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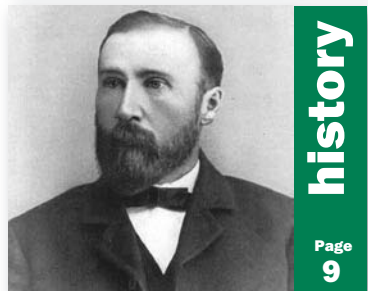
JANUARY 2010

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Accounting

BY NATHANIAL TRIPP

This is the time of turning inward, of paying bills and counting reserves while the wind howls and the temperature falls. Most of the time our farm lies shrouded in darkness. Inside, we gather by the fire and do the books.

Outside there is not another light in sight except the stars. In some ways, our place is more isolated now than it was two centuries ago, when the path to St. Johnsbury and beyond ran through the yard, but by the time our house replaced the original crude cabin a better road had opened in the valley below. Never much of a farm to begin with, it languished almost from the start, with little tangible reward for such hard work and loneliness.

It was never much of a house, either, at least not until

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Vermont's Original Bag Balm's history is nationwide



Courtesy Barbara Norris Allen

John Norris is pictured in his office on Broad Street next to a portrait of his father, John Norris, Sr., founder of Bag Balm.

By Virginia Downs

One hundred and ten years ago, a Lyndonville company introduced Bag Balm, an ointment that brought dramatic relief to cows and horses on the many farms dotting our hillsides, healing their udders and cuts and scratches suffered from stepping on rocks. The product was destined to surge, especially when humans started using it for their own needs.

The founder of Lyndon's oldest business, John L. Norris Sr., bought the rights to Bag Balm's formula in 1899 from a pharmacist in Wells River and set up his business in a large building on Broad Street in Lyndonville. The structure had been drawn from Lyndon Corner on the ice in 1868 by 40 yoke of oxen. In earlier times, it had been a tenement house and a grist mill.

Sitting in her Williams Street office, across the railroad tracks from the old factory building, the present head of the Bag Balm took time to reflect on the company's storied history. Founder Norris's granddaughter, Barbara Norris Allen, was spending two weeks with her husband, Charles, in their Willoughby Lake cottage. She explains that when she is at home in Seaford, Delaware, she and Chick are in frequent contact

with her two secretaries, Krystina McMorro and Shawna Wilkerson, who share the everyday office duties.

Barbara spoke with warmth of her dad, John Norris, Jr., who was admired in Lyndonville in his younger years for his musical talents, traveling to New York City every week for flute lessons with world-renowned flutist George Barrere.

His dream was to have a career in music. His father's serious illness changed his plans, and he was called upon in 1934 to become Bag Balm's next president. But his great love of music stayed with him all his life. He continued to perform in the Lyndonville Military Band, playing and directing for 25 years. He organized an orchestra that performed classical music concerts in the area.

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FROM THE EDITOR

A history of charity

Not much is stirring in this Hill Street office on Christmas Eve. The road below is no longer blanketed in snow from recent storms. Instead, the packed powder as been replaced by all too familiar December slush, but not to worry, the weather pundits tell me more is on the way.

It seems this village has never lacked generous citizens willing to give what they can to improve the lives of others.

Gone with the snow are the sounds of the downstairs door opening and closing. For the past week, this sound has been repeated countless times as crowds of charitable citizen's drop off food, clothing, toys and other gifts for the needy to the Open Door below. These deliveries started a month ago, increasing steadily leading up this week where, ironically, the Open Door is more memorable for the number of times I heard it shut. It's hard to imagine where the volunteers below store all these items while they wait to deliver them to appreciative families in the area.

The spirit of giving is alive and well in this village. Two days before Christ-

mas, word broke that the late Marion Sevigny left 40 percent of her estate to the town of Danville, an amount that topped \$600,000. Her generosity will benefit town events such as the annual Memorial Day Celebration and help maintain town properties like the Town Hall or Danville Green Park. She also left a piece of her estate to the Danville Methodist Church, an organization that obviously meant a lot to her.

Ironically, this issue of the North Star Monthly contains a reprint of an article written by Capt. Chas. D. Brainerd Jan. 24, 1879. While Brainerd's topic of discussion doesn't relate to this topic, his reported generosity mirrors that of Mr. and Mrs. Sevigny. As first written by former editor Terry Hoffer back in 2003, Mr. Brainerd lived a simple life in this village after returning home from service during the Civil War. When he died at the age of 92, he left his entire estate, which was valued at over \$92,000, to the town of Danville. Today, that sum would equate to over \$1 million. His generosity established libraries and helped support local churches and other town projects, most memorably a rebuild of the Danville School.

It seems this village has never lacked generous citizens willing to give what they can to improve the lives of others. Whether these gifts are wealthy estates or a small basket of food, it appears the spirit of giving continues to be a significant part of Danville's holiday tradition.

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

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

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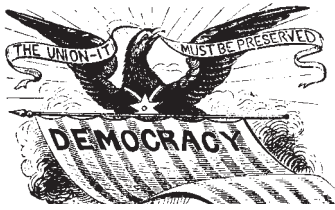


Chester Felch recovers after accident at St. Johnsbury gas house, U.S. Supreme Court deals a severe bloy to polygamy

The North Star

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THE NORTH STAR

January 10, 1880

National Banks - Until 1870, the bank circulation was limited to \$300,000,000. It was then increased, reaching \$349,894,182 by 1874. Under the act of that date, it increased to \$351,861,450 in 1875. On that date, the "free banking" clause of the Resumption Act removed restrictions upon the issue of additional circulation, as well as upon the surrender of circulation by banks. Since that time, the national banks in all parts of the country have been free to increase circulation by depositing more bonds.

Dividends - The First National Bank of St. Johnsbury pays a semi-annual dividend of \$3 per share. We also understand the Merchants National Bank has also declared a 3 percent dividend.

Gas House - At the St. Johnsbury Gas Works the other day, a rope broke causing the gasometer to tilt up and allow the instant escape of 8,000 feet of gas. At this time,

Chester Felch, one of the workmen, was above the reservoir in such a position that he was at once overcome and suffocated, but by the exertions of his fellow workers, he was rescued and conveyed home, where he was unconscious for a number of hours, and he has been ill in bed since. He does seem to be recovering. It was a narrow escape from death.

Churches - Owing to an accident at the gas house in St. Johnsbury the other day, the churches and several other places were deprived of gas for four nights, including Sunday, which was an exceeding annoyance. Many churches did not hold service on Sunday.

Diphtheria - A very sad case of affliction is that of the family of Mr. Charles Morse of Plainfield. Seven of his ten children have died from of diphtheria within the last two weeks. Their ages ranged from one to thirteen years. They were buried without any ceremony, except a small prayer. The disease is reported to have been taken from some clothes that were given to the children by a friend who had recently lost two of their own children to the same disease.

