadn't seen a single robin hopping around the lawn. A few minutes later it all became clear. Looking out the back door I noticed a number of unusually large birds gathered around the bushes. They turned out to be mostly half grown turkeys with perhaps one or two of their elders.

This called for some kind of adjustment to save the remaining berries. It came in the form of some old Gardener's Supply netting. Last year we had hardly used it at all.

This year it has proved to save the day or rather the remaining blueberries.

This minor incident reminded me of how just plain living calls for adjusting. It's an adjustment to move to a new place and to leave an old, familiar one. When the last of your offspring goes off to college it calls for some adjusting. What will it be like with only the two of you or the one of you? Marriage is an adjustment, divorce a bigger one. For an elderly person, giving up their license calls for some major adjusting. I can't imagine what it would be like to live without my wife of over 50 years.

Realistically, though, I know that, barring some accident that takes us both, one of us will go before the other.

Watching other people adjust can be instructive. I'm thinking especially of my old college friend, Bill.

A physicist, Bill has lived with a severe form of macular degeneration for many years. He is now considered to be legally blind. For several years his wife, Grace, had to do all the driving.

Later their "daughter of choice" took over. More than a year ago, Grace suffered a major stroke. Her mind is as sharp as ever but she is paralyzed on one side. She now lives in a facility in the same California city, which they have called home for most of their married life.

Bill hasn't missed a day going to see Grace.

He also manages to walk to a nearby shopping area to get groceries and other needed items. He must be a familiar figure in the neighborhood. A person whose interests are wide ranging, Bill tells me he has memorized almost thirty of Robert Frost's poems. He could surely give an hour and a half program reciting them all.

Bill, who has always been a convivial man, called a few days ago. Among other things he told us that he had cut down on his drinking. He testified to feeling much better. He sounded younger and it was obvious that his sense of humor has never deserted him.

Just before the Danville Fair one of Bill's son, Malcolm and Malcolm's family spent a few days at their property on Ewell Pond. Malcolm, who now lives in Geneva, Switzerland, had organized a party in July to honor his dad's 79th birthday. People gathered out there in Santa Rosa. They were colleagues from work, friends Bill and Grace had made during their time together in California, others who had known Bill from earlier times.

Bill's friends were in part celebrating a milestone in the life of an accomplished friend. Bill has a doctorate in physics and can explain Einstein's Theory of Relativity as well as anyone I know. He can also talk about music and current affairs and a number of other subjects. Music was the catalyst that brought Bill and Grace together. Bill has given up playing the piano, but he still listens to the classics and, manages to get to concerts, whenever possible with Grace. There is much in Bill's life to celebrate.

But I suspect those who gathered in Santa Rosa were celebrating more than accomplishments. They were celebrating a friend who has adjusted creatively to whatever challenges life or circumstances have thrown at him. And he has done so, not to make a pun on his wife's name, with real grace. His friends celebrated for his sake, but equally, I suspect, for their own.

By the way, the blueberry bushes have reasserted themselves. The blueberries, though not as numerous as last years' crop, are as large and tasty as I can remember.



The picture shows the cobble beach and tracks that are now under water from where their vehicle was stuck.

Outdoor Adventures

Stuck in the rocks by Tony Smith

In Vermont, we've all been stuck in the snow, mud, ice, etc., but on a recent trip to the North-Atlantic Provinces of Canada, I witnessed a new kind of stuck. A kind of stuck that not only had expensive implications, but potential dire consequences as well.

While in New Brunswick vacationing, my fiancée and I were admiring the views of the Bay of Fundy. The Bay of Fundy is located on the south shore of New Brunswick and has the highest tides in the world. We were heading to Cape Enrage, a spot recommended by the locals, when we stopped at a "beach." This wasn't your ordinary beach. Instead of sand, the entire beach was loose, smooth, flat rock. The rocks were your perfect skipping stones about the size of a sand dollar.

It was about two hours before dark when we noticed three women yelling and screaming at one another while pushing a pristine looking four-wheel drive SUV that was stuck on the beach. They would get it unstuck only to drive on the cobble another 50 feet and get stuck again. I thought about pulling them

out with my truck, but I didn't think I would be able to get off the beach myself. The beach had a steep slope to the water, composed entirely of loose rock. It was starting to get dark and the mosquitoes were awful. This was this last thing I needed to deal with while on vacation. I told my fiancée, "we should get out of here before we get enlisted into pushing."

Just before we got into our truck, a car stopped and a jolly fellow got out and asked, "where we were going?" I told him that we were getting out of here because we wanted no part of in this. He said, "I would really appreciate your help because the tide is coming in and we need to get this vehicle out of here before it ends up under water." Being an ignorant Vermonter, the tide coming in never even occurred to me. If it had, I never would have started to leave in the first place. We were now officially enlisted.

The first order of business was to get them unstuck, which proved harder than you can imagine. When we got over to the vehicle, the tires were buried and the frame sitting on rock. Now, I have been stuck in the mud and snow several times and even had my frame off the ground

in snow, but in rock? So we started digging the vehicle out much like we would have if it were in snow. The difference in pulling rocks out from under the engine is opposed to snow was they were smoking HOT. We even got second-degree burn blisters on our arms from reaching under the vehicle bare-armed.

After an hour or so of digging, we thought we had cleared away enough rocks to start pushing. By this time, the water was only 30 feet or so away from the vehicle compared to the 100 feet or so it was an hour ago. We started the first of several attempts at pushing only to keep getting stuck in the loose rock. After several tries we gave up and had to call a tractor. The only good news for those women at that moment was their tracks where we originally started pushing were now under water. We figured the tractor had about a half an hour to get there before the water would get up to where their vehicle was now. We left before the tractor got there, but saw the three women the next day. They said the tractor pulled them out ok, but that it did cost them some money.

I figured it was better than the alternative.



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A road test to remember

One teenagers struggle to get her drivers license

BY PETER DANNENBERG

Deborah, our granddaughter, needed to take her road test. She asked her Nana to help. Bonnie drives a Dodge Neon. To make it look racy, its back is higher than its front. Deborah tried to use the Neon, but the jacked-up trunk screens the ground from view in the mirror. She was more at ease in my old Ford Escort.

They drove on rural roads and city streets. Deborah practiced until Bonnie pronounced her ready. Then Deborah scheduled her road test.

On the big day, Bonnie picked up Deborah a little early, so they could get in a warm-up before the mid-morning road test. First, they made sure Deborah had her sheaf of forms and Bonnie had the registration and proof of insurance. In Montpelier, they practiced for

30 minutes, including "Vermont turnarounds," parallel parking, starting and stopping on hills and using the parking brake. I rarely use my parking brake. It's stiff, but the Escort passed inspection a week earlier.

