



THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

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The Sound of Silence

*"Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,
Their sober wishes never learned to stray;
Along the cool sequester'd vale of life,
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way."*

BY NATHANIEL TRIPP

Oh yeah? Even when Thomas Gray penned "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" two and a half centuries ago, he knew he was romanticizing a way of life that was fading away, if it really existed at all. But it still sounded pretty good when we moved to our place at the end of the road in 1973, and this very morning, it looked like a landscape painting by Thomas Gainsborough, Gray's contemporary, with the rising sun play-

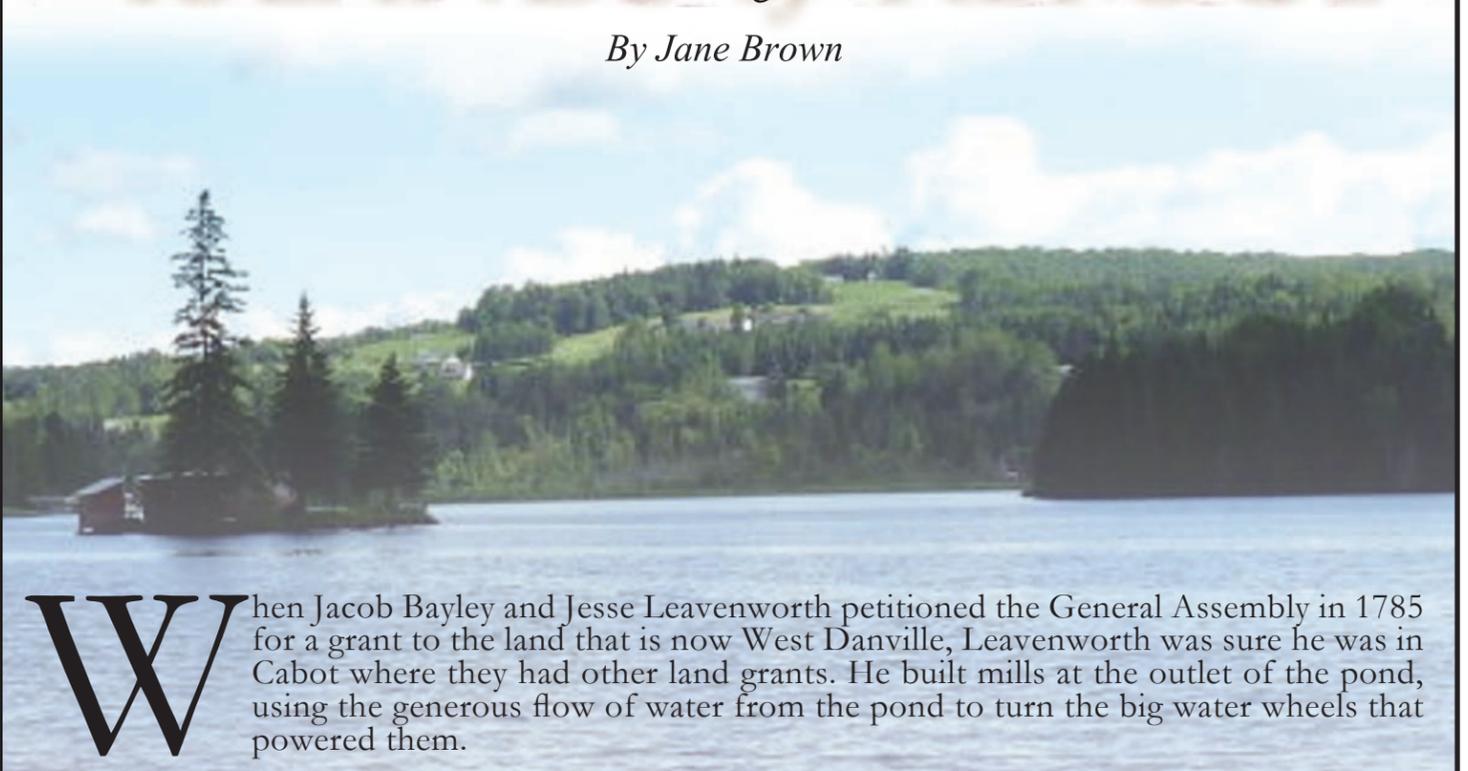
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An early depiction of Sim Whittier's house resting on his self-made island in Joe's Pond.



ISLANDS of REFUGE

By Jane Brown



When Jacob Bayley and Jesse Leavenworth petitioned the General Assembly in 1785 for a grant to the land that is now West Danville, Leavenworth was sure he was in Cabot where they had other land grants. He built mills at the outlet of the pond, using the generous flow of water from the pond to turn the big water wheels that powered them.

The area near the pond and the Bayley-Hazen military road on the west side of it was sparsely inhabited then – only a few struggling farmers along the military road and maybe some Indians who passed through seasonally.

Leavenworth got the disappointing news that he was actually in a part of so-called Hillsboro, which a year later became part of Danville. The settlement was then already well established; the location was ideal, and within a few years the town had grown to include more families, a sash mill, grist mill, saw mill, stores, and a hotel.

When the railroad came in 1877, West Danville became a hub of com-

merce. The land around the pond was mostly farmland and forest, and the railroad meant lumber, manufactured goods, and produce could be more easily and efficiently shipped and received. It also meant travel was much more convenient than it had been, and West Danville began to see an influx of vacationers, first at the hotels that were here then, and eventually at cottages along the shores of the pond where families would come to spend the summer away from the heat of nearby cities. The north end of the pond, mostly marsh, remained unpopulated except for two islands.

Early history books mention Joe's

Pond as having many small islands; however, the lake we know today has only two, unless we count Sunken Island which is normally covered with water and marked only with a white barrel. If it had at one time supported vegetation there is no sign of it now with its boulders and sand under three feet of water. It may have been a casualty of damming the brook at the outlet of the pond to provide for the needs of the growing settlement. We can only guess about it and any other protrusions of land there may have been in the 1700's when the pond's namesake, Indian Joe and his wife Molly, lived and fished

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FROM THE EDITOR

The journey is the thing

Once went sea kayaking in the Sea of Cortez off the coast of Baja, Mexico. The trip involved paddling from island to island, camping and exploring along the way. Our guide was an outdoorsman from Georgetown University who

He told us to spend the next seven days with blinders on, avoiding all thoughts of the future, focusing instead on where we were at that very moment and what we were doing.

paid his way through college guiding rock climbing trips in the Sierras. We learned a lot about him during the 10-hour van ride from San Diego to Bahia de Los Angeles. Adventure was his calling and it took on many forms, including climbing peaks in the Cascades, Denali and all over Mexico, Italy, Africa, Austria, and Switzerland.

Before we left the mainland, he gave the group just one piece of advice. It was in response to the constant hounding for an itinerary. Where was our destination today? What about tomorrow? The day after? He told us to spend the next seven days with blinders

on, avoiding all thoughts of the future, focusing instead on where we were at that very moment and what we were doing. This was obviously a skill he had learned throughout his extensive travels and to him, the only way to achieve the maximum experience was to focus on absorbing the moment. We tried. It's not as easy as it sounds.

Since then, I've tried to remember this lesson. Obviously, society won't allow us navigate all facets of our everyday life this way. We'd be broke and alone, not to mention seriously unreliable.

The lesson does have its applications, though. Vacations are an obvious target. The next step always seems to be a better one, but this way of thinking is detrimental to our enjoyment of life.

I hear many people talk about their next house, or their next car, or their next trip somewhere. They always look better than what is in front of us and if we're not careful, we can end up costing ourselves important memories and experiences by always looking down the road. When that happens, we often wish we could go back and we tell ourselves we would enjoy it more this time.

Balance is clearly the key. It's so hard to achieve, but so worthwhile when we look back on our lives.

As Homer would say, "The Journey is the Thing."

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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.

PRESS RELEASES: We prefer press releases that are unique to *The North Star*.

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A fishing jaunt at Joe's Pond produces a glorious catch, St. Johnsbury law enforcement executes a liquor raid on local businesses

The North Star

"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"

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THE NORTH STAR

August 1, 1879

Electric Light - Edison is not dead, neither has he gone to Europe, or to Congress; in fact, no such calamity has befallen him. It may be news to many people that he is working at the electric light. His backers have been recently investigating the progress of the light and had an interview the other day with the noted inventor. "How does it come on," inquired a member of the party. "It keeps coming," said Edison, "In fact it has come. I have demonstrated it to my friends and in fact, I have accomplished all I ever expected to in this matter. I have supplied six electric lights from one horsepower. These cost me just about one-third of as much as three similar gas-burners will cost manufacturers. I claim that this solves the question." Mr. Edison has explained the generator to the company and

he has it "pretty near right" but there was still a great deal to be done in computing and establishing proportions so as to construct all parts of the complicated machinery so correctly that the work need not be done again.

Danville Graded School - The Fall term of the Danville Graded School will commence Sept. 1 under the direction of Mr. Henry W. Johnson, a graduate of Harvard College, will spare no pains in making the school as profitable and attractive as any other in the country. Mr. Johnson comes very highly recommended as a teacher and a scholar, and we hope he will make the fall term a grand success. Parties from outside the district and town will find the school worthy of patronage.

Fishing Jaunt - A sweltering day at Joe's Pond with the mercury up to 85. A few clouds were clumped here and there against the mountains on the east and the low western sky. The burning sun had crossed the line 1:30 sharp, when teams were ready at the Elm House waiting. The party hailed from Canton, Boston, San Francisco, and the happiest, jolliest, "quintette club" that ever swung the "rod and line," truest followers of Isaac Walton - never equaled - "well hardly ever." At least it was all so taken and accepted. The fishing rig was of course at the pond, and yet it wasn't,

and rigging the rig, the first in quest, was nearly hopeless, like arming men when guns were scarce during continental times. Well launched at last, and for the sake of the paddles struck away, and the music from the strokes resounded sweetly from the changing shores. A storm moved in. The ripples fast increased to threatening waves that dashed in fury on the shore and the sky looked angry and the clouds were piling quickly up all black and broken, frowning as if in madness terrible, and the thunder rumbled fiercely. We pondered a return to shore and decided to act. Once the storm had passed, how calm and beautiful was the surface of the water. How fresh and sweet the air. Three dozen golden perch were caught, as well as one "pout." A fellow black and pert as priest in high cravat and long coat buttoned up; with lips as bland as a candidate for convention honors; with waxed end mustaches as any Parisian Count endowed for Wealth and pleasure, but bankrupt otherwise. Once placed upon the table in state for a richer treat go search the world.

Danville Band - The Danville Band will open its concert series Saturday evening if the weather is favorable.

August 8, 1879

West Danville - While Mr. McNaughton was attempting

to put a fly net on a horsed which was hitched at his mill last Sunday, the animal became frightened and began kicking in such a rigorous manner that it became free of the buggy and made a rush for the mill pond, but was stopped just short of the water's edge. During the kicking, Mr. McNaughton was hit once on the leg and badly bruised.

Fishing - Fishing parties are quite numerous at Joe's Pond this year and everybody who goes is quite likely to bring back a good string of perch and some other varieties. Occasionally, a black bass is taken which shows the pond is well stocked with that variety of fish. In a few years time when they are fully grown, what fun it will be for anyone who enjoys fishing.

Peacham Academy - This institution keeps up its long standing as one of the best high schools in the state.

Caledonia Fair - At the next fair, a horse race and foot race are down on the program. The horse race is a new feature. It is said the Sherman Band of Burlington is slated to handle the music, an excellent band no doubt. But why not employ some home talent?

August 15, 1879

Camp Meeting - The next session of the St. Johnsbury district camp meeting will be holden on the grounds of the association, the first service being a preaching service on

Wednesday evening. To render the service more interesting and profitable many eminent workers from abroad have been secured. It will be the aim of the managers to make the meeting as quiet and effective as possible and to observe the injunction: "Let everything be done decently and in order."

Ice Cream - The ice cream party given by the young ladies at the town hall on Wednesday evening was well attended and very successful. The exercises consisted of singing and instrumental music, tableaux, charades and at the conclusion, ice cream and cake were served.

August, 29, 1879

Liquor Raid - We learn that in St. Johnsbury, officers of the law, made a raid on those who sell liquor and beer. The raid included hotels, drug stores and saloons. Reports varied on how much liquor was secured. Now let us hear some more about St. Johnsbury being the banner temperance town of the state.

Sutton - Ben Drown was taken from his house some nights ago by a party of men and boys and tarred and feathered. Much violence was used in the handling of Drown, the windows of his house were broken and more damage was done. It was suggested that Drown was guilty of bad crimes by living with a disreputable woman, but nothing was known against him.

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LEFT: The last concert, July 11, 2010, on the Danville Green for the benefit of the Pope Memorial Library. From l to r: Alan Towle, Sandy Towle, Sam Miller, Marylin Dwyer, David Towle, Kurt Dwyer and Skip Gray. ABOVE: Skip Gray, Sam Miller and Kurt Dwyer laying into one of Sam's blues songs.

Backstage with Best of Friends

Local band made its final appearance on July 11, 2010

BY SHARON LAKEY

The evening was lovely on Danville Green, a blessing after the recent high heat and humidity. Alan Towle and his young helpers arrived at 5:00 to set up for the 7:00 final concert of The Best of Friends, a country band that has been entertaining crowds for the past 26 years. He moved nimbly between an assortment of amps and speakers and wires that literally filled the bandstand.

The rest of the band members arrived around 6:00. White shirts, embroidered with black eagles, were handed around on hangers. After changing into them, members hovered over Sandy Towle, who had multiple black scarves draped around her neck. Alan produced an old check-box wrapped with a Velcro strip that contained small gold, silver and turquoise clasps. When threaded through the clasps, the ties completed the neat country look. Hats and instruments were donned and tuned and after a final group portrait, the band was introduced by Susan Tallman of the Pope Memorial Library

And the music began for one last concert: Alan Towle on rhythm and vocals; Sandy Towle on sound; Sam Miller sharing lead guitar and vocals; Marylin Dwyer on vocals and tambourine; David Towle on drums and vocals; Kurt Dwyer on bass; and Skip Gray sharing lead guitar and vocals. Their final program reflected the tastes and spotlight sharing that has been a hallmark of the group.

- D It's Good to be Back Home Again (Marylin and Alan)
- A Auctioneer Song (Alan)
- A Stand by Your Man (Marylin)
- E Lovesick Blues (Sam)
- A Trashy Women (David)

- A Fugitive (Skip)
- D-E Good-hearted Woman (Alan)
- D Jambalaya (Skip)
- G Down That Lost Highway (Sam)
- A Mamma's Hungry Eyes (Marylin)
- A 455 Rocket (David)
- D If My Nose Was Running Money (Alan)
- A Down at the Twist & Shout (Alan and Marylin)
- F Whispering Hope (Marylin)
- D Ever-changing Woman (Skip and Sam)
- A Big Boss Man (David)
- E Chantilly Lace (Sam)
- E I Don't Look Good Naked Anymore (Alan)
- D Mama Tried (Skip)
- C What's Your Mama's Name (Marylin)
- C On the Road Again (the band's theme song)

It was an appreciative audience and over too soon -- bittersweet, for many shall miss them

All this started way back in '73 on a snow machine trail. On the way to Jimmy Roy's cookout in South Danville, Kurt and Marylin Dwyer met up with Ron and Barb Hill and their friends Alan and Sandy Towle. On the way back through Danville, Kurt and Marylin stopped at the Towle's. "We just hit it off," said Marylin. That budding friendship took on a public persona in the form of a band that,

according to Alan, played 44 gigs a year in its hey-day. Through the years the four core band members stayed together, soliciting other musicians to join where more voices and instrumentals were needed

The idea of creating a band sprouted during hunting season. "Oh, deer huntin' is big doin's around here," said Alan. A buddy and his sons would bring their guitars up every year and they would jam, reminiscent of the way Alan used to play and sing in high school when he and his friend sang 50s style music. "We did all the Everly brothers," said Alan.

Soon, his new friend Marylin joined in the singing, and besides being a lot of fun, the sessions started to sound pretty good. They drafted Kurt into the mix on bass as things progressed. And, because every band needs a sound engineer, Sandy agreed to take on the job. As she puts it, "I was painting the back side of the barn while they were painting the front." Their first live performance was Kurt's parents' 50th wedding celebration; they have a copy of the check for their first paying job -- \$100 -- a wedding reception for the Belknaps held at the Lincoln Inn in 1988. "The band really started cookin' in 1990, when Sandy and I bought a one-ton truck to travel in," said Alan

To keep a band together for that long is no

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small feat, almost unheard of. "Every band has to have a leader," said Alan, "and for us it was Marilyn and me. If someone didn't like the way things were going or how we performed, we took the hit." The two of them would meet together two or three times a week to plan performances and take care of the business side of the band.

In planning performances, the two would make an effort to share the spotlight. "If one of the guys liked a certain song, we would let them carry it," said Alan. Marilyn would type up the planned program, so, when the band showed up once a week to practice in the Towle's basement studio, they knew which music was to be played and in what key. In this way, practice was productive and performances smooth with no lag between songs.

The business side of Best of Friends included purchasing equipment with the band's funds. Alan remembers the \$2400 they spent on a drum set that had been played by Kris Kristofferson. "We bought it from a music store in Burlington. Kristofferson's equipment didn't arrive, and they had to rent it for a concert they were playing there." The band owns all the performance equipment like amps, mics, sound mixing board, headsets and uniforms. "We're toughest on dress," said Alan. All uniforms are purchased, laundered, pressed, and put on just before performances. After performance, off they come before loading them back in the truck with all the other equipment.