Fletcher Hospital - As previously announced, the Fletcher Hospital in Burlington will be officially opened Jan. 22. An oration will be delivered by Dr. B. St. John Roosa of New York. In the evening, Dr. Walter Carpenter, chairman of the board, will host a reception at the American Hotel, to which the entire medical profession in the state

has been invited. Dr. Carpenter will also be celebrating his 50 years in the profession.

McIndoes Falls - The store of Gilenriat & Perry was closed by Deputy Sheriff Samuel Bruce last Wednesday morning. Although they had met with some heavy losses, they had hoped to be able to pay it all back 100 cents on the dollar. And they doubtless would have been able to do so in ordinary times but all businessmen these days understand the difficulty of turning goods into cash. They have stopped buying goods and are making every attempt to meet their demands of maturity. They have made a large payment to their Boston creditors since the first of October, so now the greatest portion of their paper resides at home with friends and family. We hope they will consent to some arrangement that will allow them to continue operating as this village cannot afford to lose this firm.

January 17, 1879

Dairy - James R. Dunn of this town is the champion butter maker of this section. He has 4,174 pounds from 13 cows. Prices from 23 to 36 cents per pound amount to almost \$90 per cow. He makes it his whole study to feed his cows well and keep them fat year-round. Farmers if this type of farming doesn't pay then what does? Dairying in this vicinity has taken a new start within the last five years. With such, dairying and farming is the best financial success that can be hoped for.

Narrow Escape - Mrs. Guy Sta-

ples, of North Danville, broke a kerosene lamp that was burning at the time. Her clothing was saturated with oil. In her excitement to stamp out the fire, she only increased it. Mr. Staples, who had been sick in an adjoining room, took a blanket from his bed and went to the rescue, but he was too feeble to render any significant aid. About this time, a neighbor in a nearby tenement heard the commotion and came to help with that presence of mind that is so commendable in situations like this. Using a quilt, the neighbor smothered the fire, thus perhaps saving the village from what could have been a very serious calamity.

January 24, 1879

Sickness - The prevailing epidemic of "epizotic" has visited our village and vicinity for the last two weeks. It has struck us somewhat forcibly, though we hope, not seriously. Many about us are afflicted with it to varying degrees. In fact, according to reports, this epidemic has prevailed throughout New England and even into some western states. In this village, we're sorry to report that Mr. Horace Rowe is quite ill with a fever and he is requiring constant medical treatment from doctors and nurses.

West Concord - There seems to be little doubt that the town railroad bonds can all be purchased at the price voted, and it ought to be done speedily, before the opposition, who were not all out, call a meeting and rescind the vote. Three quarters of the bonds are held by

capitalists who will be glad to get the 50 percent. The other quarter is held by individuals in different places who will find it more profitable to take the 50 percent as opposed to taking what they can at the end of the lawsuits. Nearly half the town is opposed to paying anything and most of the other half is opposed paying a greater sum.

January 31, 1879

Polygamy doomed - Taking the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court at its full meaning and significance, the peculiar institution of Utah has just received the heaviest blow that has been dealt upon it since Mormonism had an organized existence in this country. The case on which the decision turned was that of one Reynolds, a resident of Utah, and a professed member of the Church of Latter Day Saints. When arraigned on his indictment before the district court of Utah, he did not deny that he had more than one wife, which was a confession of bigamy. He argued in his defense that Congress had no authority to pass the statute of 1826 because the Constitution prohibits the government from interfering with the religion of the people and the exercise thereof. The court decided against Reynold who eventually appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The justices upheld the lower court's decision. This has been a victory for those who have battled one of the surviving "twin relics of barbarism."

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- »Amreeka/TBA (1/22 - 1/28)
- »Trucker/TBA (1/29 - 2/4)

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- »SAT.9: Met Live - Der Rosenkavalier, 1 p.m.
- »SUN.10: Met Encore - Der Rosenkavalier, 1 p.m.
- »FRI.15: Starline Rythm Boys, 7:30 p.m.
- »SAT.16: Met Live - Carmen, 1 p.m.
- »SAT.23: Met Encore - Carmen, 1 p.m.
- »SAT.23: Cabaret Music Series - Ricky Golden, 8 p.m.
- »SAT.30: National Theatre Live - Nation, 2 p.m.
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Indoor living in NEK

By JOHN DOWNS

It is 8 a.m. as I write at the breakfast table. The date is Dec. 12, and it is Virginia's and my 56th wedding anniversary. It is zero degrees outside and thankfully the sun is shining brightly, as it was on Dec. 12, 1953.

We are snug and warm with the inside temperature at 72 degrees. I am no longer tempted to ski or hike on the snow and ice; it is too easy to fall, and who would pick me up? I am now 90 years old and Virginia is 85.

With no outdoor chores, except for occasionally shoveling a few short paths and the deck, it is a good time to watch Tom Brady and the Patriots, and catch up on my reading – especially political murder mysteries. I am more relaxed and find it easier to write occasional email letters and columns like this, although they may not be any better than their summer counterparts.

These activities by themselves are not enough to keep us contented and happy during the four months of winter. We don't travel south for any extended period. We have always enjoyed the outdoors in spring, summer and fall. Faced with the certainty of being inbound and looking outward, what can we do to include the winter as an enjoyable part of our lives during these frigid months?

We are blessed with an incomparable view, and the house has many large windows that reveal all the wonders of outdoors. When we sit down in the breakfast area, it is difficult to take our eyes off the distant and near views. Located off to the northeast is Burke Mountain about six miles away. Although the ski area faces to the north and is invisible to us, it is easy to imagine and enjoy the skiing without having to experience the bitter cold.

Maintaining a fertile imagination is an important part of appreciating winter in the Kingdom. When I look at Burke Mountain, I see the noble head of my favorite Indian warrior proudly displayed, with his long hair streaming to the north. Thanks to the presence of several small mountains to the south, the rest of his body is peacefully relaxed and fills several miles of the landscape.

Looking further south, the incomparable White Mountains rise into view about 45 miles away. George Washington proudly presides over several other mountains bearing names of leaders prominent in our history. Many years ago I climbed George's mountain personally, although the effort about killed me.

But I can't spend the winter looking at this view – and even if I could, there are countless days when it is overcast, cloudy or snowing, and all but Burke Mountain are hidden.

Necessarily and understandably, our attention shifts from time to time to another view that can add immeasurable delight to the winter scene. Thanks to Dr. Harvey Stetson, 25 years ago we

bought our knoll on Vail Hill in Lyndon Center that looks out on at least 50 acres of open land that yields hay each summer.

But in winter, this land is a panorama of pristine snow, occasionally streaked with ski and snowmobile tracks. About 25 yards from the snow-laden deck is a small frozen fishpond with its six unhappy residents doing their best to stay alive until spring.