At DMV, the road tester was on a break. A thorough clerk checked each line of Deborah's papers. She saw that Deborah's mom hadn't signed her driving log.

Bonnie said, "I'm her grandmother; I was with her in the car when she drove. Her mother signed the DMV permission form. Can I sign the log?"

"No, we'll test her, but she can't get her license until a parent signs the log."

Because Deborah is under 18, she had to prove she passed drivers' education too. She gave the clerk the yellow sheet of paper that certified she passed the course two years earlier. The clerk wanted a wallet-sized card instead. It wasn't in the bundle of forms.

Deborah asked what was on the card. "The same information, but it's smaller."

"Can you take the sheet instead?" Deborah asked.

"No, you have to bring in the card or get another signed by your teacher." The teacher retired a year ago, but Deborah promised to track him down and ask him to sign another wallet-sized yellow card.

The tester asked Deborah to wait alone in the Escort while she tested a waiting boy. The paperwork mess made Deborah anxious; she played the radio and crossed her fingers for luck. Her spirits rose when the returning boy signaled his success with thumbs up.

In the DMV parking lot, the tester asked Deborah to apply the parking brake, put the car in reverse and step on the gas. The car moved back a few inches.

"Try again. Pull harder on the brake." Deborah tried easing off the gas, but the tester would have none of that. After three strikes, she said they could not start the test until the brake held; Deborah must reschedule.

Dejected, Deborah waited in line. There was a cancellation at 2 pm; if Deborah could make it, she

should call. Otherwise, she must wait at least two weeks. Deborah had just three hours and the garage in Cabot was thirty minutes away, one-way.

On the way, Deborah stopped at her house and found the little, yellow, wallet-sized card in a folder with other papers. Her mom was at work, so Deborah couldn't get the driving log signed.

Bonnie explained the brake dilemma to Mike, the garage owner. Mike said, "That's not good." He promised to adjust the parking brake within an hour. The garage is nearby, so Bonnie and Deborah walked home and ate lunch.

Mike called. He said the brake worked fine for him. "Come over and we'll adjust it for Deborah." After adjustments, Deborah still could not pull the lever hard enough to keep the Escort from creeping back while she pressed the gas pedal.

Back home, Deborah tried the parking brake on the Neon. It worked. Switching cars vexed Bonnie, who spent six hours detailing my Escort, after one of Deborah's friends said she lost points when an empty coffee cup rolled on her car's floor.

Deborah called DMV to reschedule her test at 2. It was 1 pm She called DMV 14 times and got 14 busy signals. They had to leave or risk missing the only open slot.

Deborah drove back to Montpelier, worried about the unfamiliar

Neon with its tail in the air, praying no one else took the 2 pm opening, afraid something else would go wrong. They arrived at 1:45; 2 pm was still available. This time, the tester would be the meticulous clerk who examined her paperwork in the morning.

Deborah restarted the test. This parking brake worked. Nervous, she turned left instead of right and had to turn around. She parallel parked between cars on crowded State Street. It was imperfect, but adequate. And she remembered to apply the parking brake.

A Vermont turnaround lost a couple of points, but was good enough. Failing to come to a full stop at a T intersection with no stop sign cost four points. At a traffic light, she waited for five cars before an oncoming truck driver waved her through—ten points off for not insisting the truck driver go first. Now a limp noodle, Deborah was thrilled to hear, "Well you made it. Bring in your mom's signature on your driving log tomorrow and you can pay for your license."

The next day, Deborah went back with her signed log. The clerk needed more information from the testing office, but they were at lunch. Deborah waited 20 minutes, paid for her two-year license and drove home, triumphant.

In a perfect world, the story would end here, but in bureaucracies, no one lives happily ever after. The first letter from the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles came a week later. It said DMV made a mistake on the expiration date of the driver's license. The letter held a new one-year license. It warned her to return her two-year license in the enclosed envelope or DMV would suspend her "privilege (sic) to operate."

Deborah mailed it back. The second letter came a week later. It said, "In reviewing your driving record, we find that you are not under suspensions, therefore we are returning your license, as we are not sure why it was returned to this office." The two-year license went back again, this time with a copy of the first letter.

Another week passed before the third letter arrived. It said, "A review of your registration/license has revealed an error in fees and/or documentation. In order to maintain a valid registration/license on file, the required items must be returned with this letter within thirty days. FEES - Incorrect fees were received. Please submit the amount as specified below: Please submit a check in the amount of \$2.00."

"BEFORE YOU RESUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION - Please follow the directions below: Failure to do so will result in a suspension of your license. Please return a copy of this letter and all required documentation with your APPLICATION and FEE, IF APPLICABLE. Please DO NOT MAIL CASH."

Deborah sent in a check for two bucks. She peers in her mailbox daily for more letters from her new pen pal, the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.

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Fall 2009 Sports Schedule

Athletic Director: Tom Conte - CAA
Headmaster: Tom Lovett

Boys Soccer Varsity and Junior Varsity		Girls Soccer Varsity and Junior Varsity	
9/8 Essex (NL)	4:30	9/5 North Country (NL)	10:00
9/11 North Country (NL)	4:30/7	9/11 Spaulding (NL)	4:30
9/16 Burlington (NL)	4:30	9/15 Lyndon (NL)	4:30
9/18 Lyndon	4:30	9/18 Spaulding	4:30
9/22 Randolph	4:30	9/23 Thetford	4:30
9/24 U-32	4:30	9/25 U-32	4:00
9/26 South Burlington (NL)	11:00	9/29 Northfield	4:30
9/30 Northfield	4:30	10/2 Peoples	4:00
10/3 Stowe	10:00	10/7 Harwood	4:00
10/6 Peoples	4:00	10/9 North Country	4:00/7
10/8 Harwood	4:00	10/13 Lyndon	4:00
10/14 Spaulding	4:00	10/15 Montpelier	4:00
10/16 Montpelier	4:00	10/21 Stowe	4:00
10/20 Thetford	4:00	10/23 Randolph	4:00

Coaches: Richard McCarthy JV - Adam Kennedy Coaches: Tracy Verge, Frank Leafe JV - Greg Roberts

Cross Country		Football Varsity	
9/2 NF, Ran, LR, OX, LI, Dan	4:00	9/5 Mt. Saint Joseph	1:00
9/5 Harwood Inv.	10:00	9/12 Rutland	1:00
9/8 Lamolive	4:00	9/19 Spaulding	1:00
9/12 Essex Invite	9:30	9/25 South Burlington	7:00
9/16 Lyndon	4:00	10/3 Hartford	1:00
9/19 BHS Invite	9:30	10/9 BFA	7:00
9/22 Harwood	4:00	10/16 Essex	7:00
9/26 U-32 Invite @ Manchester	11:00	10/24 Burlington	1:00
9/30 NF,Ran,Haz,Stowe,Thet,Dan	3:30	10/31 Lyndon	1:00
10/3 Thetford Inv.	10:00		
10/6 U-32	4:00		
10/10 Peoples Inv.	10:00		
10/14 North Country	4:00		
10/19 Relays @ Lake Region	4:00		
10/24 NVAC Champ. @ U-32	11:00		
10/31 State Champs @ Thetford	10:00		