They each bought their own personal instruments, though. Alan loves his left-handed Peavey Milestone 12-string. "It was hand-crafted for me at the research and development department at Peavey electronics. It's one of a kind." Kurt plays



Left: A formal photo taken in 1991 by John Somers at the covered bridge in Greenbanks Hollow: Alan, David, Marilyn, Sandy, and Kurt. In back is Wayne Ladd, who enjoyed the song "Kansas City." Above: The band playing at the Danville Town Hall for the LaBounty wedding.

an unusual one-piece Peavey DynaBass.

A common performance included a first set of an hour, a ten minute break, then three more sets of 50 minutes apiece. They would usually play from 9:00 to 1:00, load up and head for home. "Sometimes, we'd get home as late as 3:00 in the morning," said Alan. Mind you, they did this with full time jobs on the side. Kurt remembers coming home at 3:00 a.m. one morning and

getting an "on call" job call from EHV. "I was home for about 15 minutes that night," he said, shaking his head.

They most enjoyed playing for dances. "When the dance floor is full and everyone is sweatin' and hootin' and hollerin' -- then we know we are doing our job," said Alan

"There was a strange one, though," remembered Kurt about the time they played and were paid for driving through miserable weather to play a dance in Jefferson,

New Hampshire. There, they performed for a single family and a cat. "We found out later the town was boycotting that man for hiring some male strippers the week before," said Alan

Alan lit up remembering the his best gig ever, a wedding reception held at the Canaan Fairground.. "You know, everything was right that night. When I backed the truck up to the stage, it was the perfect height. Equipment off easy. For the barbecue, the father of the bride had ordered real mesquite wood from out west..." Marilyn and Sandy smiled and chimed in,

"But Alan mostly liked the barmaids dressed in fishnet stockings!" He didn't deny it

But their most favorite performance of the year was always the Danville Fair. "The biggest audience of the year," said Alan. "And we like to play for people we know."

"I've had a wonderful time," said Marilyn, speaking for the band as well as herself. "I've loved the places we've gone and the people we've met."

To see this article, more photos, original lyrics and a link to one of their songs, go to: <http://danvillehistorical.blogspot.com>

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Danville Historical Society

Mary's Unfinished Business

Last year around Danville Fair, Mary Prior was diagnosed with ALS. When asked how others might help, she didn't hesitate. A remarkably community-minded person, she set about making her unfinished business known.

Mary is not with us in person this year but is still present by her words. Her five most important items of concern were written to the Danville Select Board in August of 2009. In honor of Mary, the Danville Historical Society will present her words in a display at the Town Hall.

One of her concerns is nearing completion--the reprinting of *Village in the Hills*, Danville's town history that was published in 1995. One hundred copies are being reprinted in hardbound copy. They won't be ready for Danville Fair, but we will have some paperback copies available for sale as well as other interesting items. Hours for the sale of items are 2 to 5 pm on Saturday.

Hours
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Phone: (802) 684 2055
email: historicalsociety.director.dan@gmail.com
Blog: <http://danvillevthistorical.blogspot.com/>




Reading signs

BY ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

Taking children on long road trips is not always fun. In the old days, before automobile DVD players and hand held electronic games to pass the time, parents like we, who enjoyed taking our kids on trips, had to be creative -- singing songs; pointing out unusual features in the passing landscape; collecting license plates from other states, and playing the alphabet game by reading road signs. The time has come for us adults to move on from this game for children, and begin reading more important signs.

There are clear signs that Nature is mistreating us. Disease organisms such as the bacterium that causes tuberculosis, and other bacteria that cause fatal systemic post-operative infections are becoming resistant to antibiotics. Those plants, which we refer to as weeds that invade our croplands, are becoming resistant to herbicides such as Round-Up. What is going on?

Our species is very self-centered and sometimes extremely stupid. We expect all forms of life to behave biologically as we do. Many organisms, such as bacteria and weeds, breed quickly and abundantly. Think of the dandelions in your lawn! This is the key to evolutionary success. An organism that has lots of offspring in a short time will more frequently produce individuals subtly different from the parents, some that are able to resist the toxins of antibiotics or herbicides. These survive and produce resistant strains of diseases, or weeds. These signs show that evolution is at work here, whether we believe in that theory or not!

We humans have been very careless in our indiscriminate use of all kinds of "helpful" chemicals in our environment. We have taken the Bible's admonition to, "... have dominion over the Earth," very seriously, without too much thought for how that dominion may upset the balance of nature and how it might come back to bite us. DDT is a well-known insecticide that was used indiscriminately in the 1940s and 1950s. Apart from its benefit of allowing us humans to live or farm in insect-infested areas, it has had far-reaching negative effects on the environment. Its impact on many bird species for example, is still significant. When we finally figured out what DDT had done to the environment, we didn't learn from our mistake, we didn't read the signs.

Antibiotics, given to animals raised in crowded feedlots to prevent disease, leave residues in the meat that someday we may eat. The residues of all types of drugs in our bodies end up in sewer systems. (An interesting application of this process is that California researchers are testing sewer effluent for marijuana drug residues, to determine how the use of this drug has changed since the legalization of medical marijuana dispensaries!) The residues can still be found in discharge water from sewer plants, they enter the waters of our rivers and may eventually reach our drinking water supplies. Some scientists

believe that these residues have affected some fish and amphibian species causing physical deformities or preventing reproduction. Will these effects eventually show up in our slower

Our species is very self-centered and sometimes extremely stupid. We expect all forms of life to behave biologically as we do.

maturing species? We need to read the signs!

We need to read the signs that show us so clearly that it is not a brilliant idea to drill for oil 5,000 feet below the ocean's surface, at a place we cannot easily visit to fix problems. We need to read the signs that show us that mining for coal deep underground -- where methane gas is abundant and dangerous -- without adequate and functioning ventilation systems, is not the best way to satisfy our energy needs. Why do we still continue to invest our money, people's lives and creativity on these dirty, dangerous and ultimately finite sources of energy?

We have spent innumerable words excoriating BP for its inadequacies in dealing with the Gulf oil spill, but we are all enablers of this folly and others like it. We enable them by electing politicians who accept money and power and deny their responsibility to regulate huge corporations which produce more and more oil products such as gasoline, heating oil, plastics, and detergents. We enable them by encouraging factory farms, over smaller diversified farm, with their enormous acreage of monoculture crops and feedlots that can only survive by using oil derived fertilizers and pesticides. We are all to blame for ignoring the signs that show us that solar, wind, and the waterpower of rivers and tides, are waiting for innovation, investment, and careful development.

When will we read the signs that tell us that a fast food "Happy Meal", that delivers at one sitting more than the daily caloric requirement for a child, is not a healthy meal. The signs tell us that a taste for such meals is leading our children towards obesity and diabetes - far from "happy" outcomes.

Reading signs can be a great learning tool for children and adults. But it is even more important to understand what they mean, and act on that knowledge.

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Up on the Farm Early

CHEAPSKATERY

BY LORNA QUIMBY

For one who grew up during the Great Depression, the present downturn is all too familiar. The latest AARP magazine had an article about how frugality was the “New Look.” Being a cheapskate, the author wrote, is now the “in” thing.

Dick and I were known in our families, or at least in mine, for being cheapskates. We drove a Volkswagen. Our little Bugs had good mileage, could be driven anywhere and parked like a dream. We, who had grown up with cars that were used, to say the least, found the Volkswagen’s ride comfortable enough. The inadequacy of the heating system hardly registered to one whose father had peered through a small opening created by a fan blowing on the windshield while we girls, in our galoshes, coats, and mittens, huddled in the back seat.

Except for our cars and the mortgage on our house, we made no time payments. If we wished for something, we

saved for it. Sometimes, by the time the money was available, we had decided we no longer wanted the item in question. Dick’s comment, “How many times would we use it?” would put the purchase in its proper perspective.

We were no spring chickens when we got married and set up housekeeping. (How that phrase dates us!). We had a refrigerator and an electric stove but no money for a washing machine. We made do with what we had rather than adding payments.

It wasn’t that I’d never made payments. When I worked at Peerless Casualty Insurance in Keene, New Hampshire, “Lay away” at the stores meant I could wear a

better quality raincoat or buy a Raleigh bicycle. I got tired of having every paycheck eaten up by that “little down and so many months to pay.” When I returned to the farm, the last payments on the learn-by-mail art course, which was supposed to make my fortune, depleted my small store of cash. I learned the hard way that there are no “easy payments.”

Our furniture is an example of cheapskatery. For years we used a small drop leaf table that was given to us. When we bought another, with leaves to accommodate our larger family, we did not sell the old one. We used Dick’s mother’s wicker rocker. It isn’t fashionable, but it is comfortable and reminds us of Mother Q. every time we sit in it.

On an irritating TV commercial, a gal says how her bathroom was pure Seventies but, thanks to the sponsor of the ad, her bathroom is now up to date. “Seventies!” We should be so lucky! We still use the bathroom Charles and Thelma White put in when

they were first married and lived in the house (1937). I grew up with the “convenience” at the end of the shed and Saturday night baths in a tub in the kitchen. I appreciate our bathroom decor—white fixtures go with everything!

We came to realize that, when something, whether it’s the latest computer gadget or a new line of cars, first goes on the market, you pay through the nose for it. Saving until you have the money in hand means prices have gone down. We sometimes find it is not something we want after all. Of course, we can’t brag we were the first buyer suckered in.

We cheapskates have gardens and grow as many vegetables as we can. We used to raise strawberries and had our own raspberry patch. We freeze and can. I no longer make jellies, for I am diabetic. Making jelly or jam is right up there with pickles as one of the benefits of cheapskatery. There is the wonderful aroma. “It was a good sum-

mer,” you say as you survey the shelves crowded with jars. We also raise potatoes. The quality of home grown, fully ripened potatoes cannot be beat.

We passed on the girls’ outgrown clothing. I’d grown up wearing hand-me-downs and our girls did, too. We were part of a long chain from the one (definitely not me) who bought the “pretty pink, prickly” dress for Kathy to wear to Sunday school until she outgrew it, to Laura and so on down the line. The fit might be a little off but who cared. The girls had a new-to-them dress and it was pretty.

If you don’t enjoy balancing a budget, carrying your lunch from home, combining trips to town, using the library instead of buying books, camping in a tent instead staying in a motel, cheapskatery is not for you. But when you are still “paying for a dead horse,” don’t come to us cheapskates for sympathy.

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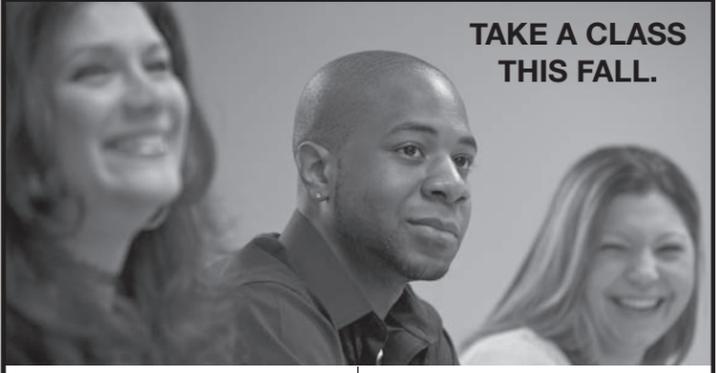
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The Wildflower Inn – Celebrating Family

BY DONNA M. GARFIELD

Seeing. Hearing. Tasting. Smelling. Touching. All of these senses are heightened as I drive into the dooryard at The Wildflower Inn on Darling Hill in Lyndonville, Vermont. I see flowers in full bloom in meticulously well-cared-for gardens. The panoramic view encompasses Willoughby Gap, mountains, and fields, giving me a feeling of tranquility. I hear people laughing as they splash in the pool behind the main house. I smell wonderful aromas coming from Juniper's, the on-site restaurant, and look forward to tasting the food. I see a barn and know there will be animals there to touch and pet.

The innkeepers are Jim and Mary O'Reilly. The Wildflower Inn is owned by the O'Reillys and Mary's parents, Richard and Joan Downing. The O'Reillys are gracious – used to dealing with a busy world but happy to sit down and relax with a guest to discuss how they ended up in the Northeast Kingdom.

Jim and Mary both grew up in Massachusetts. There were five children in Jim's family. He loved the Boston Red Sox and wanted to be a baseball player. He played some baseball in college but decided he "needed to be a student rather than an athlete." Jim avidly follows the Red Sox and attends some of the games. Mary says, "Jim has pretty much groomed all our kids to love the Red Sox so I do not take a ticket very often. The kids clamor to go." Further evidence of his passion for the Red Sox is the pennant hanging in the kitchen at Juniper's.

Mary has three brothers. She says, "I really wanted a sister, so my parents looked into foster parenting and ended up having 35 foster children over the years and adopted three of them." Her family is very large now as

"everyone keeps in touch and is part of our family. My parents have 60 grandchildren."

Jim and Mary met while they were attending South-eastern Massachusetts University. Jim graduated in 1976 with a degree in construction engineering. He joined the Peace Corps for two years and spent some of his time in Nepal building foot bridges. "It was so different from what we grew up with. I think if every kid can do it, they should. It makes you look at the world and your life in a completely different way."

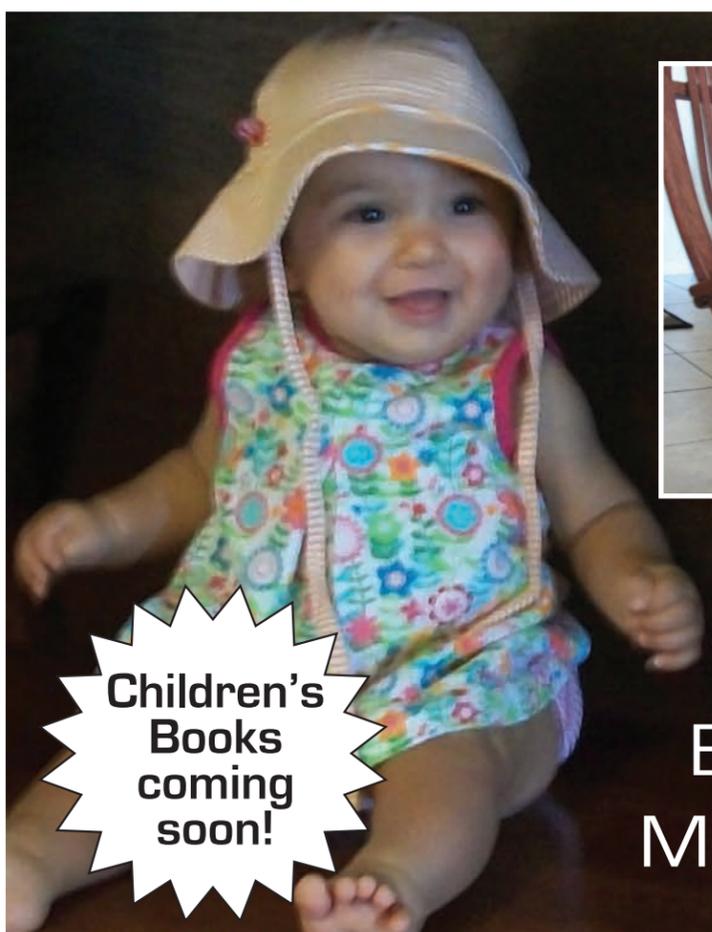
Mary graduated in 1977 with a degree in sociology. She worked for her father's credit bureau, visited Nepal while Jim was there, and did some traveling in India.

Mary and Jim married in 1979. Jim's job took them to many places including Illinois and Pennsylvania. Mary says, "The last assignment was Edmonton, Alberta. We had three children and the next assignment was Seoul, Korea. At the same time we were giving some thought to purchasing this property." Jim adds, "We were feeling very far from home. All of Mary's support was on the East Coast. The Darion Inn, where

the Inn at Mountain View Farm is currently located, was for sale. The owner had contacted Mary's dad as we had all shown an interest in the past. That sale fell through. Then someone said there was a farm down the road for sale. The owner, Dr. Rassman, who used to be a local doctor, was living in Hawaii." They contacted him and three months later they bought the property. It was 1984 and the beginning of what would become The Wildflower Inn.

It was not a working inn. Jim says, "We thought maybe we should move back and help with the renovations and get things running." Mary says, "We were watching Bob Newhart and we had this abstract sense of what inn keeping would be like. Jim had signed the contract for Korea. He got out of the contract and they gave him a one-year leave of absence because they were sure that we would come here, say it was crazy, and go back."

But they stayed and in 1985 opened their bed and breakfast inn with four rooms. Twenty-five years later,



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they have earned many awards distinguishing themselves as one of the best inns in New England. Their guests have come from as far as New Zealand, Japan, China, and India. Mary notes, "We have had some celebrities, too, such as Michael J. Fox, Treat Williams, Rip Torn, Bobby McFerrin, Alan Alda, and Lee Greenwood."

When asked if anyone in the family knew anything about inn keeping when they started out, Mary responded, "I worked in the hospitality industry all the way through college. I vowed never to own my own restaurant because it was always very clear to me that while everyone else was having fun, you're working. So I said I'd never do that and here we are." Jim had never worked in a hotel or restaurant. Mary says, "We knew what we liked, though, because with Jim's job we moved to many places, and before we could live in a home, we would be renting at a hotel. We knew what it was like to be a guest."

The Inn has grown to include other buildings housing classic rooms, and one-, two- and three-room suites. Many of the rooms are large enough for families so the Inn can hold 110 guests if all the beds are filled. Normal summer business is around 75 to 80 guests a week. There is also a building used for retreats, meetings, parties, and rehearsal dinners.