Overseeing them is my favorite statue – a gnarled and twisted section of a tree, with many small branches, standing like a sentinel peering into the distance. We named him Laocoon, but in many ways he (or she, or it) reminds me of Don Quixote (without Sancho Panza leading the way.) Laocoon came with us from Lake Champlain 25 years ago. I have no idea of its age, but it has stood these many years in a prominent spot, surviving through wind and storm.

The roofs of two nearby bird houses try desperately to retain their snow cover – why they bother I don't know, for there are no baby chicks in residence.

The only jewelry store I patronize is wide open for business on this brilliantly sunny day. What is a green lawn in summer is now snow-covered, fashionably displaying literally thousands of sparkling gems sporting every imaginable color – blue, gray, azure, orange, silver, white – all competing for my attention. However, these valuable gems are not for sale; I encourage those fortunate enough to view them to go elsewhere and open their own store.


Later in the morning, my attention shifts to within the house. While still sitting in my bathrobe, I noticed a tiny bug crawling casually along its sleeve. We were pretty sure that the bug was a lady, for its colors seemed to be what I think of as being more feminine than masculine – golden with a tiny black head and legs.

Perhaps the ladybug didn't appreciate us peering at her (or him or it) because it suddenly flew quickly away a few yards. I had studied what appeared to be its hard shell, but never imagined that it had wings with which to fly to other surfaces. Madame bug, you have intrigued me enough so that I shall Google you, and if I learn that you are in any way as remarkable as I believe you to be, I shall report my findings in a future column.

So, my fond relatives and friends in New York City and points south and west, there is no need to worry or pity us old timers who are homebound in winter in the Northeast Kingdom. Better yet, come up and visit us and find out for yourselves!


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Treading on the Earth

BY ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

My physical therapy daughter recently sent me an information sheet about balance, for a friend of mine. Being of an inquisitive nature, I read through the information and one particular item struck me as interesting. It sent my mind on one of its journeys. The passage read as follows: "Our ability to feel the floor with our feet also helps us maintain balance. Information is relayed from the ankles and feet that tells the brain the type, and condition, of the surface that the person is standing on... this information also tells us how much we might be leaning to one side or the other." I began to think about feet and how we take them for granted.

We are a walking species. The fossil record that chronicles the evolution of our species shows the gradual skeletal changes accompanying the development of an upright posture and a walking gait.

Many native peoples retain the maneuverability, using sandals or no foot coverings at all in warm climates, or thin coverings, such as moccasins or fur shoes, in cooler climates. Calluses that develop to protect the soles of the feet are still flexible enough to allow real contact with the earth. It is only when we use hard-soled shoes that we become separated from our environment.

I know how much I enjoy walking barefoot in summer. Once my feet have toughened from their winter hibernation in socks and shoes, I find myself once more in contact with the earth. It makes me feel different, better balanced and more aware of my surroundings. I enjoy the feeling of walking on grass or on sand. Climbing rocks at the beach is easier barefoot than in sandals. I realize now why I really dislike walking on icy pavement in winter. Not only am I separated from the ice by my footwear, but I am separated from the ground beneath by a thick layer of ice and snow. My toes work hard inside my boots but I can't get a grip!

Those who walk directly on the earth leave lit-

Once my feet have toughened from their winter hibernation in socks and shoes, I find myself once more in contact with the earth.

Newborn human infants show two interesting reflexes that, some might say, show a link to the past and a connection to the future potential for walking. Parents are probably familiar with these. The plantar reflex occurs when the soles of a newborn's foot are stroked. The toes turn down towards the sole of the foot that also arches slightly. Some claim that this shows a relationship with our ape ancestors whose feet are used in grasping. This reflex matures and changes as neural pathways in the brain develop.

The second reflex is the walking or stepping reflex that seems to foreshadow the future mobility of the child. If a very young infant is supported in an upright position so that the soles of its feet touch a firm surface it will make walking motions with its legs and feet, placing one foot in front of the other, although at this age the infant cannot support the weight of its body. This reflex gradually disappears by the age of six weeks to be replaced by real walking efforts at about eight months of age.

As toddlers grow older, and begin walking with confidence, their bare feet touch the ground and tell them about their terrain. Watch a toddler walk bare foot and then in shoes and you will see what a negative impact these have on their ability to maneuver and balance. Too bad that so many parents put shoes on even the smallest of infants denying them the joy of those first steps on the ground unshod! Too bad that later in life our feet get less of our attention than do the fashionable shoes that cover them. We sometimes pay dearly for this inattention!

tle trace of their passing. It is only when we put on heavy footwear that we may forget what we are treading on. I listen each spring as the weathermen at the Fairbanks Museum warn us of the fragility of the hiking trails in the mountains as the winter frost gradually thaws out of the ground. I have seen some of these trails and know the damage that heavy boots in mud can do to them.

This disconnection between feet and the earth is why I really dislike the much-used Army term, "Boots on the Ground", to describe troops in the field of battle. This expression, based on the term "boot" to describe a recruit, was used well before WWII. It has always been a military expression. The image is an ancient one. In the Bible, Isaiah Ch. 9 v. 5, (ironically directly preceding the prophecy of the birth and reign of the Prince of Peace), is a similar expression: "...For every boot of the trampling warrior in battle tumult...". To me it conveys the image of war. It epitomizes the complete separation of humans from the Earth, its inhabitants and the heedless destruction of both. It also melds the individual soldiers into a faceless group, depersonalizing war to the civilian population at home.

There is something de-humanizing about separating ourselves from the Earth. It allows us to destroy other living things and our planet with a thoughtlessness that is difficult to change. I am advocating for a special holiday in the spring to celebrate walking barefoot, to help us reconnect with our environment wherever and whatever that may be, before it's too late. After all, as the Wise Woman said, "She who keeps her feet on the Earth knows on what she treads."

»Letters to the Editor

Dear North Star,

Keep up the good work. We enjoy your paper every month.

Walter and Odianna Antczak
Windsor, Conn.

Dear North Star,

We especially enjoy the news page from the 100-year-old edition of the North Star. Our personal interest is with McIndoes, McIndoes Academy and the Monteith family. The North Star consistently offers well-written articles of different and nostalgic content.

Thanks.

Pat Vibert
Granby, Conn.

Dear North Star,

I want to thank you for publishing such a nicer paper. I look forward every month to reading it. Keep the good work going.