Coaches: Shawn Murphy, Craig Racenet & Hank Van Orman

Girls Field Hockey Varsity and Junior Varsity		Junior Varsity	
9/3 North Country (NL)	4:00	9/8 BFA	4:00
TBA Bellows Falls (NL)		9/14 Lyndon	4:00
9/9 Lyndon (NL)	4:00	9/22 Spaulding	4:00
9/15 U-32	4:00	9/28 North Country	6:00
9/17 Lyndon	4:00	10/5 Hartford	4:00
9/19 Hartford	11:00	10/12 U-32	4:00
9/23 North Country	4:00	10/19 Lyndon	4:00
9/26 Stowe	2:00	10/26 North Country	4:00
9/29 Spaulding	4:00		
10/1 Montpelier	4:00		
10/3 Milton	10:00		
10/7 Missisquoi	4:00		
10/13 Harwood	4:00		
10/15 Rice	4:00		

Coaches: Mike Bugbee, Frank Trebilcock

Froshman	
9/9 Spaulding	4:00
9/16 Rice	4:00
9/23 Bellows Falls	4:00
9/30 Lyndon	4:00
10/7 Spaulding	4:00
10/14 Lyndon	4:00
10/21 Essex	4:00
10/28 North Country	6:00

Coaches: James Bentley & Joe Tomaselli

Coach: Fran Cone, JV - Paula Bystrzycki

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Connecting with healing in the old world

By BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

The path that we, Peter and Bets, took on the way to a broader understanding of healing is a story too long and involved to recount fully in this space. But there is one set of circumstances we like to remember because it was so important in the early formation of our ideas about healing, as opposed to "treating" people with well-defined sicknesses.

In the late 1970s, we began using our vacation time to travel around the British Isles, which is where most of our ancestors came from. We were quite interested in adopting for ourselves what was then only vaguely defined as "a healthy lifestyle." Also, being from Danville, we were practitioners of dowsing, which is really about getting in touch with energies around us that can't be seen. It is of some interest how these strands came together for us.

This path we found ourselves on seemed to lead us on, one step at a time. It was like reading a good book – we couldn't wait to turn the next page! In our reading about dowsing, we read about some fascinating observations people had made in Britain. There was Albert Watkins, who wrote in the early 20th century about a curious alignment of sites in England, which led others to make observations about "earth energies."

At a dowsing convention in

Danville, we met a wonderful couple, Edward and Lydia Jastram from Massachusetts, whom we felt to be quite "tuned in" to both earth and human energies. They both served as lecturers at dowsing meetings. In a surprisingly short time, we became warm friends. On one weekend at their home, we made a sudden decision to travel together to a large international meeting at Findhorn, a New Age community in northern Scotland.

This decision changed our lives. At that meeting, more of a retreat really, lasting more than a week, we met other people who were to point us to the next steps in our process. The path led to other gatherings on subsequent trips. One was a meeting of the British Society of Dowsters, and the main speaker was Maj. Bruce MacManaway, who told of a certain experience he had had leading a company of men in World War II. He was a very compassionate person, and he found that if he held his hand over the bandaged wound of one of his men, it gave the man significant relief from his pain and distress. After he had repeated this on a number of occasions, he was forced to conclude that he had some sort of gift. He didn't understand it, but he was bound to pursue it.

Bruce left the army and after an interval bought a homestead in Scotland that he and his wife converted into a healing center, called Westbank. He developed his own way of approaching people who had health problems, using his hands for deep back massage and

"laying on of hands." His wife Tricia taught yoga and they both had weekly meditation groups. Their three sons observed all this and all wound up in health-related fields of work.

Peter and I were so impressed with Bruce's story and his demeanor that we invited him to address the American Society of Dowsters in Danville the next year. He and Tricia both came over and stayed with us, and we became fast friends. We got on so well, in fact, that they invited us to travel to Westbank the next year to work and study their techniques of healing. We readily agreed, and that's what happened. It seemed quite a departure for us, but one we were ready for.

We fit in well at Westbank, where Peter, as a medical doctor, could share in the growing number of people who came looking for new approaches to health and wholeness.

Bets found a niche for herself in several ways. She had learned a discipline called Reflexology from a friend, Barbara D'Arcy Thompson, from our time at the Findhorn community. It is a form of foot massage that connects with all parts of the body, with very beneficial results. Bets also answered many of the letters that came in, inquiring about Bruce's work and teaching program. Tricia didn't enjoy writing letters and Bets surely did. It was fun to meet later

with some of those who had written in, along with the tea and conversation that accompanied their sessions.

We found that many who came in with health problems had terrible diets. Bets worked out weekly rotations of healthy foods with heavy emphasis on fruits and veggies and suggested attractive and easy ways for them to prepare meals for their families.

Many of our new friends invited us to visit their homes. One such home was a castle that was included in the annual visit by Elizabeth of Glamis (the famous "Queen Mum"), whose name appeared in the guest book, which we also signed!

Our Scottish trips have dwindled as travel costs soar and as we become less vigorous about globe-trotting, but we still keep in touch with our friends there.

Alternative health and healing practices and better understanding of healthy diets are much more a part of life these days than they were back then. There is still plenty of room for improvement, as witnessed by widespread problems with obesity and diabetes. We are glad we were part of the change in awareness of ways in which people can enjoy longer and better lives. And we will always be grateful to the many friends on both sides of "the pond" who helped us along the way.

Corn maze one of the nation's best

The Great Vermont Corn Maze in North Danville has been selected as one of the 10 Best Cornfield Maze Attractions in America by www.Americasbestonline.net. The maze creators Mike and Dayna Boudreau were honored to have been selected.