Are they celebrating 25 years of business? Jim says, "When we entered our 25th year, the economy was not in a kind state, so we had some ideas but we didn't have the backing to do it. Then we started brainstorming. It was not as much to celebrate our 25 years but to celebrate family and to get families to do things together that don't cost any money." Mary says, "That was our hope. Our philosophy is that when families spend time together, they are a much more healthy family. What we provide here is a place for families to spend time vacationing together as opposed to a Club Med atmosphere where you send your children in one direction and you go in another. We offer a little bit of child care – a couple of hours every morning of children's activities, but that's about it. We don't even have TVs in the rooms because we want people to interact." One brainstorming idea resulted in Project Snowman 2010. Families were encouraged to submit a picture showing them with a snowman they had built together. One picture would be selected as the winner, and the family would win a week's stay at the Inn. Jim says, "A family from Pennsylvania won and they are coming in July." They also gave away dinners and ski tickets.

In the winter the Inn has a skating rink with a sledding hill behind that. There are wagon rides and horse-drawn sleigh rides. In the summer, there are barbecues and a fireworks display on July 4. A Petting Barn currently houses two goats, two cats, a calf, a rabbit, and four horses including two Belgian draft horses. The Children's Barn is filled with crafts, a maze, movie

room, and dining counter where kids can have food brought over from the main kitchen. The Vermont Children's Theater is also on the Inn's property. Down the road is the Stepping Stone Spa that is owned by Mary's parents. Jim says, "It serves as a huge amenity for our guests".

How do they like working together all the time? Mary says, "At first, there was definitely a growing curve where we had to learn how to behave professionally at work and not bring our personal issues into the workplace. We have learned to work with each other's strengths and weaknesses now and we complement each other." Jim adds, "We pull from each other's strengths. I was always the quieter person. I think I have grown and I am more comfortable with people."

Two years ago the Inn became dog friendly. Jim says, "It was something I balked at for many years. We go to a lot of innkeeper conferences and they talked about how important it was to be pet friendly. So we have been accepting dogs, and a lot of the people who bring their pets are really good dog parents. All in all, it has been great."

It was not as much to celebrate our 25 years but to celebrate family and to get families to do things together that don't cost any money.

Jim and Mary have eight children -- Tom, Brian, Dan, Kevin, Anna, Sean, Sarah, and Emma. They also have two dogs, Sophie and Max. What is it like having a large family? "It's different every day," Jim says. Mary adds, "We love the big family and being all together. They are very fond of each other which is really nice." The family has expanded to include Tom's wife, Elisabeth, and their daughter, Clara. The family will grow once again as Dan marries his fiancée, Ali, this summer.

When asked how they ran an inn and raised eight children at the same time, Jim says, "At first we were both doing everything, and Mary was basically raising the kids and doing meals and living in the same house. It became very clear that Mary should step back and make sure that the family and the household were running smoothly, so we did kind of pull her away from the day-to-day operations." Mary says, "When I was due with our fourth child, I had to stop cooking breakfast because my stomach was too big and I couldn't reach the grill, so Jim started cooking. I remember I came down and said, 'Jim, I'm ready to go to the hospital,' and he said, 'Just let me finish cooking breakfast', but it was my fourth child and it was time to go!" Yes,

Mary made it to the hospital on time. Currently, four of their children are working at the Inn in some capacity and all of the children have worked there growing up.

There are around nine weddings a year at the Inn. Jim says, "We only do warm season weddings. We did one indoor winter wedding but it needs to be around 60 people. For outdoor weddings, we can host about 130 people." Mary adds, "We don't do a lot of summer weddings because our facilities are booked a year in advance. When we have a wedding here, we like the people to use the whole facility so they are not interfering with other people on vacation. Normally, we don't have that availability because when people leave here after their summer vacation, they are given an option to book their rooms for the next year and many do."

The head gardener at the Inn is Mary Donnell. The various plants and flowers she and her staff lovingly care for are the subject of many photos for both guests and local people.

The head chef at Juniper's Restaurant is Casey Graham. Mary says, "Prior to eight years ago, we allowed the chefs to make the restaurant their personality. We discovered that this was not the way to go about it. We needed to have our identity and let the chefs come in and implement it. They use their own creativity in the specials. Every season we go through the menu and may change one or two items. It's our place and our food, and we want people to know if there is something they loved a year ago, they can come back and probably find the same thing."

Juniper's has started the Northeast Kingdom Farm to Table Program that uses products from local farms. Jim says, "It is one of the best things we have ever done. It has energized our staff and promoted some farms that never would have gotten that. On the chef's end, it gives him something else to be creative with. It has been a lot of fun and we have gotten a lot of good feedback."

Jim and Mary also believe in giving back to the community. They have started "Thankful Thursdays" at Juniper's as a way to help non-profit organizations. A percentage of the proceeds are given to the non-profit they are hosting that evening.

What would be Jim's and Mary's getaway vacation? Both want to go to Italy. Jim says, "We had planned to go to Italy for our 25th wedding anniversary but it didn't happen." Mary adds, "We will someday. When we do take a vacation, we like to go to a cabin at a lake where it is quiet and actually do the opposite of what we do here. We are all by ourselves and just relax and not have to attend to other things."

The website for The Wildflower Inn is www.wildflowerinn.com if you would like more information.



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Clockwise from top left: A photo of Sim Whittier fishing on Joe's Pond. Whittier in his famous rowboat with his island in the background. Pearl Island the way it appears today.

There is a story that Joe and Molly lived on “an island in Joe’s Pond” after fleeing Canada where Joe was accused of stealing Molly and her two young sons from another Indian.

>> Page 1

here. However, our two visible islands, one big and one small, have recorded history.

There is a story that Joe and Molly lived on “an island in Joe’s Pond” after fleeing Canada where Joe was accused of stealing Molly and her two young sons from another Indian. Fortunately their pursuers believed the waters of the pond were filled with bad spirits, so Joe and Molly, who apparently had no such fears, are said to have taken refuge on an island. Joe and Molly spent summers fishing and hunting at the pond and went south to the Oxbow in Newbury during the winters. They were friendly with the settlers in both areas, and Joe was a scout for General Bayley during the Revolutionary War. He received a pension in later years for his service and the Vermont Legislature honored him by giving the pond his name. A smaller pond a mile south, in Cabot, was given Molly’s name.

We don’t know if Joe and Molly lived on the approximately two acre island in the northeast corner of the pond, but it’s possible. The traceable history of this island begins with Azariah Stone, of Cabot in the 1800’s. Stone may have used it to pasture farm animals – no fences needed – although getting them there might have been a problem. After his death, a man named Joseph Farrar owned it, and in 1892 he sold it to Samuel Woods who sold it to Homer Rich-

ardson, L. N. Woods, and A. E. Watkins in 1893.

At some point, Homer Richardson bought out the interests of his partners. The first mention of buildings being on the island is in a deed from Richardson’s wife, Annie, when she sold the property, referred to as “Tara,” to Charles D. White after her husband’s death in 1913. Deeds do not define what kind or how many buildings were there, but my guess is that the Richardsons built the cottage that is there now, and perhaps they had another building for storage – we just don’t know. White didn’t keep the property. He sold it within a few months to Raymond and Mary Leonard.

The Leonards, in 1916, deeded the island to Fr. Eugene C. Drouhin, a priest at Notre Dame Catholic Church in St. Johnsbury. Fr. Drouhin and fellow priests used the island as a retreat for many years, and built a small chapel there. It is not hard to imagine the priests filing slowly to the chapel each morning and evening for prayers. There might have been fog or mist over the water, and loons calling. The island is large enough so the priests could enjoy solitary meditation in the quiet peacefulness of the chapel or stroll in the woods where paths perhaps led to benches for quiet contemplation with only the sounds of water lapping at the shore and singing birds for company.



When Fr. Drouhin died in 1924, the island was passed in trust to the St. Johnsbury Hospital, run by the Sisters of Charity, “to rent or to sell.” The nuns apparently used the place very little, if at all, and in 1928, “Priests’ Island” was sold to E. Mahlon White, of Barre. White kept the island for about 18 years before selling it to a Barre couple, Louis and Clare Belanger. It changed hands again in 1948, going this time to D. Max Mann; then Stephen Mayham and his wife bought the island from Mann in 1955.

It is difficult to pin down exactly when telephone and electric lines were installed, but Doug Murphy of St. Johnsbury said that when he was a young man he and Durwood Bugbee, helped put electricity in when they worked for St. Johnsbury Electric Company. Murphy said Mrs. Mayham “put up with a 32-volt Delco system for about one year and then wanted power,” so that may have been about 1956.

The Mayhams owned the island until 1963, when it was sold to Ellery and Beulah Palmer. The Palmers enjoyed the island for about eight years before selling to

Art (“Bud”) and Marian Luce. During all these years, the cottage changed little outwardly, although each owner had added improvements inside. The priest’s chapel, however, had become a storage shed, and the island itself was getting overgrown with large trees and underbrush.

The Luces advertised the island for sale in 1976 in Yankee Magazine. A lady by the name of Lockwood saw the ad and the picture and sent it to her son Bob and his wife, Marty, in South Carolina. Bob called about it and bought the island, sight unseen. For the next few years, the Lockwoods visited their Vermont island whenever they could, but Bob was still in the Marines, so their time here was limited. After he retired in 1983, they began spending all their summers here, and that allowed them time to begin making improvements to the island. They cleared dead wood, made trails and planted flowers along the paths. The little chapel was cleaned out and completely renovated with lots of help and donations from the Joe’s Pond community.

I visited the island in 1987 to do an interview with the Lockwoods about their chapel. They showed me the small

white structure with big columns along the sides like a Greek temple. Inside, the sanctuary was bright and clean with four short pews facing a newly scraped-down wooden altar. Marty told me they had found the altar at an auction, and they had been told it was from a church in Cabot that had been dismantled years ago. Bob told me that Ray Rouleau had been with them that day and told them if they got the altar he’d give them a piece of granite to go on top of it. I remember the shine of the gray granite slab in the late afternoon light and the bible carefully placed on it. High above the altar, a rustic wooden cross stood out against the white wall. Bob and Marty told me they had made it. It looked as if it had been there always. They said the building would hold no more than 20 people, but pointed out that with the doors open, it made kind of a protective shell around the focal point, the altar, allowing many more people to see and hear from the porch and lawn beyond.

Mary and Jules Chatot gave them a bell for the chapel. Marty said she thought they had taken it right off their own cottage. Whether there had been a bell on the chapel when the



My grandfather thought Sim might have been abducted by the French to serve in their Navy and was afraid they might be looking for him and that could account for his returning here to live quietly on a remote island in Joe's Pond.

priests built it, nobody knew, but it seemed appropriate. When I interviewed them, the Lockwoods were in the process of putting finishing touches on the chapel and grounds for a dedication service to be held that July 19th. They said they wanted to share the chapel with others and extended a welcome to all denominations. I remember Bob telling me that it was, after all, a chapel, and that it belonged to all faiths.

True to their word, Bob and Marty opened their lovely little island chapel for memorial services, regular church services, and weddings. They frequently welcomed visitors and seemed to enjoy taking them on a guided tour of the island or let people explore the paths on their own. The Lockwoods sold their beloved island in 2004 to the present owners, Abel and Kitty Toll of Danville.

The smaller of our Joe's Pond islands, known sometimes as "Joe's Island," but more often locally as "Sim's Island," might have been used at one time by Joe and Molly, but that seems unlikely. Much like Sunken Island, it was only a ledge under water, visible only if the water was extremely low, when Simeon Whittier returned to Joe's Pond in 1894 and literally built the island.

According to my father, Aaron Bolton, Whittier was small in stature, a hard worker, and had a colorful past. When he was 20, he joined the U. S. Navy, visiting ports all over the world. When he left the Navy in 1871, he worked briefly with the railroad as a trackwalker at the West Danville car house until his mother died in 1872. He then took his young sister,

Nellie, to Boston to be cared for by relatives, and in 1873, joined the military again, serving in Co. H., 17th U. S. Infantry in North Dakota Territory. Whittier was serving with General Custer in 1876, and only escaped being in the Battle of Little Big Horn because he and a handful of other soldiers were ordered to remain at their encampment while Custer and 190 of his men scouted for Indians. As we know, Custer and his men were massacred at what would be "Custer's Last Stand."

Whittier loved to tell stories about his experiences fighting "out west," but there were some parts of his life he didn't talk much about. He left the army in 1878 and for the next 15 or so years, we don't have much information. However, Sim once told my Grandfather Bolton he went AWOL from the French Navy, escaping by swimming ashore one dark night as the ship sailed close to some point of land. My grandfather thought Sim might have been abducted by the French to serve in their Navy and was afraid they might be looking for him and that could account for his returning here to live quietly on a remote island in Joe's Pond.

Sim hauled rocks and earth in his rowboat to build a rectangular wall of closely laid flat stones on the submerged ledge at the northwest corner of the pond. He then filled it in with more stones and when the rock foundation was above water level, topped it off with dirt and sod, all carried in his rowboat from the mainland. Sim built a small house on his island, earning money for materials by doing odd jobs wherever he



Top: An early image of Priest's Island in the 1950s when owner Stephen Mayham decided to have utility lines submerged and run to his land. Above: Priest's Island, now owned by Abel and Kitty Toll, in its current state.

could find them. He would hire out to do carpenter work, paint, wallpaper, baby sit, or repair boats.

Sim had a thirst for liquor and was known to have kept a supply anchored off his island, well below the water's surface, where only he could find it. During prohibition, whiskey was of course illegal and hard to come by, but Sim apparently had a fairly reliable source. When he couldn't get whiskey, Sim would purchase a bottle or two of "Beef, Iron and Wine Extract," that had an alcohol base. He would often be seen stumbling up the railroad tracks from West Danville to where he kept his boat near the present Joe's Pond recreation area. Once in his rowboat, he would row straight to his island without ever looking over his shoulder or checking landmarks. Sim never owned an automobile; he either walked or went by boat or train. When the Town of Cabot passed a regulation imposing a tax for the maintenance of roads, he refused to pay, saying he had no need for and did not

use the roads, therefore should not have to pay the tax.

Whittier lived on the island year round for most of his 43 years here and knew the pond well. He was a good fisherman and kept friends well supplied. He kept a few hens on the island for eggs and meat, and lived simply, within his means. When his health began to fail, he rented a room in St. Johnsbury during winters, but returned to his island each spring. Rufus Simeon Whittier died at St. Johnsbury Hospital on July 8, 1937 at the age of 87. His death certificate lists cause of death as "chronic myocarditis with cancer of the intestines." He is buried next to his mother in the Cabot Plains Cemetery.

After Whittier's death, the island had several owners, none of whom apparently stayed there. Eventually Phil Rogers and Arthur Bartlett of Cabot bought it, and one winter in the late 1940's, they moved the little house on the ice to a piece of land Bartlett owned mid way down the west shore. Muriel

Blanchard of Barre bought the property and summered there for several years, eventually selling to Marcel Rouleau of Barre. About two years ago the Rouleau family tore down the little house Sim built to make room for a boat house.

The island, with only a small shed remaining, was abandoned for several years after the house was removed, leaving it open for people to help themselves to the flat stones that had been so carefully selected by Whittier for the foundation of his island. William and Lucia Pearl bought the island in 1955 for \$150. They turned the shed into a tiny cottage and spent many summers there while their four children were growing up. The Pearl family still owns the island, and it is now most often referred to as "Pearl Island." There are severe erosion problems and from time to time, vandalism, but the Pearl family hopes to somehow reclaim what has been lost over time, rebuilding it carefully, as Sim Whittier had done.

Grilling keeps the kitchen cool during the summer

No Small Potatoes *with Vanna Guldenschub*



I have been working my outdoor grill overtime this hot summer, cooking whole meals outside without heating up the kitchen. The week long hot spell gave me lots of time to experiment. I didn't turn on the inside stove that whole week. I do have a side burner on my grill (a great item!) that expands my repertoire of recipes, but even without this amenity you can use the grill top for an amazing array of dishes. From simple roasted vegetables to roasts and even baked goods you can be cool as a cucumber this summer.

A Few Hints

You need trays and pots for cooking on the grill. I keep a couple of old cookie sheets (with short sides) specifically to put on the grill. They become blackened on the grill and are perfect to save for this use. Scrub them out after use but don't worry about the black. Another perfect pan for the grill is the cast iron skillet, dutch oven or fryer. They are already black – so no worry. They are thick bottomed and help deflect the heat of the grill top. I have made many roasts this way and even cooked a 30 lb. ham to perfection in my large dutch oven on the grill.

Get a good working knowledge of your grill. Know the hot spots and the temperatures your grill will reach on all settings. You can use an oven thermometer to see what the high medium and low settings really yield.

Keep a clean grill. You can't have smoke billowing out before you even start to cook. Yesterday's barbecue should not be the flavoring for today's entrée.

Set up your grill for this type of cooking. You will need good pot holders so you won't burn yourself when you carry the fin-

ished goods into the house. If you have to add ingredients mid way through the cooking make sure you have them handy to use. A table to hold everything you need is a good idea.

Using the grill is fun for the whole family and guests will usually be impressed by what you can produce in the great outdoors.

Bruschetta

The following recipe is great to use as an appetizer, side dish or entrée. It is one of those dishes that is as good as the ingredients you use. Nice fresh tomatoes, good olive oil, freshly grated parmesan, fresh soft mozzarella and fresh herbs really elevate this dish to a gourmet delight. That said, you can compromise a bit on the ingredients and still have a have a great treat for your family. Use whatever your pocketbook can afford and enjoy this grilled treat often.