Yours truly,
Arlene Desrochers
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Boys High School Basketball

January

5	Tuesday	Danville @ Peoples	6:00/7:30
7	Thursday	Danville @ Stowe	6:00/7:30
15	Friday	Northfield @ Danville	6:00/7:30
20	Wednesday	Hazen @ Danville	6:00/7:30
22	Friday	Peoples @ Danville	5:30/7:00
27	Wednesday	Danville @ Enosburg	5:30/7:00
29	Friday	BFA @ Danville	6:00/7:30

February

3	Wednesday	Danville @ Northfield	6:00/7:30
5	Friday	Danville @ Winooski	5:30/7:00
10	Wednesday	Richford @ Danville	6:00/7:30
12	Friday	Lake Region @ Danville	6:00/7:30
17	Wednesday	Danville @ Lake Region	6:00/7:30
19	Friday	Stowe @ Danville	6:00/7:30

Girls High School Basketball

January

6	Wednesday	Danville @ Peoples	6:00/7:30
8	Friday	Hazen @ Danville	6:00/7:30
16	Saturday	Danville @ Enosburg	1:00/2:30
22	Friday	Danville @ Northfield	6:00/7:30
26	Tuesday	Peoples @ Danville	6:00/7:30
28	Thursday	Danville @ Hazen	6:00/7:30
30	Saturday	BFA @ Fairfax	1:00/2:30

February

2	Tuesday	Enosburg @ Danville	5:30/7:00
4	Thursday	Danville @ Stowe	6:00/7:30
6	Saturday	Winooski @ Danville	11:00/12:30
9	Tuesday	Danville @ Richford	5:30/7:00
11	Thursday	Lake Region @ Danville	6:00/7:30

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Follow the Money

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



As Father Time with his hourglass and scythe ushers out the old year and a swaddled babe ushers in the new, it is tempting to think that each new year presents an initial offering.

Alas, our incomes and expenses, our assets and debts, our commitments and responsibilities trail along behind us. Worse yet, they are there to greet us on New Year's morning, our cumulative hangover from fiscal years past. Whether our acumen proved sharp or dull and our luck bad or good, the end of the year demands our reconciliations and resolutions.

The financial markets are not sentimental. Even in our 24/7 world of global trading, there is opening, there is closing: the trading day. The bull

and the bear take action, perhaps precipitously, but not upon reflection. Tomorrow is indeed another day.

Risk tolerance is defined as a magical mating of the willingness and ability to assume risk. Ability is objectively determined by the size of your asset base: the more you have, the more you can risk – or the more you can fall back on if need be. Willingness is subjectively determined by non-quantifiable denominators such as personality. It is also shaped by lessons from experience, your own or others', widely available in print, online, or on broadcast media.

When we are younger, we typically have more risk tolerance, not only because we are young and impetuous, or enjoy the carelessness of youth, but because we face the long-term.

This gives us time to recover from misfortunes, to rebuild or earn it back. The older we get, the shorter that term becomes. Time becomes less of a freedom and more of a constraint.

So as we age, our willingness to assume risk decreases: ever more aware that time is running shorter, and that, should we be wrong, there is less of it to salve our wounds. We also have greater expectations of our investments, looking forward to the day when they can replace our paychecks with dividends and interest. Our investments loom larger in our plans, and we are less willing to risk them. At the same time, our ability to assume risk typically increases. Dependents and assets grown, we can most afford risk when we are least inclined to risk it.

There are some investors that are ageless. Trusts, founda-

tions, endowments—in fact, any corporation has an infinite life in theory, its human employees, management, and shareholders all replaceable. Aside from the obvious gains through trade, economies of scale, and the divisions of labor, it may be that humans band together in joint ventures to achieve a bit of immortality, just as Ford Motors has outlived Henry Ford or Con Ed has outlived Thomas Edison. You can't take it with you, but you can create productivity that outlasts you.

Individual investors have not escaped criticism in the aftermath of our latest crisis. It is easy, in hindsight, to see that risk was too great in the portfolios of too many. Many investors were wooed by the rational basis of portfolio theory that proved the efficacy of risk in the long run. In their excitement, they forgot that as mere mortals, our long run is never that long, and perhaps never long enough. Economist John Maynard Keynes famously said that “in the long run, we are all dead,” pointing out the futility of theoretical thinking not grounded in the context of reality.

After several generations of

corporate structure, perhaps we are also beginning to see that, rather than weathering the troughs and crests of economic and corporate cycles, they actually weather us. Maybe the waves that we see are really just the distractions in a much larger and longer cycle, defined by the life spans of our corporate entities rather than by those of its shareholders and lenders. If so, then we cannot bank on the law of averages, because we won't necessarily live long enough for things to average out.

Like so many “age-defying” cosmetics or vitamins that are sold to us on the promise of eternal youth, wealth as a goal and a strategy is often packaged the same way. But as with such promised tonics, success is temporary at best. Investment can create a more comfortable future, but it cannot create more of a future. In the long run, there is no long run, “our little lives are rounded” and perhaps more so than the economy we have built.

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

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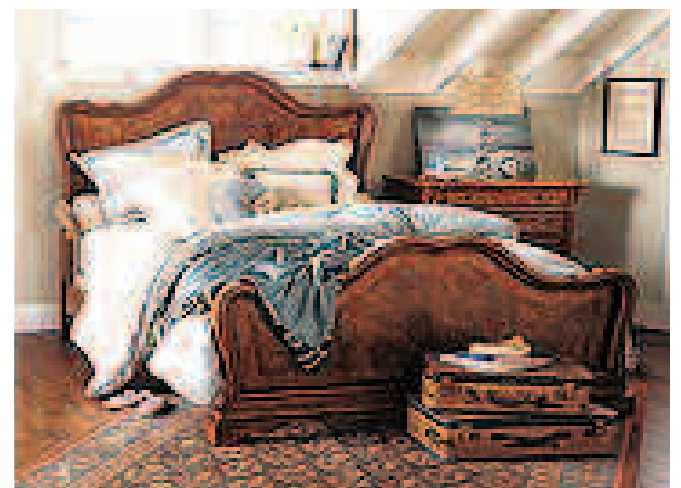
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Elwin Cross built and believed in neighborhoods

Many in St. Johnsbury residents live in the homes his hands built and maintained

BY JUSTIN LAVELY

He's been called a craftsman, gentleman and developer. First and foremost, Elwin Cross was a builder. The Northeast Kingdom is littered with his handiwork, including 75 homes, but his most memorable project is the street that bears his name.

In 1959, Elwin moved to the end of Stetson Terrace. Behind his house was a large strawberry patch and not much else. In the early 1960s, the demand for housing in St. Johnsbury was high, and Elwin decided to strike while the iron was hot. He bought the 15 acres behind his house and started building speculative houses.

Sitting in his home on Cross Avenue, a street that was practically created by his two hands, he recalled his decisions and the lucky breaks he got along the way.

"I had bought pieces of it at first, but when I saw what was coming I decided I better buy the whole thing," he remembers. "I was lucky. I got into it at the right time."

Elwin shelled out \$7,000 for the land and went to work. He had the land bulldozed and gravel roads built. Sometimes his four-man crew would have as many as three houses under construction at a time. When he was finished, he had built almost 20 new houses in the new neighborhood and added significantly

to the town's tax rolls.

"We were real lucky," he says. "We sold every house before we finished building it."

He even sold his own house for \$35,000 and moved into a new home on the newly constructed Cross Avenue. He remembers the building process being much different back then. All of his houses are ranch-style, with private septic systems and town water.