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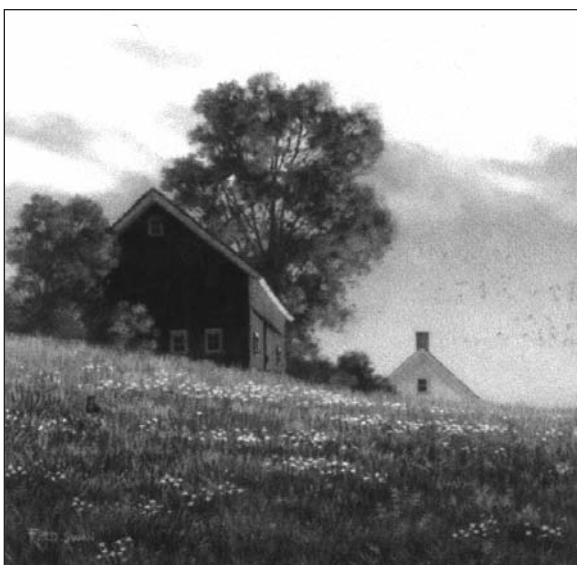
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Danville Health Center (802) 684-2275

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What's happening at town hall

Barnet

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

Aug. 10, 2009

Dogs – The Board read correspondence from Denise and Robert Stuart regarding dogs in East Barnet, specifically an incident in early morning hours of Saturday, August 8, 2009. The Stuarts reported a loud and violent attack upon the siding and latticework of their porch by at least two dogs apparently in pursuit of a skunk. The Stuarts reported that these dogs are the property of Billy Noyes of East Barnet. The report also detailed the actions of First Constable Timothy Gibbs in response to the Stuarts' call regarding this matter and expressed the Stuarts' desire for the Board to take action regarding the dangerous behavior of these dogs. Gibbs submitted a report of his response to the incident including photographs of the damage to the Stuarts' home. Gibbs noted that Noyes' dogs have not been licensed with the Town since 2006. Gibbs also gave a verbal recommendation that the Board take the steps necessary to grant the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department authority to take action regarding this matter, which the Board approved.

Broadband Project – The Board read an email from Christina Fearon, along with forwarded information from the Vermont Council on Rural Development, regarding potential stimulus grant funds available for broadband internet services within the town. Library Director Sherry Tolle expressed the Library's interest in involvement in obtaining these stimulus grant funds. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Board member Jeremy Roberts that the Board defer this grant opportunity to Andrew Mosedale as a consultant to the Board on this matter. The motion was seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

Danville

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

Aug. 6, 2009

Zoning - The Planning Commission was present to review the overall changes that were made to the Town Zoning Bylaws, with the Board. They assured the Board that the Zoning changes followed the recommendations made and approved in the town plan, notes

from the Zoning Administrator and the DRB, and from best practices from surrounding towns. The majority of the current changes were made in the Danville Village area. The existing buildings were measured for setbacks and other features and zoning changes were also made to allow any new buildings to blend in with similar features as well as similar lot sizes. The Planning Commission requested the Board to review the changes to the Bylaws, identify any questions they may have, and decide how they wish to proceed. ATV Trail - Gail Devereaux of the Wheelock Road was present with Robert Barany to question the Board about the new ATV trail that goes down the town road and by their respective properties. The Board explained that the original ordinance has been in effect that allowed ATV's on unpaved roads since the 1980's. Only recently they connected sections of three paved roads to allow the ATV's to travel all the way through the town. Their concern was before the roads were all connected, the traffic was only a few local riders. Now there are more frequent and much larger groups that travel by, making a noticeable increase in noise, and with apparently no enforced curfew. The Board will write a letter to the ATV club expressing the local residents concerns and request some

enforcement.

North Danville - Gerard Lamothe, the former Vice President of the North Danville Community Club, was present to discuss the North Danville School Building and the current situation there. The Community Club oversees the building, and problems are centered on unlocked doors, unauthorized users, and unsecured building. The Board had been in touch with Lamothe previously, and confirmed their desire that the building be secure, locked, and supervised. Lamothe expects new officers will be elected next month, and hopes it will include a representative from the Board, to replace Marion Sevigny. The Board will send a letter to the Community Club restating their concern and oversight of the building.

Sewer Line – Town Administrator Merton Leonard also presented a quote from Stantec to engineer extending the sewer line to the top of Hill Street. The proposed extension would be for approximately 900 feet and allow provisions for 12 additional connections. They quoted \$1,954 for this work and would propose to do it as an add-on to the water line replacement. As this project would require state approval, the state requires the work to be done by registered engineers. The Board approved the project.

Lyndon

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

August 3, 2009

Salt Contract for Winter – A motion was made by Martha Feltus, seconded by Kevin Calkins, to accept the contract for winter salt purchases from Cargill at \$64.18 per ton. Motion carried 2-0.

Skatepark Discussion - As discussed at several previous meetings, the Town must own the land that the park rests on prior to application for the grant. The Board would like to meet with the Village Improvement Society (VIS) to discuss acquisition of the parcel of land in question. Feltus will invite the VIS to attend the Board's Aug. 17 meeting.

2009 Tax Rates – Feltus motioned to set the 2009 tax rates as follows: General Fund: \$.3328, Highway: \$.3992 and Local Agreement \$.0038. The Homestead Education rate for 2009 is \$1.4542 and the Non-Residential Education rate is \$1.6886. Motion carried 2-0.


Stars and Stripes Review - Pauline Harris has expressed concerns about traffic being stopped during the Stars & Stripes parade. The Village Trustees and the Board



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September 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.

- Sept. 1** - Seafood salad on a roll with lettuce and tomato, New England clam chowder with oyster crackers, broccoli and carrots.
- Sept. 3** - Veggie lasagna, summer squash casserole and garlic bread.
- Sept. 8** - Shepard's pie with whole wheat rolls, broccoli, carrots and apple crisp.
- Sept. 10** - Chicken a la king, egg noodles, whole wheat rolls, carrots and cranberry sauce.
- Sept. 15** - Seafood newburg, rice pilaf, broccoli, carrots and whole wheat rolls.
- Sept. 17** - BBQ chicken, roasted veggies, pasta salad, rolla and canteloupe.
- Sept. 22** - Tuna melt, cream of broccoli soup, cole slaw and baby carrots.
- Sept. 25** - Bacon, broccoli and cheddar quiche, rice pilaf and spinach salad.
- Sept. 29** - Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, cauliflower, carrots and whole wheat rolls.



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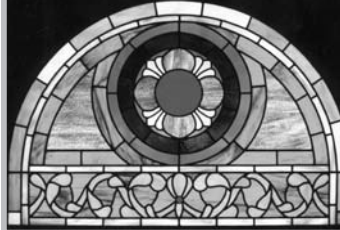
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will meet with organizers of the event to review the concerns raised.

August 17, 2009

Brown Farm Road - As discussed at the Board's Aug. 3 meeting, Dan Hill gave a summary of the project, how it came to be, funding for it, and the cost of the project. The project was approved and funded by the Better Back Roads program and was reviewed by Local Roads. Residents voiced concerns about the depth of the hole created for the culvert and the cement abutment. The Board would like to meet with the road foreman and the engineer who designed the project to discuss the safety concerns of the residents. Residents will be notified of the planned site visit.

Request for Road Race - The Board approved the request of the Good Shepherd Catholic School to hold a road race along Stevens Loop, Back Center Road, and York Street on October 31st with appropriate traffic control.