- 4 small or 2 large fresh tomatoes – there are local ones around already
- ½ lb. fresh mozzarella cheese – the softer the better
- 1 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- Olive oil
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- ¼ cup fresh parsley – chopped
- ¼ cup fresh basil – chopped
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste
- One medium sized round artisan style bread – Perhaps a Tuscan boule.

Slice the round loaf into ½ inch thick slices. Use a flat tray that you don't mind blackening on the grill and lay the bread down flat. Sprinkle the bread lightly with olive oil and a little salt and pepper. Cut the tomatoes in ¼ inch thick

slices and lay 2-3 pieces on each slice of bread - don't overlap the tomatoes. Sprinkle the tomatoes with salt, sugar and a little olive oil. Cut the mozzarella cheese into thin slices and lay on the seasoned tomatoes. Pour a little olive oil on the cheese and add the parsley and basil over all. I like to drizzle a little balsamic vinegar over the top – you decide. Grate the parmesan over the top of the breads.

With the grill on medium to high, place the pan of bread, uncovered, right on the grill top. Cover the grill and cook for about 7 minutes. Check to see the bread is well browned (not burnt) and the cheese is all melted. When this happens you have an unbelievable treat to use as an appetizer, side dish or entrée.

Roasted Beets & Carrots

I found amazing beets and carrots at the farmers market last week. The color was astounding and I could not resist them. I cooked them together on the grill and created an almost fluorescent side dish. Wait until you try this.

- 6 cups carrots – peeled and cut into medium chunks (see recipe)
- 3-4 cups beets – peeled and cut into small chunks
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup cider
- 1 teaspoon each salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon sugar

I like to cut peeled carrots into faceted slices. I accomplish this by starting crosswise diagonal cuts and turning the carrot about 90 degrees with each slice. It leaves lots of flat edges on each piece and picks up the flavors more readily. The beets are peeled raw and cut into small chunks to

resemble how the carrots are cut. I use a small paring knife to peel the beets. It is easier on your knuckles than a peeler.

Cut a long sheet of aluminum foil and place on your grill tray. Put the cut vegetables in the middle of the foil and turn up the sides. Add the olive oil, salt, pepper and sugar and about half the cider to the vegetables and tightly close up the foil. Place on a medium grill top and cook for about 30 minutes – checking every once in while to make sure they are not burning on the bottom. The beets and carrots are done when they are fairly soft. Take the tray off the grill and carefully open the foil pouch. There will be liquid in the bottom of the pouch that you should transfer to small saucepan. Close the pouch up after you have transferred the liquid and set aside. Add the rest of the cider to the saucepan and reduce this liquid until it is syrupy. Add a nut of butter to this reduction and whisk. This is where a side burner comes in handy. Put the vegetables from the pouch into this syrup and stir to coat. This little bit of sauce adds a whole new dimension to these root vegetables – and wait until you see the color.

Grilled Roasted Chicken

This simple dish is a good alternative to barbecued chicken. You don't have to be tied to the grill making sure it is not burning to a crisp and it is relatively easy to tell when it is done. You need a cast iron skillet and a rack to elevate the bird from the bottom of the pan. If you have

a big enough skillet you can even do a turkey or ham this way.

- 4 to 6 lb.. whole chicken
- ½ cup of your favorite rub or herb mix
- ¼ stick softened butter
- Pepper
- Sugar
- 2 cups cider

Put the rack in bottom of the skillet. Cover the chicken with the softened butter. I sometimes put a little of the butter under the breast skin. Rub with your favorite rub or herb mix. Sprinkle with a little pepper and sugar. Lay the chicken on the rack and put, uncovered, on a hot grill. Pour the cider in the skillet and close the grill. After about 10 minutes turn your grill down to low. Baste the bird with the cider about every 10 minutes, adding liquid (you can use water or broth) if needed. This keeps the chicken moist, adds a nice flavor and keeps you informed on the cooking status. If the chicken gets too browned on top – lay a piece of foil over it for the remainder of the cooking. After about 40 minutes check for doneness. You can use a meat thermometer or cut into the thigh joint and see if the juices run clear.

When it is done remove the whole pan from the grill and let the chicken sit for about 20 minutes. There will be some delicious juices in the bottom of your skillet and you can reduce them about half and add a nut of butter for a simple sauce. Carve the chicken, put the pieces on a platter and pour the sauce over it before service.



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A piece of cake

By JOHN DOWNS

If all cakes were as delicious as the strawberry cream cakes with cherries that my amazing friend Bob Swartz bakes, life might be completely enjoyable. Unfortunately, many are not.

About a month ago, I told my family and several friends that I was thinking about having my left hip surgically replaced by my long-time orthopedist, the well-respected Dr. Richard Gagnon. Three of my close friends, one of whom was a retired surgeon, said that the operation would be “a piece of cake.” I believed them, for the two laymen were long-time friends who would not knowingly deceive me.

Nevertheless, here I am lying in my hospital bed on July 12, two weeks after the good doctor had operated on me for two hours on June 28. I can tell from my present symptoms that it was a success.

The doctor’s characterization of the operation-to-be helped to diminish my apprehensions. It was, “In (the hospital) on Monday, out on Friday.” Without checking further with the doctor, I naively assumed that I would be going home in five days! But as you can tell, two weeks having elapsed since the operation, I didn’t understand what he really meant.

I am appalled too often when my naiveté reveals how stupid I can be. Although I thought that I would be in the hospital for only a few days, I brought four books and writing materials for two columns. I had almost finished “A Woman Who Fell Out of the Sky,” by Jennifer Steil, the daughter of our good friends Gil and Cynthia Steil of Barnet. The book is a fascinating and memorable account of a newspaper reporter’s experiences in Yemen. It was the only book I finished.

The night after the operation was a hallucinatory nightmare. I checked with a cooperative nurse later to see if any of my memories were based on actual facts. I remembered taking off all my clothes and lying naked in bed for hours. I was completely uncooperative with the concerned staff members.

Of course, my bizarre behavior was all drug-induced, as I later learned. The nurse’s notes were normal; fortunately, they did not

confirm the reality of my dreams. My mind was not controlling my body

It was the same story on Tuesday and Wednesday nights – more miserable dreams and very little sleep. As the days have gone by, however, my consolation is that obviously I am getting better.

For months before the operation I had mildly disabling arthritis in my balky left knee, and a balance problem that occasionally required the use of a cane. Possibly these conditions were related to my hip problem? I don’t want to play tennis again, but I would like to be able to walk without a cane.

Over the years I have had experiences in several hospitals. When I was nine and suffered a badly fractured elbow, they kept me in the Goodall Hospital in Sanford, Maine, for five weeks, fearing that if I were to fall, it could create more serious problems. All went well, particularly after I met and fell in love with a 19-year-old nurse. Alas, she eventually broke my heart when she told me she was getting married.

In 1944 I was operated on for kidney stones and spent 10 days in Baker Memorial Hospital in Boston. I can say unequivocally that four more recent hospitalizations at NVRH have convinced me that we have here in the Northeast Kingdom the best of all hospitals. The same retired surgeon I referred to earlier has operated in dozens of hospitals around the world. He told Virginia that NVRH is the best hospital he has ever operated in.

But my recollections about these hospitalizations and operations did not prepare me for what I experienced this time. In retrospect, perhaps my “piece of cake” friends’ euphoria about hip operations were similar to those of a mother who happily continues to have more babies despite the trauma involved with her first born.

NEXT MONTH: *More information about NVRH and its dedicated staff, and health care in general.*

Living life slowly

By VAN PARKER

There it was, as plain as day, written on the back of a man’s T-shirt. We were eating lunch at a place with a view of a nearby lake. It was warm, only to get warmer over the next several days. I looked over at a nearby table. “Live life slowly” the words on the back of the shirt advised.

It’s strange how bits of wisdom finally soak in, as you get older. Expressions like “take it easy,” “one step at a time” and “a stitch in time saves nine” begin to make sense.

We recently bought a new telephone. It’s a very nice phone and was quite inexpensive. But it has features our old phone lacked. It also came with a manual of some 40 pages, telling us all the buttons we could press to take advantage of this wonderful phone. Then one day after learning about 8 percent of what was in the manual, we discovered we’d lost it.

So I set about trying to get a new one. The first step was to call the customer information line. After dialing the number and getting messages like press this if you want to make payment arrangements, press that if you want to change our service, and so on I finally reached some number that sounded promising, only to be told by a real person that I needed to dial another number, which

I did. Another “customer service representative” eventually told me that I’d get help if I dialed still another number, which I also did.

In due time, a third representative of the phone company told us that they didn’t send out manuals through the mail. However, if we contacted the company through their website, we could press something or other until we came across the word “manuals.” Then we could go to the list of manuals (there must have been at least 150 of them) and order the manual designed for our phone. All I needed to do was look for the model number on the back of the phone to order, or rather “download” the manual.

Our computer is on “dial up” in Danville, so it took the better part of an hour to get the “downloading” completed. Then, thankfully, our printer worked, and all 40 or so pages of the manual emerged. But what a process! It made me long for the days when you could pick up the phone and, instead of pressing for an “option,” you would hear a person’s voice and she or he would say “how may I help you?”

Still, the old adages seemed to apply in this new situation. “Take it easy.” I said to myself. “Don’t be in a rush.” “One step at a time.” “Live life slowly.” “It will all work out in the end.” In this case, at least, it did.

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At Home In Japan

By Bill Amos



As members of Tokyo's tight-knit foreign community in the mid-1930s we had little difficulty keeping in touch with the outside world. Whatever restrictions the government imposed did not create significant problems for us. But real difficulties lay ahead as the decade drew to a close.

Contacts were maintained with the West through informal American and European channels and agencies, and gossipy news was obtained from friends passing through. The Japan Times and Advertiser, a daily English language newspaper presented world news with an even hand under Editor-in-Chief, Toshi Go. American newsmen on the staff, Wilfrid Fleisher and Stuart Lillico, knew the country well and were excellent sources of

information. Fleisher's father had established the paper at the turn of the century and Lillico later warned the West that Japan's foremost news agency, Domei, was "completely under official direction" and its reports were "falsified, exaggerated, and thoroughly unreliable." Stuart Lillico married the sister of one of my close friends, so we often got the inside scoop.

Few of us paid attention to the largest Japanese language newspa-

pers, Tokyo Mainichi Shimbun and Tokyo Nichi-Nichi Shimbun (later merged with Mainichi); our language skills were simply not up to the task. Basic reading required knowledge of at least 3,000 kanji, or ideograms. (I did not dream that in years ahead as a Naval Intelligence officer I would have that number and more at my command.)

Radio was neither a reliable source of information nor part of our world. As foreigners we were not allowed to have shortwave radios that could reach distant shores. FM had yet to be invented. AM broadcasts consisted of maudlin Japanese soap operas, adventure yarns, and loud nationalistic harangues.

By 1937, we began seeing signs of censorship and closer government attention paid to our activities and connections. Magazines from the U.S. were examined before we received them. News journals like Henry Luce's Time arrived with paragraphs neatly cut out or entire pages missing. Newsreels in theaters never hinted at anything but praise for Japan and its evolving Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere, a blueprint for expansion and empire building.

Moral censorship of Western print and film media had been in effect many years before our arrival. We teenagers were frustrated not being able to inspect racy magazines (none were allowed in the country), and we were infuriated when American films were cut at the exact moment of a passionate kiss. We

watched Franchot Tone approach Jean Harlow, both of them breathlessly expectant with lips parted—then the scene would leap as they suddenly were a foot or two apart with every evidence of having had a satisfying encounter. It happened every time with every film. How on earth were we expected to learn without being able to duplicate the expertise of Hollywood's best?

We not only went to as many foreign movies as we could, but also sought Japanese "Western" entertainment, especially at the great Takarazuka theater, Japan's all-female answer to New York's Radio City Music Hall. There we watched disciplined, high-kicking chorus girls prance to jazzed-up orchestrated versions of "My Blue Heaven" and "Onward Christian Soldiers."

On a more traditional bent, we visited the workshop of the great woodblock artist, Hiroshi Yoshida who was friendly, hospitable, and fluent in English. At the time he was well known and highly respected in Japan, had visited the United States and Europe, but had not yet achieved worldwide acclaim. He showed me a block underway, and

Above middle: A flight of medium attack bombers in the Japanese Navy, the Mitsubishi Type 96, code-named "Nell" by the U.S. This photo is from a morale-building magazine captured on Guadalcanal in 1942. (from the author's collection). Above right: Masters of kyudo, or Japanese archery, use enormous asymmetrical bows. They draw fully, aim, and hold rock-steady until their inner spirit is focused and calm—and then release the arrow that flies true to the target.

I marveled how quickly and accurately he translated his mental concept to wood with a delicate chisel. My parents bought a number of his prints, I selected two and all remain in the family.

An evening walk along the Ginza, Tokyo's "Broadway," was a never-failing delight. Portable night-shops appeared on the sidewalks every evening, seemingly out of nowhere. Stalls selling singing crickets in delicate bamboo cages were popular attractions—take them home and let them lull you to sleep. Captive finches picked out your fortune from bouquets of folded papers displayed in a miniature temple. Second-hand obi, elegant silken sashes worn by women, were displayed meticulously folded. Stalls offered steaming chestnuts, kitchen knives, dolls, and pocket magnifiers. A man wrote my full name in perfect Roman letters on a grain of rice using a fine brush and no magnification. It's now in my top bureau drawer resting on a tiny silk cushion in a small wooden box. Silhouette artists cut our profiles in black paper: a framed triptych of my father, mother, and teenage me hangs in

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our house today. Strolling along a single city block of night-shops could consume an entire evening.

Tokyo's pre-war department stores were among the grandest I've seen. Larger than John Wanamaker's in Philadelphia, Mitsukoshi had a huge central hall with one of the greatest pipe organs in the world. When it played, the earth trembled. Rival stores Takashimaya and Itoya attempted to match Mitsukoshi's magnificence, but couldn't.

Another large department store, Matsuya, stole a march on the others. It displayed a Soviet Russian fighter biplane that appeared old fashioned compared to the sleek shining Japanese warplanes that often flew over Tokyo. The Russian plane, suspended on wires in the department store's central hall, was punctured by dozens of red wooden shafts showing where bullets from Japanese fighters had brought it down during the "Manchurian Incident."

As residents of Tokyo we were much aware of planes that flew frequently over Meguro, our part of the city. It was long before international flights of any kind were permitted to fly to Japan, so planes seen were always Japanese. On one occasion I stood in our front yard watching more than a thousand planes—two- and four-engine bombers, transports, huge flying boats (the size of our Pan American Clippers) and fighters—pass overhead in a stupendous armada in celebration of the Emperor's birthday. Several years later at college in the U.S. I listened to others say how impoverished the Japanese air arm was, how Japanese men were constitutionally incapable of being good pilots, and how the Japanese Air Force would be eliminated in a matter of days if we went to war. I had difficulty explaining what I had seen. No one believed me anyway.

The Russian plane trophy, official reports, rumors, sanitized newspapers, and censored newsreels were all we knew of the conflict that was raging between Japan and the Soviet Union along the border between China, Russia, and the artificially created state of Manchukuo (its "emperor," Henry Pu-Yi, had been installed as a puppet by the Japanese occupiers). Battles were passed off as "incidents," but in fact the Manchurian Incident was a very real, although restricted war the West heard little about. Everything we learned at the time told of stun-

ning Japanese victories, with newsreels showing lines of Red Army prisoners of war trudging over the bleak tundra. We did not know until many years later that Soviet troops with their Mongolian allies had dealt such crushing blows to the huge Japanese Kwantung Army, including the destruction of an entire division, that its generals sued for a cease-fire, although there was no surrender, and the situation returned to an uneasy status quo. (More of this in a future column.)

How did we get around? Buses were convenient, but better by far were the super-efficient electric trains running at short, precise intervals in a web of routes throughout the city and to nearby Yokohama. Taxi drivers knew Tokyo better than anyone, and the fare was ridiculously cheap—you bargained ahead of time and never tipped. A long learning process must have been involved, because most streets had no names and houses were numbered according to the date they were built. Our house, No. 1985 on an unnamed street in a multi-block division, was boxed in by houses with completely unrelated numbers. I don't remember a taxi driver ever failing to find our gate. It was a mysterious ability I never understood.

I relied heavily on my bicycle. Japanese bikes in the 1930s were of the European design with hand brakes, an enclosed chain guard, variable speed controls, comfortable leather seat, hand warmers for the handlebars, and brake levers, and a generator powered headlight. They were well built and superior to the cumbersome American coaster brake design. Every bike had to be inspected, licensed and registered; an elongated license plate affixed vertically to my bike's rear fender consisted of Japanese numerals, not Arabic ones.

We boys explored farther a-field with bikes than our parents could with taxis or chauffeured cars that were rented, almost never owned. We got away with mischief that Japanese would never dare attempt and explored places no adult Westerner

would dream of going. It was very educational and rather risky.

Tokyo offered much to see, learn and enjoy. I watched kendo (fencing with bamboo staves), kyudo (archery with huge bows), and ju-jitsu, or judo—in practice and competition. Occasional attempts to try these arts met with repeated disaster: I was knocked silly by the bamboo "swords," thrown with abandon in elementary judo, and could not pull strings of the massive bows more than a few inches.