"When it came time to build another house, I would just pop into the town office and apply for a building permit," he says. "Nowadays it's just not that easy."

In St. Johnsbury Center, the iron bridge over the Passumpsic River that connects Depot Hill Road to Memorial Drive has also been named after Elwin. In addition to his years with a hammer, Elwin spent 25 years in service to his town on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Board of Selectmen. During that time, he worked tirelessly to convince the state of Vermont to replace the decaying iron bridge. His efforts came to fruition only after he had retired from public service. The town dedicated the new bridge and the 2004 town report to him in appreciation. Many who worked with him say his presence on town boards made people feel confident in the process.

"Elwin Cross is a true craftsman in St. Johnsbury," reads the town report. "His con-



siderable talents as a carpenter have not been limited to the beautiful homes he constructed throughout the region. Elwin Cross is a craftsman of this community."

New construction is only part of Elwin's legacy. He touched the lives of many St. Johnsbury residents with his willingness to help, whether as a town officer or just a handyman.

"He always took the extra step," says Zoning Administrator Priscilla Messier. "He would work so hard with people on their proposed projects to get them through the permitting obstacles. If he couldn't, he always tried to give suggestions, things they hadn't considered."

He was also quick to help those in need. Priscilla remembers calling Elwin in a panic when her roof started leaking.

"He was there in minutes and I never got a bill."

It's unclear how many others never got a bill.

Elwin built houses into his 70s and retired from town government when he was 86. After that, people in the neighborhood would still call him to come fix things. Town officials still call him with questions.

"When you ask him you know you're going to get a truthful, well thought out response," according to Priscilla.

The 2004 town report concludes, "The façade of St. Johnsbury will continue to be remodeled, updated, and repaired. May the apprentices of tomorrow learn well from the patterns of this master."

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 **Up on the Farm Early** 

WILL ROGERS

BY LORNA QUIMBY

Dick and I recently read *The Wit and Wisdom of Will Rogers*, edited by Alex Ayres. We enjoyed Rogers's wit and envy the lucky people who attended one of his performances. Trained in the hard school of vaudeville, Rogers was master of the pause, the lifted eyebrow or whatever he needed to do to make a point. Rogers died in 1935, so that treat never came our way.

At the present crisis in our nation's financial affairs, Rogers's book makes sobering reading. Apparently nothing has changed. His remark that "bank failures break banks but bankers don't go broke, do they?" made us laugh but it also hurt. His comments about party politics is another one to make you laugh through your tears. [No. I won't quote any more. Go ask your librarian to get you the book.]

Rogers would have plenty of

material these days. The politicians in Washington and in Montpelier act the same way as they did during the Great Depression. Wouldn't it be refreshing if, for only once, just for the novelty, our so-called representatives sat down and studied a problem for a possible solution instead of worrying about how solving that problem might make the opposite party look good? And wouldn't it be nice if they all realized that what they are spending is our tax dollars. When our senators have a photo-op during which they hand out a big check to some one, we'd be shocked if, after the folksy grin and the shot of the perfect profile, the senator said, "I know this is really your money, but I've got an election coming up so I'm spending it on a worthy cause—me."

I can think of many things I'd like to see happen in 2010. (Remember when the 21st century was supposed to be the era when we'd get rid of all the bad things those stupid people did in the



North Star Monthly photo

Marty Beattie, of Marty's 1st Stop, hands over a \$750 check to Peacham School Principal Mark Peabody. The funds are an education grant from Exxon Mobil Education Alliance, intended to benefit the entire student body. Similar Exxon grants have been presented to schools in Danville and Walden in recent years.

20th?) I'm all for equality, but I think of it in terms of how do you treat your cleaning woman and how much do you respect her opinion? I don't expect to become color-blind, for I happen to think that it shouldn't matter that your ancestor came from Italy and you have a lovely olive complexion. You'll tan a lot more easily than I do because some of mine came over from Scotland. Neither of us has much control over our skin color or what our ancestors did.

When I think back, I'm sure we Field girls would have qualified for free or reduced meals at school. Probably only one or two pupils wouldn't have met the guide lines. Some of us were slow learners and others were quick to catch on to reading and writing. But our teachers didn't think we were stupid and couldn't learn because our parents were poor. They, after all, were local women whose parents had not been affluent. So I think

it would be nice if teachers did not automatically slot certain students as beyond learning just because the student's parents aren't well paid professionals.

I wish we could reduce the power of advertising. [You can see I'm a real pie-in-the-sky dreamer, also probably un-American.] Wouldn't it be nice if, instead of spending umpteen thousands of dollars advertising its wonderful services, our local telephone company spent the money to provide those services? And how, if they're going bankrupt, can they continue with their full page ads? Why don't colleges spend their sports budget on scholarships to needy students instead of paying a coach more than the president? And wouldn't it be nice to watch a game or a movie with few or no commercial breaks? Even our news coverage is interrupted by ads for this and that and teasers so you'll stay glued to the tube. And,

by the way, who cares enough about the latest scandal to wish to "hear all about it" on the eleven o'clock news?

We read with dismay that CEOs of failed companies grab their golden parachutes and retire to their gated communities. Wouldn't it be nice if that money could be shared with the poor schnooks who get laid off from those same companies? But don't hold your breath, folks. Unlike Ralston-Purina's Charlie Hedrick, modern day executives rarely come up through the ranks. They are hired by members of the board who have the same background. They give lip service to appreciating the men and women who actually provide the goods their companies sell but, when push comes to shove, greed wins out.

That brings me back to Will Rogers and his comment about how everyone contributed to the boom and bust of the 1920s. Everyone wanted to get rich quick and thought spending was the way to get there. Nothing changes. I think AIG stands for "Am I Greedy?!" and the answer, unfortunately, is yes.

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Charles F. Badger	Fatcam McMillan
Frank L. Badger	Augustus Morrill
Oliver M. Badger	Ebenezer Morrill
Austin A. Bailey	Isaac A. Morrill
Amos C. Barbor	Joseph A. Morrill
Ezra Bedard	Harvey K. Morse
Harvey J. Bickford	Thomas K. Maxwell
Charles S. Blodgett	Lewis McLellan
Henry D. Bolton	Langdon O. Morse
John Bolton	Thomas S. May
Clark G. Bovee	Joseph Martin
Frank B. Bradbury	Samuel P. Martin
Josiah Brown	Robert Meader
Eugene S.P. Bolton	Abner W. Miner
Mitchell Brown	Aiden W. Morse
Calvin E. Bruce	Charles Mason
Andrew Bryan	Charles H. Northrop
Fredrick Benoit	William H. Nunn
Joseph Benoit	Henry C. Nute
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Joel G. Goodwin	Benjamin F. Taylor
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Charles H. hidden	Samuel Ward Jr.
Abel Hartshorn	John Williams
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Martin Heath	William H.H. Willey
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Danville: In the War of the Rebellion

This article was found by the editor during research at the Vermont Department of Libraries in Montpelier. After editing for length, the accounts of Capt. Chas. D. Brainerd and the names listed are reprinted exactly the way they appeared in the Jan. 24, 1879 edition of the North Star.