Peacham

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

July 22, 2009

Tree Board - Julie Lang, chair of the Peacham Tree Board, presented copies of the current Tree Board Charter. Clarification of the role of the Tree Board, cemetery trees and budget and grant procedures were reviewed. The bidding process for tree maintenance and the status of

the Tree Board with relation to the Town Cemetery were discussed. Signs for placement at each end of the town indicating Peacham's distinction as a Tree City USA are now available and will be reviewed by the Board.

Zoning Issues - Browne moved on advice of town council that the Board not act on the zoning enforcement of the Stedman House in Green Bay Loop since the building permit application of April 11, 2009 (#5-09) is deemed approved. The Board requested the town council contact the Stedman's attorney to finalize the matter.

Snowmobile Policy - Ross Page, representing the local snowmobile club, requested clarification and permission for the use of some Class 3 Town roads for snowmobile access to trails. The Board requested that Page compose a letter including a map of the roads and trails discussed, explaining all pertinent information for their review and present it to the Town Clerk.

Trails - Information by the Trails Committee co-chairs, Jutta Scott and Dave Edwards, was presented to the Board via. The current trails grant was discussed, specifically the work being done by the Northwoods Stewardship Center group. The committee requested approval of a small foot bridge over the outlet of Foster Pond on the legal trail running from Foster Pond to Green Bay Loop through the Gibson property. The Gibson's concerns were discussed. Subjects such as: legal trail definitions, bridge dimensions, proper trail usage and the impact on the trails grant were discussed. The Board delayed their

decision until further evidence is presented on this issue. The Trails Committee also presented a drawing of the proposed Trails Logo for the Town Trails and Pathways. The logo was designed and donated by Kate Monteith of Peacham, specifically for the Town's use. The Board approved the logo and will send a letter to Ms. Monteith thanking her for her generous creative donation.

St. Johnsbury

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

July 20, 2009

Fire - Chair Daniel Kimbell complimented all persons involved in the containment of the fire that damaged three building on Main Street on July 9. Daniel named 17 surrounding fire departments that responded to assist, including as far away as Newport, and Woodsville and Monroe, N.H. Kimbell expressed appreciation on behalf of the Town to all Firefighters, Police, Public Works personnel, and Red Cross volunteers, as well as all other volunteers who responded to the emergency.

Reappraisal - Peter Whitney reported that the booklets of new property assessments had been mailed on July 20 from Winooski so property owners should expect to receive their notice of reappraisal within two or three days. Peter also indicated that the entire list of reappraisals has been listed

on the Town web site. Peter said that after making several spot checks throughout the list, everything seems to be in line and he planned to host at least two public forums to answer questions. Kimbell clarified that an increased assessment does not necessarily mean increased taxes, and in fact the tax rate will be adjusted to reflect the new assessments and the school rate from the state is an unknown factor. Jean Wheeler asked when the tax rate had to be set. Town Clerk Sandy Grenier said the latest the tax bills could be mailed was October 20 (30 days before the property taxes would be due), and the bills usually go out 60 days before the tax due date.

Recording Fees - Grenier reported the fee for recording has increased to \$10 from \$8 effective July 1, 2009. Grenier said in the past the Board had authorized the Town Clerk to retain \$1 of the \$8 fee in reserve for records restoration. She asked that the Board authorize the retention of an additional \$1 from the new \$10 fee to be put into the reserve for records restoration, the remainder being applied to the general fund. Jim Rust suggested that the full \$2 increase should be applied to records restoration, so that the people that use the vault for recording will be paying the fee to maintain the records. The Board authorized a split of the new \$10 recording fee as \$7 - general revenue, and \$3 -

records restoration.

Correctional Facility - Town Manager Mike Welch reported that he has conferred with Dave Peebles and, since the State has put the closing of the facility on hold for the moment, Peebles indicated that if the facility is to be kept open, it would need to be operated more efficiently, which would mean probable expansion. Currently the facility constructed to hold 100 inmates is housing 150, so additional beds would probably require construction. Nothing definitive was said, but Peebles indicated he would like some feedback from the Town. It was generally agreed that the Board would be open to the suggestion, but would hold off making a commitment until they had more specific information. Member Bryon Quatrini suggested re-convening the Corrections Committee to discuss this matter. **Block Party** - Kingdom Recovery requested holding their annual Summerfest as a true block party on Summer Street, which would cordon off Summer Street from Central Street to Church Street. The event is scheduled for 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Board authorized Welch to allow the Block Party, with the stipulation that the Police Department and area neighbors are agreeable, and as long as Main Street is open to through traffic.

September 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.

Sept. 2 - Macaroni and cheese, sausage, pickled beets, stewed tomatoes, biscuit and apricots.

Sept. 4 - Buffet

Sept. 9 - Lasagna, tossed salad, italian bread and sliced pears.

Sept. 11 - Liver, onions and bacon, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, dark bread, vanilla pudding and mandarin oranges.

Sept. 16 - Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli with cheese cause, dark bread and chocolate pudding.

Sept. 18 - Baked beans with ham, cole slaw, brown bread and chocolate pudding.

Sept. 23 - Chop suey, tossed salad, green beans raisin bread and tropical fruit.

Sept. 25 - Chicken and biscuit, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, cranberry sauce and canteloupe.

Sept. 30 - Corn chowder, egg salad sandwich, fruit salad and cake and ince cream.

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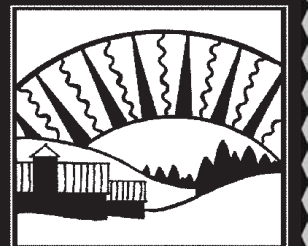
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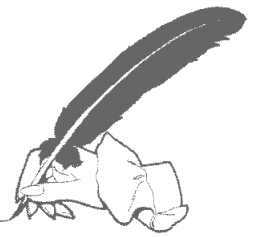


The Clark homestead was owned by four generations of Clarks. The present house was built in the 1880s and is now owned by Wendy and Bob Morgan. Photo credit: Peacham Historical Association.

Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

By Lynn A. Bonfield



Traveling to reunions with family members was especially popular in 19th century Vermont. Jesse Clark (1859-1901) proposed such a journey in his letter to his sister, Florella (born 1860), then living in Lynn, Massachusetts. He suggested that they might take a trip west to visit relatives in winter when he would be freer from farm duties.

In the letter, he described the delights of the coming autumn with blackberry picking and apples falling from trees. The change in weather also announced the start of school, and Jesse reported his father's concern about the loss of labor if his son Charlie (born 1866) attended classes. The Clarks farmed in Peacham Hollow on land originally owned by Jesse's great grandfather, Edward Clark (1759-1840), who passed it on to his son, Russell Clark (1795-1867), and then it went to Jesse's father, Ephraim W. Clark (1828-1900), who, with money earned from the California gold rush, paid off the farm mortgage and enlarged the family land holdings.