During an international competition held on our American School's athletic field, visiting American archers under the leadership of famed Howard Hill ("The World's Greatest Archer") suffered a sobering defeat at the hands of Japan's best. I watched Hill take aim, pause, and shoot—admittedly he was great. Then a Japanese archer would stand, arms bared, raise his towering, asymmetrical bow, draw fully, aim and remain rock-steady while his inner spirit calmed and grew peaceful, for only then would a good shot take flight. How kyudo masters managed to hold a fully drawn Japanese bow's enormous pressure—it seemed like minutes—before release, I've never understood.

Life in Japan for an acclimated American schoolboy little affected by international events was never boring. At the local level we almost daily visited a tiny stationery store next to the American School in Japan where the shopkeeper, a friendly middle-aged woman, kept all kinds of inexpensive treats, gadgets, and supplies selected to appeal to her unusual foreign clientele. Amazing stuff. I have several unique little devices stashed in a desk drawer, still useful after 75 years.

National holidays were celebrated according to Japanese custom. New Year's, for example, brought hanetsuki, a game using broad wooden bats and a feathered ball in a Japanese version of battledore and shuttlecock (resembled badminton). The bats, or racquets,

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Tokyo Imperial University's Misaki Marine Biological Station on the shore of Sagami Wan (Bay) as it appeared in 1938. Bill Amos had the use of a second floor lab (light colored windows to the left of the central tower). It was from here that he watched Japanese naval vessels in the bay.



Spring in a Hot Spring," by 20th Century woodblock artist Hiroshi Yoshida.

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were colorfully decorated with classical scenes and the resounding “click-clack” of the hard little feather-tailed ball against the wooden bats was heard everywhere.

A kori-mizu shop stood on the other side of the school. Translated as “ice water,” the refreshing concoction is known in Hawai'i as “shave-ice.” We didn't have access to ice cream very often in Tokyo, so the shop offering kori-mizu was a welcome attraction. A paper cup was held under the machine's orifice until a towering pile of ice flakes filled it to capacity, after which sweet, colorful syrup was poured over the mound. Like it? I have a small shave-ice machine right here in Vermont that once in a while is brought out to delight visiting youngsters.

Certain discoveries during city-wide peregrinations stand out. I prowled the famed Kanda used book district hoping to discover a treasure, as one of my American teachers had: he picked up a verified first edition of Bunyon's Pilgrim's Progress for approximately \$35. I found and still have an early Japanese translation of Darwin's Origin of Species that I once was able to read with minimal help from a dictionary.

My greatest discovery—and

greatest mistake—was not buying a 17th Century kenbikyō (“microscope”) known as a flea glass. It probably had been brought into the country centuries earlier by Dutch traders who, as the first foreigners allowed in Japan, had been restricted to one small spot near Nagasaki in southern Honshu. I was interested in microscopes, but thought this too simple a thing, with its polished wooden barrel, ivory and brass fittings, and a set of interchangeable low power lenses. The shopkeeper asked ¥15, or \$5 U.S. at the 1936 exchange rate. Bargaining would have been possible, but it still seemed too expensive. I had chrome, enamel, sturdy metal and high-power lenses in mind, not a wooden and ivory antique.

I've been kicking myself ever since.

Japan was a great place for a budding biologist. Nature education and biological science were integral to both the traditional nature-oriented society and scientific advancement. During my last two years at the American School I was fortunate in being invited to study at Tokyo Imperial University's Misaki Marine Biological Laboratory near the coastal village of Aburatsubo on a point separating Tokyo Bay and Sagami-wan (Sagami Bay is where the Emperor had his vacation retreat

at Hayama and where the 1945 surrender took place on the USS Misouri).

Dr. Megumi Eri, director of the laboratory, became one of the most influential men in my life by guiding me into studies I pursued elsewhere off and on for almost fifty years.

My first day could have ended badly. Dr. Eri placed me in an empty lab overlooking the sea. The huge naval base of Yokosuka was nearby. Foreigners were not allowed near the base and anyone, Japanese citizens included, attempting to take photographs in the region or of naval vessels was in jeopardy of immediate arrest.

As an experienced microscopist, I immediately checked out the research instrument he made available to me. Its optics were complex, so all I'll say is that while adjusting the substage condenser, selecting objectives and oculars, and experimenting with the unfamiliar instrument, I was astonished by what I saw looking through the microscope's battery of lenses. Against everything I knew about microscope optics, when the condenser was racked down and certain lenses were selected, and I adjusted the substage mirror just so, the view I got was not high magnification of a extremely small object, but an upside-down telescopic view of rocks and trees along the shore.

Redirecting the mirror so the view included the bay's opposite shore, several large naval vessels in the channel jumped into view. The image was so clear, so detailed I could make out features of armament and individual sailors working on deck. I already had experience taking photographs through a microscope and could have done so

easily, but prudently had no camera with me on this trip.

I quickly changed the microscope back to its normal function. (None of my later microscopes could be made to do this trick.) Without telling anyone what I'd seen, I asked Dr. Eri what would happen to anyone caught taking photographs of naval ships in the bay. What he said was alarming.

Later, as a Naval Intelligence officer in WWII, I knew how vital Sagami Bay and Tokyo Bay's nearby Yokosuka Naval Base were to the Imperial Japanese Navy, and marveled at the chance for a coup I had once had.

The first night in Aburatsubo I was lodged in the town's only inn hoping to sleep under a quilted futon on a straw tatami floor, eating meals of soba and oyako donburi. This was not to be. The innkeeper insisted I occupy the single “foreign” room on the second floor.

It was the one room kept for American and European visitors to the lab, equipped only as a 1930s rural Japanese innkeeper imagined a Western room should be. There was a round table covered by green felt that hung to the floor, with a sturdy oak lamp bolted to the center. The square heavy chairs were instruments of torture, seemingly fixed in place. Rather than delicate sliding paper shoji as in the rest of the inn, the window consisted of heavy pebbled glass sash, nearly opaque and closed tight.

What passed for a bed was a massive wooden contraption that at first looked comfortable, but proved to be a frame covered with a single thin futon supported by widely spaced wooden slats. It

was a mismatch for any possible configuration of human anatomy. It was also dangerous, because the slats kept falling out. Minimizing risk, I spread the futon on the bristly “foreign” carpet and slept fitfully.

A delicious Japanese dinner had been enjoyed at Dr. Eri's house the evening before, but breakfast was served in my hotel room. I would have ordered rice, fish, and pickled daikon (winter radish), but had no chance before a “foreign” breakfast arrived. It consisted of board-stiff bread probably discovered earlier in a neighboring town, and what I guessed was meant to be butter (not eaten much by Japanese in those days). Eggs, I supposed, were under an inverted bowl.

I lifted the bowl to instant nausea. Not only was their freshness long gone, the eggs were lightly speckled green with something unpleasant. There was urgent need of getting rid of the foul mess. The only places with plumbing, the ofuro (bath) and benjo (toilet), were down the hall and other guests, all Japanese, were stirring. I grabbed the plate, dashed to the pebbled window, yanked open the heavy sliding frame, and dumped the corruption outside.

Erupting out of Dante's Inferno, demons from Hell screamed their fury. Aghast, I looked down. There, just below my window, was a large cage filled with Japanese macaques—red-faced monkeys whose faces were now an apoplectic scarlet. They raged, they screamed, they swore as they slammed about the cage, flinging glutinous strands of rotten egg from their heads and bodies. More egg dripped from the wire mesh.

The window faced a small courtyard. Every shoji screen slid back and every window framed a startled Japanese who looked at the unfolding scene with astonishment.

I fled down the hill to the laboratory and its cool rooms resonant with seawater trickling into aquaria. Food held no appeal. Later Dr. Eri soothed the puzzled innkeeper who offered excellent Japanese fare the rest of my stay.

Adventures of every kind, great and small—those happy years—remain in fond memory.

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A 'feast' on the pond

Ten culinary adventurers 'feasted' on a Danish Klode bord as the second in the Pope Memorial Library's Dinner and a Foodie Movie series, Babette's Feast, took place at the Mills camp on Joe's Pond July 10. The chef/hostess Henretta Splain and sous chef Susan Tallman were challenged by the remarkable din-

ner portrayed in the movie, and wisely opted to present a menu of Scandinavian flavors rather than attempt to recreate Babette's extraordinary banquet.

The movie, about love, sacrifice, duty, and gratitude takes place in a small, desolate village on the western coast of Jutland during the 19th century. Two

pious spinster sisters strive to keep their small community faithful to their dead father's austere teachings. Into this barren landscape arrives Babette, a mysterious refugee from a bloody counter-revolution going on in France who is welcomed into the sisters' home, given a job and safe haven. Babette, after many years, wins 10,000 francs in a lottery and to mark the minister's 100th birthday she convinces the sisters and congregants to try a truly outrageous French meal to mark the occasion. Not wanting to be impolite they accept but agree among themselves not to enjoy the meal so as not to threaten their eternal souls. One guest among them, a general, is stunned by the quality of the meal and cannot understand how his fellow guests can stay mute about such a remarkable feast. As the meal progresses Babette's extraordinary gift breaks down their distrust and superstitions as an almost "mystical redemption of the human spirit settles over the table".

While this feast may not have been a "mystical redemption", the library's guests were able to delight in not only the beautiful setting on Joe's pond, but also in the epicurean creations presented at table. The evening was fine and the food was delectable, starting with the shrimp cocktail with dill and mint, gravalox, and curried pick-



led herring and green apple salad. While, perhaps not as decadent as Babette's "Potage a la Tortue" and "Blini Demidoff au Caviar", there were no complaints from the diners. Henretta and Susan went on to present a main course of vodka marinated sliced sirloin roast along with pork meatballs stuffed with prunes accompanied by a smorgasbord of fresh asparagus cucumber salad, wheat berry and pearl barley salad, fresh corn basil salad. Unlike Babette's guests, those at table were vocal in their appreciation of the tenderness of the three day 100 proof vodka marinated roast and the flavorful meatballs. It may not have been the heroine's famed "Caille en Sarcophage avec Sauce Perigourdine", "La Salad" and "fromages with papaya, figs, grapes and pineapple" but it ran

a close second! To match the original "Savarin au rhum avec des Figs et Fruit Glacess", a lemon square with gin syrup blueberries, peaches marinated in Grand Marnier and berry tart received high praise.

The Library is in the process of scheduling a Dinner and Foodie movie for September and October and tentatively August. Check the library for further details. Inquires to attend future Dinner and a Foodie Movies may be made at the Pope Memorial Library 684-2256, Susan Tallman at 684-3836 or Henretta Splain at 563-2478.

If you would like to host a dinner and foodie movie, the selections, sample menus and instructions are available at the Pope Memorial Library. Again, please direct inquires to the above mentioned people.

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Stars & Stripes



On Saturday, July 17, the 30th Annual Stars & Stripes Festival took to the streets of Lyndonville. This wonderful event celebrates community with music, a parade, vendors and crafters sponsored by the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce. Clockwise from above: a 1951 Chevy and modified Volkswagon; Grand Marshal Jodi Wheeler representing H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday); Members of the St. Johnsbury Band; Upright Steeple Society; and Supporting Local Farms.

Photos by Donna Garfield



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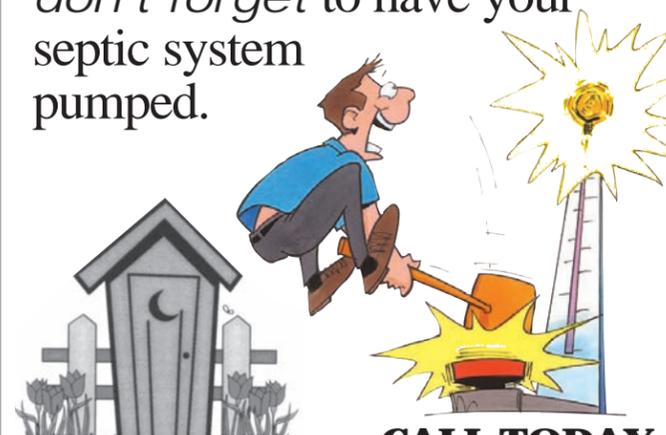


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Follow the Money

'APPOMATTOX'

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



It is a small room, in an ordinary house, in a graceful place of runs and pastures. There are two desks and two chairs. Behind the house there is a smokehouse, a root cellar, a summer kitchen, and a slave cabin.

Slavery is the private ownership of labor. Slavery allows a producer to own—and thus to monopolize and guarantee—its supply of a critical resource, keeping labor from its competitors. For millennia, this was a common practice throughout the known world and across cultures. The predominant economic pursuit was agriculture, and that was labor intensive. The more labor, the more harvest produced, and the wealthier and better protected the producer. It was only with the advent of a market-based economy, the idea that a market more efficiently decides the use of resources and that it should be extended to a labor market, that slavery began its final decline.

Slavery became impractical and noncompetitive because, unlike other resources such as commodities or capital, “labor” is human beings who react to incentives, as proven by the profit motive in the labor market as in any other market.

The cost of slave labor, after the initial purchase, is the cost of maintaining productivity by providing sustenance for the slave who will otherwise become worth less if its physical condition deteriorates. Not only will it become less productive as a resource, but its value as a marketable asset will decrease. The owner has an incentive to increase or at least maintain the slave's value and productivity, and its cost.

On the other hand, the slave has an incentive to do as little labor as possible, as its compensation is unrelated to productivity and, in any case, is not its own. So the cost of slave labor is likely to be higher while the benefit is likely to be lower for the slave owner.

In a free labor market, an employer's incentive is to pay as little as possible, which is possible given that there are many others vying for the job, while the employee's incentive is to make him- or herself as valuable as possible by increasing productivity. So the cost of “free market” labor is likely to be lower and the benefit higher for the employer, who can then become a more efficient and competitive producer, making the economy more competitive and productive.

The economic irony of slavery was not apparent, however, until market efficiencies became evident and were widely applied to labor. This coincided with a basic lesson of mechanization and the industrialization that fol-

lowed, that is, that profit margins could be increased enormously with economies of scale, and that such economies could be created by shifting costs that were variable, or hired by the output, to costs that were fixed, or independent of output. That usually happened only with an investment in large assets, such as a machine or a factory—or a slave—that is owned regardless of output. Those economies can be realized if the volume of production is increased enough to offset the investment.

But human productivity by itself cannot be increased, except with the use of tools, like machinery. So investing in slaves did not increase the volume of production enough to enable economies of scale, and the skewed incentives of slavery outweighed the fact that it made labor a fixed cost.

Owning a labor force also gave slave owners less flexibility in optimizing their work force. The strategy of monopolizing labor backfired in economies where labor was plentiful, and competition for jobs could have increased its quality. Instead, slave owners were stuck with laborers that had no incentive to improve productivity or value, and less flexibility in exchanging them.

Of course, there were $\frac{3}{4}$ and are $\frac{3}{4}$ moral arguments against slavery. And although market-based economies dominate the global economy, there are economies and markets where it still is practiced. But for the most part it is seen as an anachronism of a more primitive time, embraced before the enlightenment—or at least the profits—of modern capitalism.

Most countries outlawed the slave trade and then slave ownership, and most slave owners did the math, eventually, but we went to war among ourselves to decide whether all laborers were entitled to profit—at whatever market equilibrium price—from selling labor. The war did not end either the argument or the exploitation of human capital. But after the long and wounding struggle, we indeed affirmed, however reluctantly, the inalienable right to profit from work, and in doing so, expanded the ideas of life, liberty, and property.

Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy. She is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College.

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A treasured memory of Danville's own monk

BY VIRGINIA DOWNS

Driving past the Danville Restaurant and Inn on one of our hot July days revived a warm memory from back in the 1980s, when I met one of the most unusual human beings I can recall.

There was a gathering of friends in Peacham and with them a priest, unknown to me, who seemed to be the center of attention for everybody there. "You've never met Father Bruder?" asked one with a look of disbelief. "It's about time you did, and you should talk to him about his life. He'll be the best interview you ever did."

And so came about the most unusual visit I can remember in my many years of meeting and writing about people.

As I drove through Danville a week later and turned right after the restaurant, I began looking for the one-room cabin set in the woods. There it was, and at the top of the tiny building's stairs came Father Jon, hardly looking clerical. He was dressed in dungarees and a plaid work shirt.

He led me into the tiny building that he had trans-

formed from what had once been the upper deck of a round barn in Calais. "I spent a week at the farm, ripped the roof off, and some guys helped me cut it in sections and haul it over here."

When I expressed amazement at his accomplishment, he informed me that monk's consider working with their hands to be an important part of daily life.

More amazement! Nobody had told me that he was a monk. In 1948, he entered the Paulist order as a novitiate at a monastery in Oak Ridge, New Jersey. His older brother, Bob, had been with a Jesuit order for four years. He urged his younger brother to become a priest. By then, he had served in World War II as an Air Force navigator with the 450th Bomber group in Italy, flying his 50 missions in four months, and had

taken courses at the University of California in Los Angeles.

Father Jon grew up in a Catholic family in the town of Ironwood, Michigan. "I was a quiet kid at school," he told me, "but clowned around all the time at home. The whole family teased a lot." I already had a glimmer of that, since he had asked me as I sat down at the counter that served as his dinner table, "What'll it be - beer or scotch?" Then he grinned and handed me a cup of coffee with a doughnut.

He smiled as he shared that "two of the greatest years of my life were when I got permission to go to the Holy Family Hermitage in southern Ohio where I became a Camaldolese hermit. We worked hard in the garden, wore beards and lived in separate cabins. I would sit below an overhanging roof drawing lessons out of everyday things.

During those years of quiet contemplation, he learned what he wanted to do with his life. First of all, he did not want to become a preacher. His desire was to live somewhere alone in the world but share with others



his deep instinct that religion is a love affair with God that people need."