BY CAPT. CHAS. D. BRAINERD

Thinking that a short history of the part that this town of Danville took in the War of Rebellion might be interesting to her inhabitants and some of her old soldiers, I have taken pains to collect together somewhat of the history of her soldiers and of the part this town played in the late war.

In 1861, at the commencement of the war, the town of Danville had a population of about 2,500, and of sound, able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 fit for military duty, not far from 350.

From this number of men, the town, between the years of 1861 and 1865, furnished under the various calls of the President of the United States 245 men, an excess of five more than she was called upon to furnish for her share. Although the town furnished 245 men under the several calls, she never had that number of individual men in the field. As the terms of service for some of her other soldiers expired, they re-enlisted; others who had been discharged from their respective commands by reason of disease contracted during service, after recovering, enlisted a second time and each man that re-enlisted counted twice on the town quota. During the draft, when \$300 was considered equivalent to a man, 18 men were drafted, 14 of whom paid their commutation, two furnished substitutes and two entered the army.

Taking from the whole number of 245 those who re-enlisted and those who paid commutation under the draft leaves 194 different men who entered the service of the United States. One hundred and ninety four out of a possible 325 shows to the great extent the town was called on to furnish men for the war.

And yet, although not quite 18 years have passed since the town commenced sending her sons into the army, and scarcely 14 since her great sacrifices and efforts ceased, still the times in which we live are so fast, that the events of time have almost been forgotten; and to look back it seems more like the dim vision of a dream than the terrible reality it was.

Of the 194 men who left the town, nine entered the naval service, and of these and their history I know nothing, which leaves 185 who entered the army and it is them and

their history that I will attempt to tell.

The first men from the town to enlist were John Gorman, Harvey D. Judkins, Frank L. Badger, Frank H. Caswell, Alvin B. Danforth, Charles Danforth and Edward J. Dana, who enlisted June 1, 1861, and Charles H. Northrop, who enlisted on the 16th of the July after. These men enlisted in the Third Regiment, which at the time was being formed in St. Johnsbury. From that time until the close of the war, the energies of the selectmen and many of the leading citizens of the town were largely devoted to raising men for the army.

The names of those who were killed were: Col. Addison W. Preston, cavalry; Ser't Mertio Heath, cavalry, Samuel W. Leighton, 4th; William J. Sly, 4th; Daniel C. Adams, 4th; Oliver M. Green, 17th; Corp. John B. Chase, cavalry; John P. Harris, 4th; Charles H. Northrop, 3d; Langdon O. Morse, 17th; Hiram P. Danforth, cavalry; Chase Colby, 11th.

The financial record of Danville during the war was one that her citizens had reason to be thankful for. The tax payers of the town believing in the principal of "pay as you go," decided that all money appropriated for the war should be raised by immediate taxation, and thus when the war ceased the efforts and sacrifices of the town in that respect also stopped and there was no large debt on the town to be carried along for years to come as a burden to the taxpayers.

The first meeting held in Danville for the purpose of providing ways and means to enlist soldiers was a meeting of the citizens held at Town Hall on the 12th day of August, 1862. This was not a town meeting and could have no binding effect on the town. At that time, the town had no authority to raise monies as a town for the purpose of paying bounties, but was afterwards authorized by the Legislature so to do. At this meeting, a number of the leading citizens agreed to guarantee a bounty of \$25 to all who would enlist from the town, and this was the first bounty offered.

On the 18th day of August, same year, another meeting of the citizens was held to see about raising nine months men. At this meeting, a number of the leading citizens agreed to guarantee a bounty of \$25 and \$7 per month extra, if the State did not pay it. At that time, the State was paying the three years men \$7 per month extra, and after-



wards paid all soldiers the same.

The exact sum of money the town expended during the war for the purpose of paying bounties and enlisting men I have not been able to find out, but the sums voted on at different town meetings, held for that purpose, was \$36,000.

Wise in their generation, the taxpayers of this town decided that all money appropriated for the purpose of the war should be raised immediately, and this each man was enabled to pay his share in the depreciated currency of the times when he was receiving high prices for his produce and labor.

Many others towns in the State thought it would be better to put off paying as long as they could, borrowing the money for the time being, and when they came to pay, were obliged to pay in a currency worth nearly if not quite twice as much as that which they borrowed. The first monies were appropriated on the 13th of January, 1863; the last on the 20th of February, 1865; and in little over two years, \$36,000 dollars were paid by the taxpayers of the town.

The record that the town of Danville made in the War of the Rebellion, was one that her citizens have reason to be proud of. Two hundred and forty five men furnished under the different calls - five more than her share - \$36,000 paid by her taxpayers in little over two years, to raise men for the army, was certainly a task sufficient to try her patriotism to great extent; and should the patriotism of the town ever again be called upon, I hope that her sons of that time will be found, as they were at this, not wanting.

The life and generosity of Capt. Brainerd

Charles Deming Brainerd was born in Danville in 1842. He went to Phillips Academy (Danville's High School) and by the time he graduated, the attention of every patriotic American son had been captured by the call to arms.

Southern troops fired on the Stars and Stripes at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, SC in April 1861, the War of the Great Rebellion was underway, and the following year Brainerd enlisted as a private in the infantry of the 15th Regiment of Vermont Volunteers. Brainerd and other Vermont Volunteers faced some of the darkest days of the Civil War at

battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and the siege of Petersburg. After the final assault on Petersburg, Brainerd was promoted to brevet captain and in July 1865 was mustered out of the service and returned to Danville. He was 22.

Little is known about the remaining 70 years of Brainerd's life. He is described in town records as a farmer. He served a two-year term as a side judge in the county court and two terms as a state senator.

Janet Wakefield remembered delivering groceries to Charles Brainerd's house (where the American Society of Dowers is located on the street bearing Brainerd's name). Katherine Beattie remembers

Brainerd, the last living Civil War veteran in the area, riding in open cars in parades on July 4 and at Danville Fair. Alice Hafner recalls a newspaper photograph with Brainerd and his wife standing proudly beside their new Maytag washing machine. Little else is known.

He sold off his real estate except for his home and 6 acres, and there he lived until March 1935 when he died at age 92. A quiet man living an apparently simple life in his hometown is not extraordinary, but the legacy that Brainerd left behind is astounding. After his death, Brainerd's estate was settled and valued at \$92,962. By conservative estimate that would equal more than \$1.3 million today. But even more

remarkable than that total is the generosity that Brainerd directed his executors to show the town after his death.