Jesse wrote of his father's continued support of temperance and religious activities. The letter ended with news of family and friends, town events, including the blowing up of the landmark rock on the road between the Corner and the Hollow, now called Peacham Village and East Peacham respectively. The selectmen had ordered the destruction of the large rock in order to use the stones for a bridge on the flat piece. Those exact stones are visible today, supporting the much used road. Jesse's opinion in 1881 that folks had no respect for landmarks resonates today. Milking called him, and Jesse closed his letter.

So. Peacham Vt.
Sept. 3rd 1881

Dear Sister

The letters arrived all right. What a nice time Grant and Aunt Lide must have had at Stonington [family reunion]. How many invitations do you suppose would have to be given if the Clark's or Merrill's [the Clark, Merrill, and Johnson families intermarried] should have such a gathering. How nice it would be if they could only meet where the first Merrill pitched his tent which would be in Haverhill Mass. The western cousins have come and gone & it seems to me as though no one could wish to find better cousins than they.

Now I'm going too put a flea in your ear don't you want too take a little trip out west this winter, it is pretty early perhaps too mention such a thing but I have been thinking of it all summer and now if you will go we will take a little journey by and by. Aunt Lib [Elizabeth Merrill Mears 1838-1908] in her letter writes as though she was expecting you here this fall. When you get ready to come home if you can let me know a few days before hand I will drive over after you if it is possible.

Aunt Sarah [Sarah Johnson Abbott 1829-1900] & Mary & Winnie were down yesterday after blackberries they got nearly 12 quarts. The weather for the past week has been hot and smoky almost too suffocation thursday it was so smoky it made ones eyes smart. Fri. it rained and yesterday was cloudy all day but no rain. Went over too the other place and cut the india wheat. The old early tree had lots of apples on it this year We have got a good share of them but I gues some others have got a divide too

You will remember the large black rock between the hollow and corner[,] well! the Selectmen are splitting it out for abatement for the bridge at the foot of the hill[.] It seems like sacrilege almost too remove it but you know it is proverbial that Yankees have no respect for old landmarks.

Grandpa and Grandma [Leonard Johnson and his second wife] were down and spent the day Wed. Wes [Jesse's brother Wesson, born 1869] went after them in the morning and pa took them home they seemed too enjoy it Grandma was as good as a kitten[.] Mr. and Mrs. [Charles] Bunker [Peacham Academy principal and his wife, Nellie, preceptress] came last night as school begins next tuesday. I hardly know whether Charlie [Jesse's brother] will go or not but will have too find out pretty soon[.] I want him to go very much but there is so much to do Pa thinks he cannot spare him but it seems too me that if he is ever going to school now is the time.

Lyme Hobarts barn was burned too the ground last monday between 10¼ and 1 oclock with 17 tons of hay lumber wagons 2 figs etc which is a severe loss too him. Wm. V. Mclachlin [1846-1905] is very sick. Pa has gone too south Walden today to hold a temperance meeting with Geo. Drew[.] Will go too South Hadley tuesday. Frank Strobridge a cousin from New Galilee Penn. has been here for a couple of weeks like him very much.

Remember now and let us know when you get ready to come home. It is time to do the milking and me sheet is full so I must close love too you with lots of kisses (for you and one for Ebbie if she wants it)

Jess
Jennie Badger has a boy baby two weeks old

The original of this letter is preserved at the Peacham Historical Association. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Brackets indicate information added by the editor.



Correction: In the August issue of the North Star Monthly, the photo accompanying Lynn Bonfield's "Letters From the Past" column was mistakenly identified as Jack Colby. The photo to the left is the correct photo of Mr. Colby from Richard Beck's "A Proud Tradition, A Bright Future: A Sequential History of St. Johnsbury Academy." Our apologies for the error.

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Farmers' Markets

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(Photo courtesy of Lynda Farrow)



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>> Page 1
do outdoors; playing army, building forts or dams, catching fish, climbing trees or cliffs. A B.B. gun was great entertainment but best of all was just plain "exploring." Alone or with friends, there was always plenty of exploring to be done and there was hardly a field, wood, stream or abandoned building within a radius of several miles I didn't know well. On a rainy day, there was still plenty to do; games to play with friends or even books to read, models to build. I don't recall ever being bored, except when in school. It wasn't until the dreadful teenage years, when girls, of all things, suddenly became objects of fascination, that school offered anything of interest at all.

Needless to say, my academic career was not stellar. It got off to a bad start and actually got worse with girls. After bumping about at several colleges, things finally came to a lurching halt with nothing better to show for those years than a draft notice. I have absolutely no regrets whatsoever, and rather enjoyed the classes in the army, which were mostly held outdoors, and led to interesting places. Besides, the military has three sizes; small medium and large, as opposed to the "one size fits all" approach of public education fifty years ago which I fear has only gotten worse since.

Thus it was that the approach of September filled me with a dread which was only heightened by the crystal clear blue skies, the cooling breeze, and the ripening of field and forest. If the weather was at all decent, I would walk to school. After crossing a few lots and avoiding the bad dogs, I would follow the tumble of a brook which ran from a broken down mill dam through a narrow cleft with mossy round boulders the size of automobiles, leaving civilization behind. Then the brook slowed and began to meander as we entered a broad

and swampy valley. There were dragonflies and damsel flies which sparkled like jewels, a dozen different colors, flirting with me as I followed a narrow path of dry ground to a brace of railroad tracks polished to a mirror finish by the passage of many trains.

Those tracks, running so straight down the valley to a point where they disappeared into the rest of the world beyond, were my favorite path. I could follow them

south, towards the village, or north, towards the school, through the great sparkling, fermenting chain of swamp and pools. I once counted over a hundred turtles from where I stood in one place, and discovered pickerels, could catch them with a line which I carried in my pocket and would attach to a handy pole. On the gentle slopes above me to the east, there were vast fields of silver rye and golden barley, with shimmering waves, like the sea,

passing through them with the breeze. To the west lay a dark forest of hemlock climbing up to stony heights. There were huge flocks of birds gathered for migration, plus ducks, pheasants, and hawks.