After the hermitage, his family convinced him to have a change and suggested he go to Vermont. He discovered Danville and was attracted to its natural beauty and friendly people.

Steve Cobb, owner of the popular Danville Restaurant, has never forgotten how kind and helpful Father Jon was to his dad when he was seriously

ill, as well as to other elderly people in the community when they needed kind attention.

"I enjoyed him so much when he came into the restaurant," Steve told me. "He always had something interesting to tell me and had that great sense of humor. We miss him in town."

Father Jon died in 2005 at the age of 80. He was buried in Danville Green Cemetery with military honors bestowed by the Army Air Guard.



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Ben Clifford, alias Daniel Boone, speaks again

BY SHARON LAKEY, DIRECTOR

Treasures are brought through the door of Historical House. They can be as simple as a manila folder notebook, bound with masking tape. On the front is taped a postcard depicting the "Snow Roller at Greenbanks Hollow Bridge." On the bottom right, written by hand, is the title: *Poems By Ben Clifford. Alias Daniel Boone.* The bookmaking is the handiwork of Shirley Langmaid of North Danville, who was thoughtful and careful enough to keep all the poems she received in the mail from local poet and neighbor, Ben Clifford.

The poems are handwritten in strikingly beautiful penmanship. "Uncle Ben was a great penman," said 94-year-old Ruth Drown from Danville. She has the photo of him and his three brothers sitting on her living room book-

case. Graciously, she allowed us to scan it for readers. She remembers him as a "quiet, gentle man."

Here is a copy of the first poem in Shirley's book.

Second Childhood Thoughts

Old age is likened unto army life
You are only allowed one day
at a time

If fortune happens to favor you
You can consider that just fine

I just wonder what to do
at eighty
As I was never at that age before
I suppose we should wiggle and
twist around

To keep from falling down
on the floor

Somehow life seems so peculiar
After leaving eighty years behind
Why did we not create
a perfect world

If we had not been so blind
With the dissatisfaction
everywhere

Of conditions in this land
Why the young do not realize
what God gave them
It is really hard to understand

Does anything amount
to anything
That was manmade in the past
As anything made by mankind
Was really not made to last

Perhaps this reaps
discouragement
In the young peoples' minds today
As this idea of great illusion
Seems to have come here to stay

As this grave matter of education
Is stressed each day more
and more
Without a trace of common

decency by some
It is a condition we should
all deplore

Now in winding up this
controversy
I have nothing more to say
It seems the young have
immense problems
To straighten out in the
world today

Sometimes I call myself
Daniel Boone
Often times just for fun
To revive that old time history
Of his coonskin cap and old long
barreled gun

- By Daniel Boone

This article and poem is posted on the Danville Historical Society blog at <http://danvillehistorical.blogspot.com>

The Sky Watcher

On summer days
I swim to the calm
end of the pool,
Away from the jumpers
and splashers,
Turn onto my back
And float between two skies;
The one miles above,
churning with condensates,
The other, a few feet below,
Ribbioned with concentrates
of sunlight
Refracted by the lens of
restless water.
The sky above plays out its
slow dynamic.
Great ships of cumulus,
with sails
Gold edged in the sunlight
Leaning out of the wind,
Move majestically
across the blue.
Shreds of cloud, torn off by
the turmoil,
Scud in the wake,
trying to keep up.
On other days,
As weather systems cross
the Alleghenies
And form lee waves
eastward over the Piedmont,
Parallel streets of cloud line
up on the crests
of cooler air.
Later in the day,
As the forms dissipate into
gauzy stratus
And disappear,
The swifts and
swallows come
To fly in the brief,
white sky.
- Bruce Hoyt



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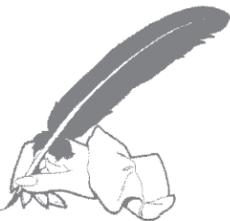
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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

By Lynn A. Bonfield



In 1847 Henry Walker (1817-72), a farmer in Peacham, wrote to his friend, Leverett A. Hand (1817-1906), then living in Acton, Massachusetts. Letter writing at that time was the only means by which friends who lived apart could remain in touch. The letter opens with Henry reporting on his health, which may have been spurred on by questions in Lev's original letter, unfortunately not located. He went on to address the health of the community and the success and failure of the crops—hay good, wheat poor—and then the haying schedule, usually begun around the Fourth of July. He gently teased Lev about growing soft and not working hard enough. Henry seems to have exaggerated the day laborer's wages, for economist, Ernest L. Bogart, wrote in Peacham, The Story of a Vermont Hill Town (1948) that men hired to hay at mid-century earned \$1.00 a day. Most letters from this period listed recent deaths, and Henry's is no exception as he reported the death of Peacham's former resident, John Mattocks, Vermont governor 1843-44. This led him to politics, and Henry told of the upcoming election for town representative to the Vermont legislature. Prior to 1965 each town in the state sent a representative to Montpelier. In Peacham bitter fights ensued among the Whigs, LocoFocos, and Liberty Party over controversial topics such as extending slavery to new territories, liquor licensing, tariffs, and the creation of a national bank. Henry correctly predicted that Peacham would not elect a representative, for after eleven ballots at the town meeting in September, no candidate received a majority vote. Lev did return to Peacham to live for a time and then went off to California in January 1850 with the first organized company of men from the area going to the gold rush. He returned in the late summer of 1852 and unfortunately had trusted a man in New York who robbed him of his purse of between \$1100 and \$1200. Henry remained interested in politics and in 1870 was elected town delegate to the state constitutional convention.

The original of this letter is preserved in 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.

Peacham Aug. 11. 1847

Friend Hand:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter & to say I was glad to get it even at so late a day—your appology I liked—just such an one as you could in conscience make for such a delay

In regard to our health I am remaing much the same comfortable, but no better—the rest of us are well, except myself, who have got a very bad cold. I've been troubled much this summer with sores in the first place I had two under my right arm, before those left me I had one on the top of my left foot & then as much as 8 or 10 on my legs in succession—boils I suppose they were, but they] troubled me very much & hindered me about our work

It is quite healthy in this neighborwood now & has been with some exceptions through the summer C and Jane Patridge have each been sick but have got better Alberts boy is now sick, he went after the doct today Harmon [Hand, Leverett's older brother] has got 2 days work to finish haying & Frank [Bailey, Leverett's brother-in-law] 3 or 4. The rest of us in this school dis't have got done We finished at home last Monday—had 2 days work to finish on the Whitcher place—had a good day tuesday rained Wednesday & in the three following days we made out to finish doing what we could have done in one good hay day Hay has come in well Harmon & Frank never have cut so much—not room in their barns to put it Corn is heavy, but backward—wheat is the poorest that it has been for ten years—oats light & late—potatoes very slim—in short—poor crops except hay. Feed very short in pasture—nothing plenty but grasshoppers— There will not be half the wheat raised in this district there was last year

I am very sorry you've got to be so mean a man as you have proved yourself to be to Mr Chapin. If you have got to be the man he represents you to be you had not better come back to Peacham, for we have mean men enough here now—or perhaps you had better come back among this churchgoing people & let us see if we cant reform you I did not learn what particular vices you have inherited at Acton except glottony & laziness. A man that eats like a "hog" should work like a "horse" It seems that pretty much all the work you wanted to do was to feed yourself What a pity! I think you could done as well in Peacham this season as you'll do at Acton, reckoning expenses of travel &c—wages have been very high here \$1.25 per day in haying or \$25 or 28 pr month Harmon hired George Darling for \$1[.]25 pr day—he worked 4 days & Harmon used him up so he did not do anything more for one week. Abbot has been to worke for Harmon the last 4 days.

In regard to our election here the general opinion seems to be we shall not elect any man to represent the town this year, or if we do get one full as likely to be a LocoFoco as whig the Locos had their caucus last night & put in nomination Mr Phineas Varnum The Whigs will run [Hazen] Merrill—the abolitionist have not named their candidate yet they think there will be more third party votes this year than last

You said "it was strange to think what changes have taken place in Peacham since you left" Time is continually making changes in our midst by deaths, removals &c Since your last letter from Peacham there has some changes taken place Gov [John] Mattocks was buried last Monday Dexter Wheeler buried a child last thursday—2 years old Mattocks died with a billious trouble—sick for 3 weeks so was very willing to die Mr [David] Merrill in his sermon was very plain, he kept back no truth—he disguised no fact, but give a history of the character of the man He said those present knew what his character had been for the last 30 years—he had had honor & riches—been liberal when it was for his interest to be so (& no man he sd knew better than he did when it was) enjoyed great worldly blessings but yet nothing but a severe calamity could bring him to repentance &c &c &c His estate is worth \$80,000 which he gave equally to his 4 children—giving John & William theirs & Ned & Kate the interest in part of theirs—withholding the principal which is to go to their children

Mrs Skeeles & Sarah Ann think of starting for Winchendon tuesday & Wednesday. Mrs Skeeles Mother is very feeble & the prospect is she will not live long

I think you had better come to Peacham this fall—this good old town of your nativity
Lyman Patridge & Wife & Hellen have gone to Michigan

Write soon
Henry Walker

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>> Page 1

ing through clouds of mist upon our fields. But I can tell you it has not been noiseless, and we have strayed.

Yesterday I was working those fields, and fretting over the amount of diesel fuel I was expending while crude oil boiled from the bowels of our planet and into the Gulf of Mexico. When we first moved here we had actually deluded ourselves into thinking we might make hay using nothing but the power of horses some day. It's a lovely thing and I've seen it done. It isn't entirely silent but you can hear the birds singing and the wind in the trees, along with the creak of the harness, the swish of the hay, and the occasional snort of the horse. It also smells a lot better than exhaust fumes but, alas, it was not for us.

We deluded ourselves in other ways, too, back then. We really thought we could leave the "madding crowd" entirely behind and live on this little island of our own. It would be some years before I-91 came through, and on moonlit nights when the air was still, it really was silent except for an occasional owl. Now, on those nights, there is always the banshee wail of big truck rubber on asphalt, even though the highway is miles away. It was the banshee that wailed of an impending death in the folklore of Ireland, and she greets me

again when I walk up into the woods for the sunrise, hoping for nothing but bird song.

Of course that same highway takes us away, took all of our children away, and as I roar up and down it, looking upon what is left of the Connecticut Valley farms, I feel like I'm doing a drive-by shooting of both Gainsborough and Gray. Yet there is no escape; even the skies above real islands, isolated Pacific atolls, are criss-crossed by the vapor trails of high flying aircraft while the sea slowly rises. And at night, the very stars that those islanders used to navigate by are intertwined by satellites cruising past, as though the cosmos itself has lost its bearings and come loose.

It would be a mistake to think that all of the above is an aging romantic's plea for a return to simpler times. When, in the days immediately following September 11th, 2001, commercial air traffic pretty much ceased world wide, the planet's overnight temperature went down by a fraction of a degree. Those vapor trails, which you can see, were holding the day's heat, which you can't see. Our noise is only

part of the story, a symptom, and it is everywhere.

When scientists enclosed people in an experimental soundproof chamber, they were maddened by the thump and whoosh of their own circulation. The noise we make is part of being alive, and I confess that I love my tractors and chain saws almost as much as I love my own family. Such tools are what lifted mankind from the drudgery of survival so that the likes of Gray, Gainsborough, and I could write or paint, or pontificate. But for each gain there is also a loss, to the peace of a sunrise or to the planet. I think of this while I walk my garden path in the morning, past the pond to the berry bushes while the mist rises.

Is it really Eden that we long for? Is there a part of us deep inside that knows we are taking another bite of the apple every time we turn the ignition on? If so, then we need to put this nexus of science and religion in front of ourselves every day. The planet is our garden, nourishing body and soul. We should take better care of it.

Landscapes near and far

From Aug. 11 through Sept. 28, the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild will host an exhibition of Curtis Hale's work. The public is invited to an artist's reception on Saturday, Aug. 21 from 3 to 5 p.m.

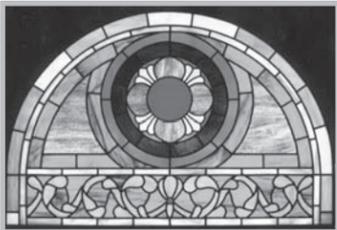
Curtis Hale is originally from Saint Johnsbury. He is fourth in a lineage of family painters who work in landscape. Hale paints with oils, working primarily from life. While celebrating the environment, and painting as ritual, his work often cites the effects of civilization on the natural world. His work is broadly painted, without excessive detail, and aims to establish a mood visually.

Hale is one of ten Vermont artists awarded commissions through the Art of Action project. This project is the inspiration of Lyman Orton, co-owner of the Vermont Country Store. Orton donated \$250,000 to the Vermont Arts Council to reward and motivate Vermont artists to look at the Vermont landscape and envision ways to preserve the

working landscape, its beauty and its unique qualities.

For his part in the Art of Action project, Hale chose bridges, inspired by the realization that about 1,200 of Vermont's bridges are functionally obsolete. He says, "I think that most Vermonters have a personal sense of self-reliance and innovation and embrace simplicity in our lives. But much of this self-image is based on imagery from the past -- the maple syrup can, the covered bridge . . . I feel Vermont struggling to find expressions of these traditional values in the modern age. With carefully crafted paintings and drawings of bridges and other infrastructure, I hope to affect Vermonters' shared sense of historic pride and responsibility and to inspire an ambitious collective vision for the future."

Hale returned to the Northeast Kingdom in 2003 after extensive travel in the United States, Europe and Asia. At age 32 he has settled in Danville, Vermont.



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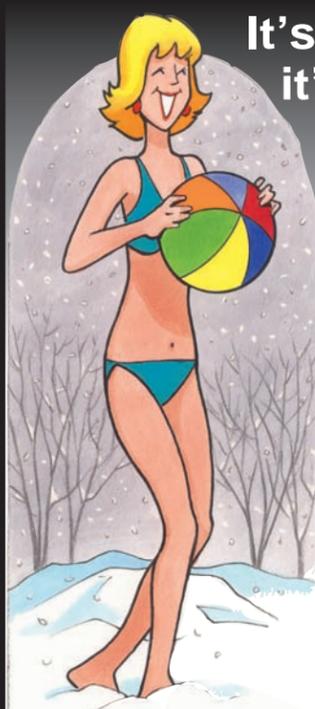
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Two Danvilles reconnect

Bus tour on July 3, 2010 to Danville, Quebec, fondly remembered

By Sharon Lakey, Director of the Danville Historical Society



It was a somber morning as the tour bus to Danville, Quebec, loaded in the early morning of July 3, 2010. If one didn't know already, it was whispered that Mary Prior, past President of the Danville Historical Society, had passed the evening before. She had been a part of the planning stages of the trip before Town Meeting, bringing out the archival photographs of the 1960 Twinning of the Towns event and talking it up excitedly. We rolled smoothly out of her beloved Danville right on time with passports, enhanced driver's license, or birth certificates tucked away, ready for the border crossing into Canada. What would we find in Danville, Quebec, our twin town that was now celebrating its 150th birthday?

With sunshine and green hills, more flat-looking than around here, Danville, QC, presented itself nicely to us as our bus rolled through the outskirts, then through the center of town. People sitting in an outdoor cafe over coffee must have wondered what a tour bus was doing in town. They looked at us quizzically. We were earlier than expected.

The driver, equipped with GPS, knew to take us to the fairgrounds. A large, white tent was set up there, and small food booths circled a common area. The fairgrounds were adjacent to the English-speaking high school to which the

driver parked us near the doors. There, a vigorous-looking older gentleman, nicely dressed, was standing to greet us. Paul Chouinard, new President of the Danville Historical Society was our tour guide, and he stepped off the bus to meet him.

When the gentleman stepped onto the bus, he announced in French-accented English that he was Hertel Boisvert, 84 years old, that had made the trip to Danville, VT, in 1960. He was the one, who with his wife and two children, had driven the wagon and team of horses from Danville, VT, to Danville, QC, in honor of the original set-

tlers who had taken that same trip in 1806. He told us he would be our guide until the Town Hall opened, located at a lovely lake and nature preserve near the high school. So began our day of fun in Danville, QC.

The lake, which is named Burbank Pond, is large. Mr. Boisvert explained that it was originally a mill pond that has been turned into a nature preserve. It didn't take long for some of our tour participants to find some nature trails and take the opportunity to stretch their legs. Mr. Boisvert brought his book of memories with him and shared some of his Danville stories and photographs with us. He told us

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Food vendors were set up on the perimeter and general fair food was available to fairgoers. Of course, many from the U.S. tried the French Canadian specialty, poutine. This is a dish like French fries, but with gravy on top. "Very filling," said Carol Ottinger, who had to try it. Paul Chouinard presents the Vermont flag in the ceremony.



that his wife, who kept a daily journal of their adventures in 1960, had passed, but her journal was now being made into a book. A baby raccoon, part of a rescue program, entertained us as well, by running after its handler.

Soon, other dignitaries arrived, one in a tuxedo and bowler, and the town offices were opened. We were ushered into the council chambers where a woman in a long gown smiled and handed out small glasses of apple champagne while another dignitary gave us lapel pins with the Town's insignia. A guest book on the table was presented for all to sign. Two of our group had been at the previous 1960 celebration: Alice McDonald Hafner and Dianne Smith Langmaid (six-years-old at the time). Toby Balivet, as a boy, had also attended some events with his father, Hank, who was instrumental in the planning of the 1960 tour. The rest of us were first-time celebrants.