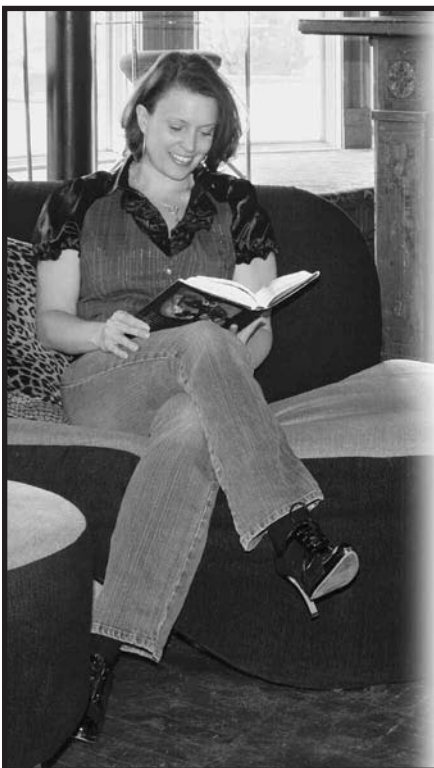
Brainerd left significant sums of money for the care of the Danville Green Cemetery; for the Town's use in the purchase of small trees on town land and in support of the Methodist Church, Congregational Church and Pope Library. His gifts established libraries in West Danville and North Danville. Most notably, a large sum was left to Phillips Academy, which was in need of substantial repair. Danville's 1939 town report saluted completion of the project, which was done exclusively with funds from Brainerd.



VICTORIAN HOLIDAY

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Photos by Jim Ashley



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>> Page 1

now. The 1840s equivalent of an "economy model," its size reflected the land itself and by the time a hundred years had passed the roof leaked, the sills had rotted, the "el" had mostly collapsed and one wall of the stone basement would soon follow. There was no electricity, and the road leading in was more like a logging trail. The young couple who took ownership in 1946 debated whether to burn the house or repair it. Then they went ahead and mixed concrete using gravel from the nearby stream, sawed timbers from the hemlock woods, and raised yet another family within its walls. They were the ninth holders of the deed to this place, we were the thirteenth, arriving in 1973. Now the house has more than doubled in size. We are linked by phone, internet and satellite to the whole planet. But what about the accounting? Is there any way to balance the books of such a place, which is now so heavily subsidized? Is it still a farm at all?

The real answer came to me a few years back, at this very time of year. I was here alone, doing more renovations while the rest of the family was in

Florida. I was blissfully immersed in the deep winter routine of indoors work, tearing out old walls, framing up new ones, keeping the stoves blazing hot and making quick trips to the barn twice a day to feed the animals. Hints of history were revealed; paint, wall paper and lath on the outside of walls; seeds, corn cobs and mummified rats on the inside. I remembered all the visitors we'd had over the years, folks who grew up here and would return, old and bent, to see the place one last time and tell me stories. They loved this place, for all its wet spots and stones, for all its isolation.

Then I received the most wonderful visitor of all. I sensed her standing behind me while I worked on what had once been the "borning room," (a small room near the kitchen where babies were born) but when I turned around she was gone. Several times later I felt her brush against me flirtatiously. I never actually saw her, but my wife did soon after she got back. She thought it was her own daughter at first ghosting past, same age, sixteen or so, and then she realized her daughter was not home at all.

When our land lay in the grip of the Great Depression, when

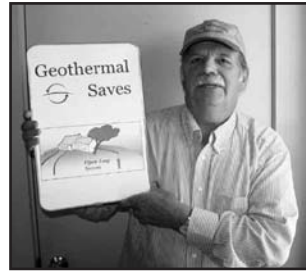
life here was hard enough already, the family living here, seventh holders of the deed, had a daughter afflicted with what was then called "consumption." It may have been cystic fibrosis, a disease my own family knows well, but what ever it was her parents couldn't give her the care she needed in this cold, damp house so she was sent, at the age of fifteen or so, to the state sanatorium in Waterbury. She was not there long before she became pregnant, and had to return home with ignominy added to her illness. She stayed in that same room behind the kitchen, a small room with one window which looks out upon a pasture rising to a steep wooded hillside, and lets in a soft and even north light all day long. She gave birth to a son in that room, and it was there that she died soon afterwards.

We never saw her again, which I take as a sign that she was pleased with the renovations. But I know that the couple raised that child as their own, that he was raised and nurtured as were the crops and the cattle, and that he was loved, and in return loved them and this place and all that they had been given. I know that because he, too, returned a few years after we had met his

mother. He was driving a Cadillac with California plates, having just retired from a successful career as an engineer. When I told him we had met his mother he was pleased but not surprised.

So what about the accounting, on such a cold winter day? How do we measure the harvests, the losses and the gains?

Some is written in the stones wrested from the earth, the tally marks on the timbers of the barn and a parade of ghost cows, but the harvest which counts most is the love which has grown between these hills and between these walls. Compared to that, the numbers don't really matter at all.



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Babe Ruth and me

A time of giants

By BILL AMOS

This is a true story about an American boy living on the other side of the world in 1934 and of legendary baseball heroes he knew only through distant news.

On a mid-November Saturday morning in 1934, I had no classes at the American School in Japan. A 13-year-old, I sat bored and listless in the lobby of Japan's famed Imperial Hotel, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, waiting for my father while he spoke at length with one of his acquaintances. Shortly before noon, a tall, white-haired man, distinguished in a black suit and starched collar, strode through the main entrance, and my father's friend, who knew the man, waved and called him over.

"Mr. Mack," he said, "I wish to introduce Mr. Harold Amos—and this is his son,

Bill. Mr. Amos, Mr. Connie Mack."

For weeks I had been reading about the American League All-Star baseball team that had arrived in Japan under the leadership of Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Athletics. He was known to every American boy, even those living on the other wide of the world. What made this event even headier was the presence of Babe Ruth,

Lou Gehrig and other baseball greats on the team.

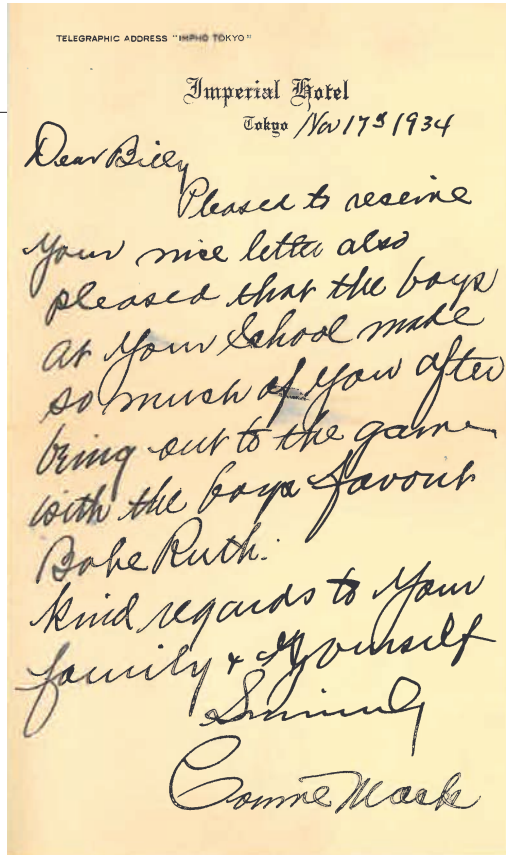
After a brief conversation between the three men, Connie Mack turned to me and asked, "Billy, are you going to the game this afternoon?"