Then a train would come; ahead of me as a bright star at the disappearing point, or from behind, as warned by a signal change. It might be a fast passenger express or better yet a slow freight rocking towards destinations which would some day

be my own, too. If I really intended to go to school, I would then leave the tracks and climb again, first through a great forest of ancient oaks, where the acorns rained down steadily through the leaves and squirrels argued in a great symphony of harvest, to an abandoned orchard where there were always deer feasting on the dropped fruit, often drunken deer who took little notice of my approach, but sometimes I never quite made it to school at all. ★



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Pretty Peacham property

ML2790060 You'll love the wildflower gardens at this property and in walking distance to pristine Ewell's Pond! This 3BR, 2-bath Gothic Cape offers softwood floors, brick hearth w/woodstove in the family room, large living room and a bright formal dining room. There's a full basement, attached barn/2-car garage. Appliances, wooden swing set, and several cords of wood are included w/this home. Just outside the village, plenty of privacy, and choice of jr. high and high schools.

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Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2nd Tuesdays: Caledonia Right to Life will meet at St John's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1375 Main St, St Johnsbury, VT at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3rd Wednesday: Cardiac Support

Group, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7401.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday & Sunday: Ben's Mill Museum in Barnet through October. (802) 748-8180.

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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



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This won't last long at \$149,000



#2775735

Just at the edge of town, this ranch home has a fenced back yard, a tiled mud room, a lower level family room and hard wood floors. 3 Bedrooms, Full bath complete the picture. Reasonably priced as a starter. St Johnsbury Academy sending town.

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#2768086

Out in the country, on 19 acres, great views, room for the horse, the dog and the kids. Split level ranch home has a finished, walk-out basement with extra bath and a big family room. New two car garage. Sun room and BBQ deck. Some woods, too.

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Pope Notes

with Dee Palmer, Library Director

Huge thanks to all who help make our Danville Fair Fundraisers very successful. Our book sale was the most profitable ever and we are so grateful to all our volunteers who sorted and sold all those books. We also thank everyone who helped out in our Pope Library Ice Cream Booth – the most popular dish this year was hot fudge sundaes! Especially on Friday night when we all had to bundle up. Tom Beattie was the lucky winner of the beautiful glass top table crafted by Joe Hallowell. All in all it was a perfect day from start to finish!

It's been a very busy summer here at the Pope. We are happy to announce that we have 3 brand new computers, one donated by one of our favorite long-time patrons.

Our fall book discussion series is World War II: The Loss of the Age of Innocence which includes Catch-22 by Joseph Heller, Rumors of Peace by Ella Leffland and Night by Elie Wiesel. These novels richly illustrate coming-of-age themes against the backdrop of WWII with three memorable protagonists – an Army bombardier, a girl on the American home front, and a teenage survivor of the Nazi genocide. Schedules and books are available at the library. This discussion series is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. Please join us.

Some of our latest book acquisitions are: Shanghai Girls: A Novel by See, Swimsuit by Patterson, A Reliable Wife by Goolrick, Finger Lickin' Fifteen by Evanovich, The Shadow of the Wind and Angel's Game by Ruiz Gafon, Olive Kitteridge: A Novel in Stories by Strout, Best Friends Forever by Weiner, Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir by Buckley, Crazy for the Storm: A Memoir of Survival by Ollestad and Flannery: A Life of Flannery O'Connor by Gooch. Come in and check them out!

From the Children's Room

Our "Be Creative at Your Library" summer reading program was great! Both the kids and I had lots of fun – especially during Tom Joyce's hilarious magic show! I'm already looking forward to next year. Story hour resumes on Monday, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m.. Please join us for books, activities, snacks and fun.

Events in the NEK

MON.31:

»**Songs of Comfort and Hope**, a hospice choir based in St. Johnsbury, will present "Songs of Comfort and Hope," 7 p.m., at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. The concert will benefit the non-profit HOPE, Inc. to provide support for the victims of the recent fire on Main Street. The concert is open to the public and a free will offering will be taken.

»**The View from Greensboro** - an exhibit of watercolors by Deborah Holmes, Highland Lodge. A portion of the proceeds to be donated to the Hardwick Area Foodshelf. Call (802) 533-2647 for more info, or visit highlandlodge.com

SEPT. 1:

»**Destination Discovery - Feet and Tracks** at the Fairbanks Museum, 10 a.m. to noon, will introduce you to the countless adaptations that plants and animals of our natural communities develop to better survive in their environments. Call (802) 748-2372. The Fairbanks Museum, fairbanksmuseum.org.

SEPT. 2:

»**Destination Discovery - Bones** at the Fairbanks Museum, 10 a.m. to noon, will introduce you to the countless adaptations that plants and

animals of our natural communities develop to better survive in their environments. Call (802) 748-2372 for more information.

»**Scrap Book Making Classes** in Lyndonville, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Call (802) 626-9300 for more info. The Scrap Box, 818 Broad St. Lyndonville.

THURS.3:

»**5K Cross-Country Races**, 6 p.m., Hardwick Trails at Hazen Union School. Six week race series Thursday evenings. Come for one or all of the races. Low key, fun way to challenge yourself in the company of others doing the same. Wheel-measured 5k run entirely on beautiful wooded trails. Presented by Northern Vermont Ridge Runners running club.

»**Destination Discovery - Worms** at the Fairbanks Museum, 10 a.m. to noon, will introduce you to the countless adaptations that plants and animals of our natural communities develop to better survive in their environments. Call (802) 748-2372. The Fairbanks Museum, 1302 Main St. St. Johnsbury, www.fairbanksmuseum.org

FRI.4:

»**Moonlit Paddle on the Clyde River**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. With its shallow, slow moving water and abundant wildlife, the Clyde River is an ideal location for paddling. Siskin staff will provide canoes, paddles, life jackets, and be your guide on two Moonlit Paddles. Call (802) 673-5638. Siskin

Ecological Adventures, Ten Mile Square Rd. East Charleston.

SAT.5:

»**3rd Annual Burke Mountain Bike Race** - Race from the Sherburne Base Lodge to the summit of Burke Mountain, 3.7-mile Hill Climb in the Green mountains of the Northeast Kingdom. Race from the Sherburne Base Lodge to the summit of Burke Mountain! Compete in teams, alone, or as part of the Northeast Championship Bumps Tour. www.hill-climberies.com. Call 888-BURKEVT. Burke Mountain Ski Area, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. East Burke, VT. Web: www.burkemountainbikerace.com

»**Scott Barnett** performs at the Tamarack Grill, 8-10 p.m. Barnett is an acoustic solo artist hailing from Southern New Hampshire. Pairing a passionate, percussive style with vocals that grab you from the inside and don't let go, Barnett delivers a sound that will warm your soul and send a shiver down your spine. Call (802) 626-7300. Tamarack Grill, 223 Sherburne Lodge Road, East Burke.

SUN.6:

»**The Maple Leaf Seven** will provide Dixieland music for the worship service at the North Danville Baptist Church at 9:30 a.m.. The band, led by church musician, Phil Brown, has played in many of the local churches, with their appropriate Dixieland music being well received as the accompaniment to a church worship service.