The man in the tuxedo was the mayor of Danville, QC. We were to see more than one tuxedo during the day. For the celebration, the town officials wore traditional garb, making them easy to spot. The mayor was French-speaking (fran-

cophone), so his speech of greeting was translated for us by an English-speaking person (anglophone). In this case, Mr. Boisvert served the role. (We were to find simple kindnesses throughout the day, where communication was a collaborative effort between interested parties.) It

We were to find simple kindnesses throughout the day, where communication was a collaborative effort between interested parties.

was here that an exchange of flags took place: Danville, QC, gave us one of their town flags and Paul presented a Vermont flag to them.

After the exchange, we were back on the bus with an anglophone historian, who gave us running commentary about the town as we drove to the center green to a farmer's market. It was a small market, much different than ours. The green is different, too, as it is more like a business center than our green. The vendors were inside a large brick, cooperatively owned, cafe. Some in our group sat for cof-

fee and French pastry, while others looked over pamphlets and other things that were offered there for sale. Paul met a man here, a local historian, who offered to take him to the cemetery to see the grave of Simeon Flint, a settler who arrived in 1806 from Vermont and was the

first Governor of the new Danville, QC.

Back at the school, the tour members went their own ways to view an historical exhibit, check out an ancestry computer tool if they had Canadian roots, and peruse the food offerings in the fairground area. Lunch was on our own and most partook of the fair food offered. Several tried poutine, a French fry item covered with gravy. Very filling, was the most common

response for those who partook.

At 1:30, the parade was to begin. We lined our chairs along the route, and our own dignitaries were whisked away to ride on one of the floats. It was a sunny route and we thoroughly enjoyed it -- cheering loudly as our Vermont flag passed, and later, as our Vermont dignitaries rolled by: Toby Balivet, Town Attorney; Denise Briggs, Town Selectman; Jane Kitchel, Vermont State Senator; Alice Hafner, 1960 celebrant; Dorothy Larrabee, standing in for Kate Beattie, 1960 celebrant; and Paul Chouinard, President of the Danville Historical Society. Ken Linsley, President of the Danville Chamber of Commerce, took photos throughout the day.

At 4:30, the group gathered for the final event of the day in the big tent on the fairgrounds. Here the celebration was brought to an end, with exchanges between the two Danvilles and good wishes given all around. Alice and Dorothy were presented gifts, Paul presented a large photo of George Cahoon's

winter picture of Danville, VT, taken from behind the McDonald/Beattie farm, and Senator Jane Kitchel thanked the town of Danville, QC, for their kindness during the day and received a gift of the history of Quebec.

Back on the bus, Stephen McDougall, a journalist, thanked us profusely for attending. As the bus pulled out of the lot, Toby Balivet came to the front with an open sack. "I'm taking donations," he said, "for the new tuxedos for our Selectmen." We laughed, which was the intent, but couldn't help but remember the Mayor fondly in his traditional garb. A wonderful dinner in Derby at the Cow Palace completed the day, and, as we drove back through the night to our own Danville, the sky was lighted in places with fireworks shooting into the sky over darkened hills.

To see this article, a listing of those attending, links to a video and Ken Linsley's photo album go to <http://danvillehistorical.blogspot.com/>



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Knowing Kenneth Blair

BY GEORGE CAHOON

Kenneth was one of those men where after he was created the mold was broken, not because it was a faulty mold, but because he was designed to be his own person. Full of good humor and good will most of the time and occasionally bad tempered and set in his ways. Being brought up in the 20s and early 30s of a simpler more rural time he tended to be a bit old fashioned but had no problem criticizing people who might be more old fashioned than he.

Kenneth and his mother, brother and sister moved into an upstairs apartment in the Dole Block. Jobs were scarce and being handy with tools he went to work doing odd jobs. He had a small shop in the basement of the Dole Block where the children's shop is now. When I went to work with him he had a model "A" Ford oand used it as long as it lasted. He took out the back seat and back rest and carried all his tools there.

Kenneth Blair and Alice Johnson were married in 1947 and they were living in an apartment over the garage at the house on the corner of Route 2 and the short street that runs up to the Masonic Hall. Later, the lot on Hill Street where Gary Fontaine now lives became available - the house had burned and

Kenneth and Alice bought that with the thought of building a house. There was a garden plot there and Alice and I were working on getting it ready to plant. Kenneth was gone with the car to West Danville to spray paint some window blinds. A shower came up and we were getting soaked waiting for Kenneth to come back. His job took longer than expected. Alice didn't want to walk down the street looking like a drowned rat so I walked to McNaughton's Filling Station and borrowed his service truck and ferried Alice home. They were getting the old cellar hole cleaned out in preparation for the new house when the house on Brainerd Street where Alison Meaders now lives became available. Since there was a lot of storage

space there with a barn and connecting sheds it made sense to acquire that property instead of building.

Some time after, he and Alice were married he bought a second hand Nash, I think. His first time driving it, he parked in the driveway at the Congregational Church and went in for something. When he came out the car had rolled down the driveway and was stopped by the big maple that then grew on the right hand side of the driveway. Needless to say the car came out second best although it wasn't terribly serious. Somehow he had forgotten to hitch it and it rolled away.

Kenneth had a lot of jokes and stories to tell. Most of them might be better left unprinted. Many of them consisted of various levels of spicy gossip and stories from earlier years of people long gone.



He could turn his hand to most any job in the building trades and was considered almost indispensable around the village when someone had something that needed to be repaired or replaced or redecorated. I worked with him for eight or nine years and became familiar with his moods and eccentricities. He taught me how to do a lot of

different things and I learned how not to do a few others. We did plumbing and wiring, carpenter work and painting and papering. I didn't do much of the actual papering unless it was to hold some extra long strips or in a difficult place. I did a lot of the stripping and patching and getting ready.

We painted the Congrega-

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tional Church twice different sections in different years. He opened and closed some Joe's Pond camps and some houses of people who went south in the winter. Kenneth was janitor/sexton of the Congregational Church for years and I was involved in that. That was back in the days when we had a wood furnace and the building was unheated during the week. One of the Saturday afternoon chores in the winter was getting a good fire going in the furnace to warm things up for Sunday Service. Kenneth was a Deacon at the church for some few years.

We used to put two big trees at each side of the sanctuary that would brush the ceiling lights and decorated them at Christmas time. Then we took the decorations off and disposed of the trees. Back in the days when people weren't so concerned about trees, one year we went out on Kenneth Perkins' lot on the prairie and got two trees. Perkins noticed someone had already taken some trees and called the State Police, who tracked us down. Ken Perkins was satisfied as long as it was us since he was also a member of the church.

I started working with Kenneth in 1949 and con-

tinued off and on until 1956 or 1957. I have forgotten the year that Kenneth broke his ankle on a different job than I was on and was more or less incapacitated for the rest of that summer. We got along with him supervising for a month or so. One of the jobs to do was putting a coat of aluminum paint on the Congregational Church roof. Kenneth's brother-in-law, Walter Holbrook, was helping me. We stayed on the roof except to come down and refill our paint pails and Kenneth moved the ground ladder along as we went from one panel to the next. We were painting it all with brushes and we painted one side the first day and the other side the next.

Kenneth worked on the Danville Fair every year since it's start in 1929.

By the time I came to town he was the only one who really knew how to assemble the old wooden-framed Congregational Church tent. He

was President of the Chamber of Commerce at least one time and perhaps more. He was involved in the then Village Improvement Society and I ended up raking the leaves off the park as well as the Congregational Church yard and the road ditch in front - then loaded the leaves and trash into a borrowed truck and took them to the dump.

He and I did most, if not all, the maintenance and repairs at the Congregational Church. Some of the young people habitually came in and rung the church bell on Halloween--which made Kenneth perturbed - so he put a lock on the attic door but the door and casing were flimsy and the kids broke in and rang the bell anyway. The building had no lock on the side door back then. A sign of the times that we now have to keep everything locked up tight.

Alice wanted a log cabin summer camp at Newark

Pond near where her folks. Kenneth wasn't too keen on it but she had the money and had a log cabin built. Kenneth didn't go up a lot except to do some of the inside work. There was only a crawl space under the camp and when the pond water was high it seeped up through the ground and there was two to four inches in puddles. All of the plumbing was under the floor with plugs here and there that had to be taken out in the fall and put back in the spring. I did that a few times, reluctantly.

He was a gun collector and had many antique guns as well as contemporary ones. He took some for display a few times at Danville Fair when the Historical Society would set up in the old gymnasium in the basement of the Town Hall. Alice knew little about guns so had a bit of a chore disposing of them after Ken-

neth was gone but she didn't get short-changed. There was an auction after Kenneth passed away.

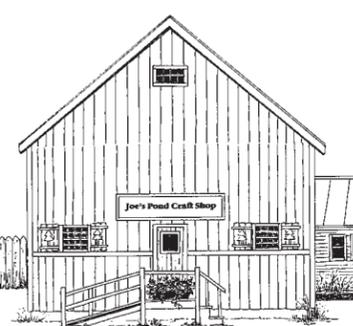
Kenneth developed heart trouble and his doctor treated him for a few short years but apparently didn't realize how serious his condition had become. He had a bad spell at home and they took him to Dartmouth Hitchcock in Lebanon and immediately scheduled a bypass but it was too late and he passed away.

So the mold was broken never to be reproduced, but the legacy of the many things he did in and for the community will be long remembered by those who knew him and will be felt now and in the future by those who came after he was gone. No saint was he and no great sinner. Just one who walked the road in his own way.



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Wednesday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon.



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Thursdays, Sept 16–Oct 21, 2010
5:30 to 8:00 p.m., Corner Medical – Lyndon

Tuesdays, Oct 26–Nov 30, 2010
9:30 a.m. to noon, NVRH Business Ctr 127

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What's Happening at Town Hall

Barnet

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

July 12, 2010

Zoning Appeal – A letter was read concerning the appeal of Patricia Wood, trustee of the Gibson Wood Family Trust. These documents give notice of the appearance in this matter of Town Attorney Jay Abramson on behalf of the Town of Barnet.

Clara Brock House – Correspondence from Town Attorney Abramson regarding a purchase and sales agreement for Clara Brock House.

Fairpoint – Read cover letter and reviewed request to place temporary anchors on poles on Harvey Mountain Road to allow for moving of the Clara Brock House. After brief discussion, the Board signed this petition.

Tax Rates – The non-residential tax rate is to be \$1.3590 and the homestead tax rate \$1.3305. Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt discussed the current scenario affecting the setting of the municipal tax rate. Delay in receiving the results of a State

of Vermont appraisal of hydro-electricity-generating facilities has caused a delay in the listers' timetable. The Board of Listers requested and was granted an extension of time by the Division of Property Valuation and Review. Therefore, the dates for grievance hearings and for the lodging of the Grand List are significantly later than in most years. The Selectboard cannot set a tax rate until the Grand List is lodged.

Fire Hydrant – Faris discussed recent communications with Barnet Fire & Rescue member Wayne Achilles regarding creating a dry hydrant at a pond on the property of Kenneth Norris. Bunnell agreed to visit the suggested site and make recommendations.

July 26, 2010

Town Hall – Barnet Historical Society President David Warden appeared to request the use of the Town Hall on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010 at 7 p.m. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to approve this use.

Harvey's Lake – Read cover letter and briefly reviewed attachments thanking Barnet Health Officer Theodore Faris and other town officers for their efforts in addressing the recent contamination at Harvey's Lake.

Faris discussed the current status of ongoing testing of lake and river water. Also mentioned an offer made by the Lake Harvey Association of

\$5,000 to be used for upgrades to the Harvey's Lake Dam at such time as these upgrades are ready to be implemented. Roberts thanked Faris for his efforts in addressing this contamination issue.

Access Permit – Reviewed application of Leigh and Beverly Larocque for an entrance to a family cemetery on Old Silo Road. After brief discussion, motion made by Roberts to request that the applicant provide a sketch of the proposed access prior to the Board taking action regarding it. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

Dam – Faris requested that the Board approve expenditures associated with a installing a plate for repair of the blast gate at the Harvey's Lake Dam. The Board agreed to approve this expense.

Danville

Town Clerk: Wendy Somers
 Town Administrator - Merton Leonard

Selectboard: Steve Larrabee, Denise Briggs, Doug Pastula, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

June 17, 2010

Australian Ballot – Town Clerk Wendy Somers was present to advise the Board that they have to respond to the petitioner of the Australian Ballot within 15 days, and had prepared a response for the Board

to sign. As the petition was for adoption of a charter, the vote will have to be a ballot vote at the next annual town meeting, primary, or general election. Prior to the vote, two public meetings must be held, the first at least 30 days before the vote, and the second ten days after the first one. She recommends meeting with the school board and selecting a date to have them both at the same time. Because of time constraints, the vote will be on the General Election Ballot.

North Danville – Road Agent Kevin Gadapee reported that the North Danville Bridge had arrived from JP Carrara earlier in the day on six flatbed trailers, and that Contractor Crane Service had off loaded it and set it on to the modified abutments. He and his crew handled the ground work and all went very well. There are various mounting and finishing steps required that will be handled by some of his crew and some outside vendors as required. He reported that the Hill Street project is also progressing. The water and sewer access covers as well as the driveways have been adjusted to the level of the new pavement. The new town forest signs built by Dave Houston of the Conservation Commission have been installed. Kevin and Board members Michael and Marvin met with the engineer on the old garage roof. The engineer gave little encouragement to change the design of the roof from what it is now to a wood truss system. The Board discussed various options, but decided that more investigation was warranted, and they should not accept a design that they were not comfortable with. The road side mower has been serviced and will begin mowing next week.

Insurance – At the previous meeting, John Blackmore had presented the Sawyer Agency's Insurance proposal for the towns insurance for the 2010-2011 year. In response to the VLCT Insurance proposal, John adjusted the current carrier, Acadia, to include the Fire Department equipment and some other features to make them comparable, and both

were priced very close. He also presented an additional carrier, Trident, whose price was about \$8,500 lower than either of the others. As the insurance must be renewed by July 1, the insurance coverage needed to be finalized at this meeting. With little discussion, Douglas Pastula made a motion to go with the Trident Insurance bid of \$40,659. Steven Larrabee seconded the motion, which was approved.

Painting – Lee Beattie had requested \$1,500 from the Board to pay for half of the painting of the North Danville School Building. The board discussed it but requested more information on the process, as they were not aware the building was going to be painted.

Yard Repaired – Marc Joncas' yard has been repaired and he seems to be pleased with the results. Gary Fontaine added that a broken and buried drain pipe was the major water problem. The drain has been repaired; the ground smoothed out and reseeded.

July 15, 2010

Habitat for Humanity – Sara Heft representing Habitat for Humanity was present to request using the Green for their annual fund raiser this year. They are proposing to have a dinner and light music on the Green on Aug. 14 from 5 to 8 p.m.

ATVs – Craig Vance was present representing the NEK 4 Wheelers ATV Club. He wanted to advise the Board of things his club has done and respond to the Boards letter from an earlier meeting. The club went out on most all of the North Danville Roads and collected trash for Green up Day. They will host an ATV instruction class for children from 12 to 18 sponsored by VASA. They will have the Sherriff patrolling the northern roads this weekend to encourage ATV riding by the rules.

Together Works – Tynalyn Cassie representing the Together Works Organization was present with a group of several members. Their cause at the present is to address teenage drinking and the fact that the Board has waived the

August 2010 Menu

West Barnet Senior Meal Site

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal is appreciated.
 Phone (802) 633-4068.

Aug. 4 - Chipped beef and gravy, potatoes, beets, homemade bread and watermelon

Aug. 6 - Buffet

Aug. 11 - In memory of Jesse Stone. Chicken and biscuits, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce and peaches and cream.

Aug. 13 - Baked ham, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, , brown bread, jello and fruit.

Aug. 18 - Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and raspberry cream cheese bars.

Aug. 20 - Beef stew, tossed salad, biscuit and pudding.

Aug. 25 - Potato salad, macaroni salad, cottage cheese, fruit, turken & ham cold cuts, pickles, sweet bread and bread pudding.

Aug. 27 - Macaroni salad, stwed tomatoes, sausage, dark bread and tropical fruit.



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<<August Films>>
 »Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work/Breathless (7/30-8/5)
 »Solitary Man/Please Give (8/6-8/12)
 »Winter's Bone/The City of Your Final Destination (8/13-8/19)
 »I Am Love/Wild Grass (8/20-8/26)
 »Micmacs/The Girl Who Played With Fire (8/27-9/2)

<<Happenings>>
 »Swiss Family Robinson – Aug. 5, 10 a.m.
 »Flower Arranging for Adults – Aug. 5, 7 p.m.
 »The Bad News Bears – Aug. 12, 10 a.m.
 »The Mellow Yellow Experience/Fuller Hall – Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m.
 »The Wizard of Oz - Free Kids Rock Film Festival – June 24, 10 a.m.
 »Kid Rock! 3 Apple Storyteller – Aug. 21, 9 a.m.

<<Special Event>>
 »Artists' Reception: Aug. 6, 5-7 p.m.

<<In the Gallery>>
 »Rod Wells and Peggy Henry: Paintings and Photographs

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open bottle ordinance for the Danville Fair. Ken Linsley advised that the open bottle ordinance has been lifted for many years, and there has been little trouble from overindulgence at the fair. The Together Works Group wishes to promote good times from events without the presence of alcohol, to set an example for the teenagers to follow. They were hoping the Board would reconsider their action to waive the bottle ordinance. Their group offered to furnish a "START" group of under cover officers to patrol the fair to monitor the alcohol consumption. Michael added that closing the bottle will drive any alcohol use off the Green to the back of the buildings "out of sight." Steven appreciates the groups work and concerns, but doubts that the fair is a major contributor to the teen drinking problem. Denise adds that children need to be taught about alcohol not shield from it. If she sees teen drinking or any problem drinking, she will report it. Kitty Toll, chairperson of the fair, invited the group to come to the fair meetings in January and February next year and they would be glad to discuss their concerns and possible changes for next year's fair.

North Danville - Lee Beattie was present with a group of officers from the North Danville School Association. This meeting was called when the school got painted before the Selectboard had the opportunity to discuss it and act on it. People in North Danville

were anxious to get the school painted before their 4th of July celebration. The remaining problem, is the School Association needs additional funds to help pay for it. The North Danville Group discuss the school use and group participation and they all feel that the usage and interest is up and things are going real well with the school. Their answer to raising usage rates was that it would not result in much of a gain in funds as there would be less people that could afford to pay. Marvin Withers moved to pay the North Danville School Association \$500 from the town building fund to pay the remainder of the painting cost. Douglas Pastula seconded the motion that was approved.

Wine Tasting - Wendy had called Michael, Marvin, and Douglas to approve the wine tasting license on the Green for Eden Ice at the Autumn on the Green, to get the application on its way. There was also a complaint from a West Danville Resident that there was loud music coming from the new pavilion on the beach on the previous Sunday, July 11. Michael received a complaint of loud music on Brainerd Street on Saturday July 10 late in the evening.

Peacham

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty
Selectmen: Richard Browne, Tim McKay and Andy Cochran.

June 28, 2010

Town Plan - Chair Tim McKay reiterated that the only item on

the agenda was a discussion with the Planning Commission regarding the status of the Town Plan. McKay noted that by statute the existing Plan had expired on June 16, the 5th anniversary of its last adoption. Gallagher presented options for adoption of the Town Plan including re-adoption of the existing plan as-is, inclusion of minor changes, and inclusion of re-writes of various sections of the plan. New requirements that the zoning bylaws and town plan be aligned were discussed. Discussion of the barriers to the planning commission completing a full revision of the Town Plan ensued, including the lack of meeting time devoted to the Plan due to reviews of zoning applications. The formation of a Development Review Board was discussed. A DRB would replace the ZBA and would, by statute, handle all development review functions now handled by the ZBA and the planning commission. A DRB may be formed by action of the Selectboard. New members may be appointed, and/or the current members of the ZBA may be appointed to the DRB.

St. Johnsbury

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

July 1, 2010

Town Manager Search - Rust detailed the ongoing discussion with Vermont League of Cities and Towns as they have been retained to assist St. Johnsbury in the search. Rust suggested that the contract be restricted to a total of \$6,500. On a motion by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Rod Lamotte, the Board voted unanimously to restrict the contract to \$6,500. The manager's job description was unanimously approved by the Board, on a motion by Daniel Kimbell, seconded by Rod Lamotte.

Town Manager Search - Rust explained to the Board that Jim Fitzgerald would be willing to serve on a 4.5-day week basis until October 1, 2010. Should the opportunity present itself, he would perhaps cut his time to a 3-day

week from Aug. 20 through Oct. 1, 2010. No action was taken on this matter.

Committee - Lamotte stated that he would not be in favor of a community committee in the Town Manager search. There was no action taken on this point.

Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith
Board of Selectmen: Perley Greaves, Dave Brown and Peter Clark.

June 29, 2010

Betty Hatch - She reported on her research of the road that is currently named Ward Hill Road. She also asked the board about a marker that has been found on Summerhill Road by Jane Muraro.

Town Garage - Michael Lajeunesse from Lajeunesse Construction discussed the process of building a town garage, the town's needs, and what he would do if he were hired as general contractor. He agreed to view the site and try to give the Board a sense of the cost of this project.

August 2010 Menu

Danville Senior Action Center

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

Aug. 3 - Authentic Spanish Paella with guest chef Vorge Garcia. Birthday cake!

Aug. 5 - No meal

Aug. 10 - Chipped beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, carrots and rolls.

Aug. 12 - Crab cakes, penne with lobster sauce, tomato salad and sauteed greens.

Aug. 17 - Italian sausage with peppers and onions on a roll, cous cous salad and chocolate cake.

Aug. 19 - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, tossed salad, sauteed greens, rolls and fruit cobbler.

Aug. 24 - Breakfast! Biscuits with sausage gravy, fruit salad, scrambled eggs, Nollie's donuts and OJ.

Aug. 26 - Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, tossed salad and sauteed greens.

Aug. 31 - Bacon, swiss and brocolli quice, past with homemade pesto and sliced tomatoes.



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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, 6:30 p.m. Catamount Arts. (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: Lyndon Town Band concerts in Bandstand Park, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Danville Farmers Market on the green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Wednesdays: Lunenburg Farmers Market, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., on the common in Lunenburg.

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: Live Music at Parker Pie in Glover. Call (802) 525-3366 for details.

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.

Thursdays: Tutoring for GED and Adult Learning Programs, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library.

Thursdays: Farmers Market in Peacham, 3-6 p.m., across from the Peacham Library, 656 Bayley Hazen Rd. Peacham, VT.

Fridays: Hardwick Farmers Market, 3-6 p.m., Rte 14 & 15 between Aubuchon's and Greensboro Garage.

Fridays: Island Pond Farmers Market, noon to 4 p.m., 640 Charleston Rd, across from the Grace Brethren Church.

1st Fridays: Contra Dance, 8 p.m. at Danville Town Hall. All levels welcome. (802) 563-3225 or samlyman@myfairpoint.net.

4th Fridays: Public readings at Green Mountain Books in Lyndonville. Call (802) 626-5051 or E-mail greenmountainbooks@myfairpoint.net.

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

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

Saturdays: Farmers Market in Lyndonville at Bandstand Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturdays: Farmers Market in Groton at Veterans Memorial Park from 9 a.m. to noon.

Saturdays: Farmers Market in Newport, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., between the end of the I-91 access road, next to the Welcome Center.

Saturdays: Farmers Market in Derby, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., next to the Elks Lodge.

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

Saturdays: St. Johnsbury Farmers Market behind TD Bank from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturdays: Willoughby Gap Farmstand, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Route 5A in West Burke.

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

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

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: Concerts on the green in Danville, sponsored by the Pope Memorial Library, 7 p.m.

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▼MLS #N2808242
 Private 3+ Acre building lot close to town. Open and wooded areas. Potential views with light clearing. High School choice. **\$39,900**

<MLS # N2829095
 A custom built home on 27+ Acres of land with White Mountain Views, meadows, woods and brook. This home has a cherry kitchen, granite countertops, 4 bdrm, 3 baths and a large family room. **\$575,000**

MLS#4010087
 Just as neat as a pin. This small bungalow just may be a Sears house. It was built around 1940. It enjoys hardwood floors, fancy woodwork, a walkup attic and two closed in porches. There's a barn for your rig and your stuff. The yard is picture perfect with lots of lawn and flowers. Even a granite bluff and a little waterfall. Big shade trees, too.

Reduced to \$104,900

MLS#4009746
 Right around the corner from St Johnsbury Academy, this Queen Ann Victorian awaits your big family. All the Victorian stuff, hardwood floors, fancy woodwork, bay windows, a foyer with sweeping staircase. There is a guest suite for Grannie or the teenagers. 4 bedrooms, three baths. Attached barn and a big bonus room out back, was once a bottling plant.

Reduced to \$164,900

MLS#4004247
 Just out of town, this immaculate split level awaits your family. 4.4 acres of lawn and woods and in a very private area with very little traffic. Family room in walkout basement can be your master suite. There is a bath attached. Quality materials, nicely decorated, gas stove for ambiance and heat. There are two decks for your recreational enjoyment. 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths

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Pope Notes

with Dee Palmer, Library Director

I could not write this column today without remembering Mary Prior. Mary was the librarian at the Pope when we moved here, almost 22 years ago. I remember the first time I brought my children to the library and met Mary. She was funny, warm and welcoming, and made us all feel at home in our new library and our new community. We had the pleasure of being neighbors with Mary and Hollis, twice, and it was always fun. Their gardens were amazing and I always took our visitors over to see them. . Many years ago I helped bartend at a Barnet School party Mary threw at her house. I lost count of how times Hollis was asked “So, what’s it like being married to Mary Prior?” Hollis’ reply was something like “Oh, it’s very interesting” or “It’s different everyday!” I’m sure it was.

I can’t imagine Danville without Mary. I can see the results of her (and Hollis’) hard work everywhere. Mary had a vision for her community and she always got things done. Danville wouldn’t be the Danville that is such an incredible place to live without people like Mary who

truly care. It’s so important that the rest of us follow her lead.

On to library business. There are only a few days left to buy tickets for our 2010 art raffle. We have four pieces of art from local artists Barbara

Matsinger, Jenny Green, Sheri Pearl and Ray Richer. Tickets are \$1.00 each. The drawing will be at 9pm at the Danville Fair on August 7. Other library events at the Danville Fair are a book sale from 9am to 1pm (on the library lawn) and our Pope Library Ice Cream booth. Hope to see you there!

Our August Concerts on the Green feature Bill Moulton and Friends on August 1, The Bob Amos Band on August 15, Cold Country Bluegrass on August 22 and the Western Silver Tones on August 29. All concerts begin at 6:30 pm.

New book acquisitions are:

Every Last One by Quindlen, The Lion by Demille, The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Bender, Eight Days to Live by Johansen, Burning Wire by Deaver, The Woman Who Fell from the Sky by Steil and Hitch 22 by Hitchens. Come in and check them out!

There is still plenty of summer left to use our Vermont State Parks pass. Bring along a carload of up to eight people and get in free for the day. Don’t forget about the Echo Museum pass which admits 2 adults and 3 children for \$2.00 each. Both passes can be checked out at the Pope.



Pope Library

Monday & Friday

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon.



ML# 4005265

You'll love the convenience of this one owner, 4 bedroom, 2 bath cape style home with all necessities on the first floor including a cathedral ceilinged family room w/ wood stove and sundeck. There are an attached 2 car garage with overhead storage and a big walkout basement with overhead door for bringing in your tractor, lawn mower, snowmobile or other large toys. Situated in a quiet pastoral setting with good views, the property offers a well designed horse barn w/hayloft and frost free hydrant plus plenty of pasture space and a pond.

You get all this for a reasonable price of **\$299,000**

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Harvey's Lake

MLS#4010708

Well kept mobile home in Roy's campground on beautiful Harvey's Lake. Offers great views of the lake and the White Mountains. Enjoy coffee or dinner on the enclosed porch. Very family friendly setting. House comes partially furnished with a shared ROW to the beach just a stone's throw away. Take advantage of this opportunity to own a place near the water at a fraction of the cost.

Listed Price **\$29,900**

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Meticulously Maintained Farmhouse

ML2836699 Sited on 78 acres of rich & beautiful land. Three spacious BRs, 1 1/2 baths, a formal dining room, living room w/lovely tin ceiling, large country kitchen w/ wood stove hookup. Large apple orchard and 55 acres of managed woodlands are possible income sources.

\$349,500



JOES POND WATERFRONT CAMP

ML4003782 On the 3rd pond - 100+/- feet of frontage suitable for swimming, boating or fishing. A 3BR, 1-bath seasonal camp, deck, shed, all furnishings. Drilled well and septic on site.

\$325,000



St. Johnsbury

Located just 5 minutes from Main Street, St. Johnsbury, this charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath farmhouse has had tasteful updates. Refreshing interior colors, inviting kitchen, wide-board floors and exposed beams. Situated on a dead-end road on 3.2 acres w/ a barn, garage, stonewall and mature perennial gardens. MLS#4008353

\$239,900



Stannard

Here is a delightful piece of property to get-away from it all and enjoy nature. Lightly wooded lot has ample brook frontage and a 24x28 camp on a slab that has power, water, open living area, kitchen, bedroom and bath. MLS# 4002505

\$79,000



CABOT MOBILE HOME

ML4007880 Sited on 20 beautiful acres in Cabot. Two BRs, storage shed out back and great open space for horses or other animals as well as lots of wooded land. Gorgeous spot and just a mile from Rte 2.

\$90,000



FANTASTIC PROPERTY

ML4006311 The perennial gardens are breathtaking, 4-stall horse barn, a greenhouse, workshop, swimming pond w/sandy beach, and 20+ acres of pastures and fields. Massive stone hearth, granite counter tops, and a huge studio to indulge your creative dreams.

\$550,000

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August events in the NEK

Sun, August 1, 2010

Exhibit of Paintings by Edward Kadunc at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum exhibit August and September. Phone: 802-748-8291. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Main St. St. Johnsbury, VT. Email: inform@stjathenaem.org Web: www.stjathenaem.org

Perennial Pleasures Nursery's Eighth **Annual Phlox Fest** - In celebration of our native Phlox, the queen of the summer garden, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Free garden tours daily at 10:30. Door prizes. Phone: 802-472-5104. 63 Brick House Rd. East Hardwick, VT. Email: annex@perennialpleasures.net Web: www.perennialpleasures.net

Tue, August 3, 2010

GRACE Gallery Community Workshops in Hardwick, 2-4 p.m. GRACE is dedicated to fostering the participation of many different types of people. Children, elders and community members work side by side in an open studio format. Phone: 802-472-6857. Old Firehouse Gallery, 13 Mill St. Hardwick, VT. Web: www.graceart.org

Zoe FitzGerald Carter will visit The Galaxy Bookshop to talk about her book, *Imperfect Endings*. 7-8 p.m. Phone: 802-472-5533. The Galaxy Bookshop, 7 Mill St. Hardwick, VT. Web: www.galaxybookshop.com

Summer Music from Greensboro - In Celebration of Chopin: Neal Larrabee, pianist, 8-10 p.m. Phone: 802-525-3291. United Church of Christ, Greensboro Village, Greensboro, VT. summermusicfromgreensboro.org

Wed, August 4, 2010

Readings at the Athenaeum - Poets Adam Halbur and Ron Padgett read from their poetry, 7-9 p.m. Book signing to follow the reading. (802) 748-8291. inform@stjathenaem.org Web: www.stjathenaem.org

Thu, August 5, 2010

Kids Rock Film Festival - The Swiss Family Robinson at Catamount Arts, 10-12 p.m. Kids of all ages will enjoy a special treat this summer with Catamount's first ever Kids Rock Film Festival. Phone: 802-748-2600. Catamount Arts Center, 115 Eastern Ave. St. Johnsbury VT. Web: www.catamountarts.org

Free mini concert for kids and their friends in Craftsbury, 2-3 p.m. Free mini concert by the Craftsbury Chamber Players. East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, 1097 Ketchum Hill Road, Craftsbury, VT. Email: info@craftsburychamberplayers.org

Fri, August 6, 2010

NEK Music Festival - an intimate festival of epic proportions. Visit www.NEKMF.com, or calling 1-888-512-SHOW for more information. Over 17 bands and other acts will be featured at this year's festival. At the Chilly Ranch in Albany, VT.

The Danville Fair - The tradition of the Danville Fair goes back further than most of us. Centered on the Town Green. This is truly a good ole country fair, starting with a street dance on Friday night. Saturday will begin with the parade starting at 10 a.m. through town, then followed by the Grand Horse Pulling as a major event drawing the best teams in the area. Other ongoing activities include carnival rides, games, fried food, home cooked food, and more food! Web: www.danvillevt.com

Sat, August 7, 2010

2nd Annual Burke Mountain Bike and Brewfest. Music, Vermont brews, and mountain biking come to the mountain! Sample a variety of beers and vote for your favorite to become the 2010 Burke Mountain Brew. Delicious down home barbecue. High flying freestyle mountain bike demos. Phone: 802-626-7300. Burke Mountain Ski Resort, 223 Sherburne Lodge Rd. East Burke, VT. Web: www.skiburke.com

Sun, August 8, 2010

Field trip to Parker River National Wildlife Refuge with the NEK Audubon Society. Here's where the shorebirds are on their way south. Last year we had 15 species of shorebirds. Registration required. Phone: 802-626-9071. Email: blackpoll@myfairpoint.net Web: www.nekaudubon.org

Sat, August 14, 2010

The 3rd Annual Kingdom Triathlon - A 500 yard swim, 13 mile bike, and 5 mile run. For more information, please contact Pete Kellaway or Julie Gunn at IROC (802) 334-8511.

Wed, August 18, 2010

Orleans County Fair - An old-time agricultural county fair located just off Interstate 91 (Exit 25) in Barton. Web: www.orleanscountyfair.org

Sat, August 21, 2010

Youth birding field trip on the Hardwick Trails with the NEK Audubon Society. Larry Carfeld of the North Branch Nature Center will lead. Registration required. (802) 751-7671, www.nekaudubon.org.

Wed, August 25, 2010

Caledonia County Fair - good ole' time family fun. A good ole' fashioned county fair! Visit www.vtfair.com for a complete schedule of events.

Sun, August 29, 2010

Old North Church Lamplight Service and Hymn Sing at 7 p.m. Host pastor, the Rev. Doug Carter.

Send your events to the North Star Monthly

E-mail us at: info@northstarmonthly.com
Submit them at: northstarmonthly.com
Call us at: 802.684.1056

"DAD! LET'S GO TO THE MUSEUM!"



FAIRBANKS MUSEUM AND PLANETARIUM

Fathers visiting the Museum with their kids this summer get discounts on membership and a free stuffed animal for each child in the family with membership purchase!

Dads can purchase annual Family memberships for just \$55. That's \$10 off the normal price! Bring your kids to the Fairbanks Museum this summer to explore our natural world.

For more information, call 802.748.2372



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