>> Page 36

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Great Fall Reads

The Errand Boy by local author Don Bredes, releases on September 22. Book signing at the Athenaeum on September 21.

The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown, releases on September 15. **20% OFF**

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>> Page 35

»**Peacham Library Reception**, to honor Peacham's Joseph L. Smongeski, for his work: A Life in the Art World, and Dean Bornstein, book designer, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

»**Gryphon & Co.**, a Celtic ensemble, will be performing at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lyndonville at 3 p.m. For more information call (802) 253-0955.

»**Destination Discovery** - Animal Sounds at the Fairbanks Museum, 10 a.m. to noon, will introduce you to the countless adaptations that plants and animals of our natural communities develop to better survive in their environments. Call (802) 748-2372 for more info. The Fairbanks Museum, 1302 Main St. St. Johnsbury.

THURS. 10:

»**Osher Lecture Series**, Long-term climate cycles in Vermont - What's different now? Catamount Arts at 1:30 p.m.

»**Indian Wars of New England**, 7 p.m., Woodbury town Hall, Michael Tougas offers a slide lecture on the conflicts between New England's Native Americans and Colonists. A Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by the Woodbury Historical Society

SAT. 12:

»**Danville Bulky Waste Day**, 9 a.m. to noon at the stump dump on North Danville Rd.

»**3rd Annual Burke Mountain Music Festival**, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., produced in conjunction with Catamount Arts and sponsored by Magic 97.7, Kix 105.5 & 106.3 The Notch, the 3rd Annual Burke Mountain Music Festival will be staged

directly behind the Sherburne Base Lodge, with amphitheater-style grass seating on the mountain's lower slopes. Tickets for the festival are available for sale at Catamount Arts. Among the performers - Rustic Overtones, Duty Free, Eames Brothers.

»**Mike Fortier and the Burke Mountain Bandits** perform at the Tamarack Grill, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Bandits band specializes in country classics and good ole Rockabilly style tunes. Dance to country and 50s-60s Rockabilly hits like Folsom Prison Blues, Matchbox, Chantilly Lace, Move It On Over, Runaround Sue, Great Balls of Fire, and even rock classics such as Call Me the Breeze! Call (802) 626-7300 for more info.

MON. 14:

»**NEK Audubon**, informational and planning meeting, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fairbanks Museum. Open to all. Call Laura at (802) 751-7671 for more information.

THURS. 17:

»**Chicken Pie Summer**, servings at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sheffield Town Hall to benefit Ladies Aid. Reservations advised. Call (802) 626-3174 between 5 and 8 p.m. for more info.

»**Osher Lecture Series**, Forest Resources: What do we mean by sustainable? Catamount Arts at 1:30 p.m.

»**Peacham Historical Society**, presentation of the Wheeler Manuscript, 7 p.m., Peacham Congregational Church.

SAT. 19:

»**Peacham Localvore Feast**, sponsored by the friends of

the Peacham Library.

»**Michael Arnowitt and John LaRuche**, 8 p.m., The Music Box in Craftsbury. Montpelier pianist Michael Arnowitt will perform with chromatic harmonica virtuoso, John LaRuche in a concert of improvisational jazz. More info at www.themusicboxvt.org or (802) 586-7533.

»**Northeast Kingdom Great Race**, The Great Race is a day long competitive event with many challenges. Teams of four will compete by racing through the Northeast Kingdom completing activities and challenges that are both physically and mentally challenging. Call (802) 525-4576. or visit www.neksc.org for more info.

»**Fall Foliage Hike on Bald Mountain** - Enjoy the Fall colors and learn the natural and cultural history of the Bald Mountain area, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Join Northwoods Staff on a guided hike up Bald Mountain's Long Pond Trail. Enjoy the Fall colors and learn the natural and cultural history of the Bald Mountain area. Call (802) 723-6551 or visit northwoodscenter.org for more information.

»**Exhibit of works by Barnet book designer Margery Cantor**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, St. Johnsbury. Visit www.stjathenaeum.org for more info.

»**Fairbanks Festival of Traditional Crafts** - Try your hand at blacksmithing or rug braiding, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Try your hand at blacksmithing or rug braiding! This is your chance to talk with traditional artisans and experts who demonstrate rural life skills, such as barrel

making, bee keeping, basket weaving, sheep shearing, chair caning, and much more! Call (802) 748-2372 or visit www.fairbanksmuseum.org for more info.

»**Hayrides at Willoughby Gap Farmstand** - Come pick your own pumpkins, too, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Bring the kids by for maple creamies, a hayride and more fun. Get some fresh produce and pick your own pumpkins. Try their homemade pies and breads, and their own beef cuts. Call (802) 467-3921 or visit www.willoughbygap.com for more information.

SUN. 20:

»**NEK Audubon**. Pondicherry Autumn hike through the refuge where all the fall juveniles look alike. Trip starts at 7 a.m. Meet in front of the Fairbanks Museum for car-pooling. Call Tom at (802) 626-9071 for more information.

THURS. 24:

»**Osher Lecture Series**, The ecological importance of hidden worlds. Catamount Arts at 1:30 p.m.

SAT. 26:

»**Annual Chicken Pie Supper**, Newark Street School, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Reservations not required. All you can eat. Benefits the Newark Volunteer Fire Department. For information, call (802) 467-3788.

»**Burke Fall Foliage Festival** - Join the fun at this annual popular Northeast Kingdom event which features crafts, food, games, demonstrations, and more. Sponsored by Burke Area Chamber of Commerce. Call (802) 626-4124 for more info.

SAT. 26:

»**Fall Foliage Lamplight Service and Hymn Sing**, 7:30 p.m., host Pastor Rev. Dr. Robert Potter, Peacham Congregational Church, and the Peacham Congregational Church Youth Orchestra.

»**HypZotiQue BellyDance CirCus** at the Catamount Arts Center, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., is the wayward delirious brainchild of Director Erin Narey and the Northeast Kingdom's ringmaster of mayhem, the King of Silly. Call (802) 748-2600 or visit www.catamountarts.org for more information.

SAT. 26:


»**Fall Foliage Festival** - Local history, entertainment, photo ops, church suppers, crafts and tours in 7 Northeast Kingdom towns, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., a week-long event hosted by seven Northeast Kingdom towns. Call (802) 563-2380 or visit www.nekchamber.com for more information.

FRI. 2:

»**DEAD NORTH** - a haunted night of terror at the Great Vermont Corn Maze, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Tickets on sale beginning July 1 - get them before it sells out. Great Vermont Corn Maze, 1404 Wheelock Road, North Danville. Call (802) 748-1399 or visit vermontcornmaze.com. ★


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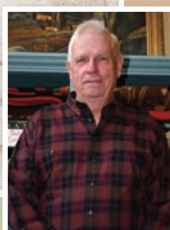
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