"No, sir," I replied, "We weren't able to get tickets a month ago."

He looked at me thoughtfully for a long moment, then turned to my father, "Mr. Amos, will you leave Bill with us for the rest of the day? I think we can do something for him."

My father did not hesitate; he nodded and grinned at me. My pulse raced. Was it possible I was going to be taken to Meiji Stadium with its 60,000 seats, every one of which had been sold out long before? Even a seat in the highest bleacher would allow me to see my heroes from an America I knew so little about, yet of which I was a part.

Within minutes I was seated in the hotel's elegant dining room with Connie Mack who stayed long enough to see that I was eating a good lunch before excusing himself to attend to other matters. By the time I had finished, he was back and told me to come along. We went down a long corridor, passed through heavy doors and there, pulled into the driveway, an enormous open touring car



waited. The door was held open as he, then I, stepped in and settled in the back seat.

Almost at once, a huge and excitingly familiar figure emerged from the hotel wearing a golf cap and wrapped in a tan polo coat. He looked over the scurrying attendants and climbed into the car, crushing the seat beside me. He looked down at me and held out a powerful hand as his tanned, round face broke into a grin. After a numbing introduction from Connie Mack, Babe Ruth rumbled, "Hiya, kid. Let's show 'em how to do it." As the car swept past the courtyard pool and into the street beyond, Connie Mack arranged a robe across our legs to head off the cold November

air.


Other touring cars pulled into line behind us carrying the entire team. Led by police with lights flashing, the procession began to roll, turned to go along the Ginza, Tokyo's main avenue, and passed slowly between dense throngs of applauding on-lookers on our roundabout way to the stadium. Every time Babe Ruth waved the small American and Japanese flags clutched in his hands, the roar of the crowd swelled to a crescendo, his name chanted over and over, "Baybu-Rutu, Baybu-Rutu, Baybu-Rutu." Baseball, in 1934 already becoming the national team sport of Japan, was at last claiming its own gods.

Above the din, Connie Mack

shouted at me to wave. I did and the crowd roared back. Whoever I was to them, I had to be important, seated as I was between two such major idols heading the procession. Somewhere in old newspaper files, or in a dusty, battered amateur photograph album, there must be at least one picture of a small over-awed boy, dwarfed between two international sports giants, seated in the back of an open car on the way to his own version of glory.

In Meiji Stadium's locker room, I was temporarily lost among huge athletic figures. I had never before seen, or even imagined, such large, powerful human beings. Their language was loud, colorful and unfamil-

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iar, for at 13 and living on the other side of the Pacific, I was far removed from their everyday world. But they were uniformly kind. Each said hello to the small expatriate; some asked me questions; many gave me a pat as I wandered about, dazed and unbelieving. Lefty Gomez, who was soon to pitch, made me laugh as he clowned, barely clad, in front of me.

Someone took me to the dugout that looked out upon the surrounding wall of cheering humanity that appeared to reach to the sky. Normally Japanese spectators are relatively silent, but not this day. I sat on a hard bench in the shade, shivering in the chill November wind that swept across the diamond, for I had no coat to protect me on this unexpected outing. One of the players stood behind me and laid his hand gently on my quaking shoulder. "Billy, you're cold." It was a statement, not a question. I looked up into one of the strongest, kindest faces I have ever seen, a face deep-lined and compassionate. He took off his warm-up jacket, draped it around my shoulders and said, "Keep it on during the game this

afternoon." The jacket, enveloping me twice over, had embroidered on it, "Lou Gehrig." I feel its warmth still.

The hours in the dugout flickered by in kaleidoscopic fashion. Players came and went, some clapping me on the back as they left, or winking at me as they trotted back in. Occasionally one returned irritated by his performance. It may have been Joe Cascarella who introduced a new word to my vocabulary after he struck out. I later used it experimentally at school with lamentable results.

I have little recollection of the game itself. I did not understand it very well, for it was infinitely more complex than the informal softball games we played at school. I don't know what the final score was, or how many home runs were hit, whether by Babe Ruth or Lou Gehrig or the others, but I know who won. The Japanese players, even though they were skillful, quick, and experienced never had a chance. No one expected otherwise. After all, they were up against America's finest players gathered from teams across that distant land.

The next day a few of my schoolmates who had the foresight and luck to secure tickets months earlier confronted me.

"Amos, was that you in the dugout?"

"Yes."

"How come? How'd you do that?"

"Mr. Mack invited me."

"Connie Mack—asked—you?" Utter disbelief.

At home that evening I wrote a letter to Connie Mack thanking him, however a boy could, and told him of my incredulous friends. I cut two pages from my autograph album, a battered red book filed with doggerel and the labored signatures of childhood friends, and enclosed the two pieces of clipped paper with a suggestion maybe he and Babe Ruth might each sign one.

A few days later the morning mail brought an envelope from the Imperial Hotel. In it was a letter from Connie Mack and the two album pages folded neatly in half. On one of the sheets was another note from him and on



the second, signatures of most of the team including Earl Averill, Lefty Gomez, Charles Gehringer, Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth and ten others, plus the trainer and an umpire. Of those eventually ushered into the Baseball Hall of Fame, only Jimmy Foxx's name was missing.

Not long ago I pulled the album from deep within the storage chest where it had lain for many years, neglected during

a busy life. As I picked it up, Connie Mack's letter fell onto my lap. I turned to the two pages in the album, taped in place long ago and read the names aloud. Six are now enshrined forever in Cooperstown's Hall of Fame, but never more securely than in the heart of a man once again an awestruck boy surrounded by the giants of an earlier time.

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

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

- Isobel P. Swartz

Small Miracle

Prose emerges, slow-crafted, From the studios pen
And lines up neatly
On the page.

But aaah, the poem, which bursts, Unasked,
Into the waking mind...
Who knows from whence it comes?

I greet it eagerly, store it gently, In my thoughts, until,
With breakfast dishes done,
I can collect myself
To shape it on the page and bless it,

Taking care to thank the muse
Who has returned, if only
For a golden moment!

- Bets Parker Albright

Green Cheese

Not with a bang, but a whimper by Peter Dannenberg

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2010, some worry about the world ending. A science fiction movie, "2012," fuels the panic. The film predicts doomsday, based on the Mayan Long Count calendar. The Mayan 5,125-year cycle will end on Dec. 21, 2012.

That scares those convinced that the day of reckoning is near. The old Mayan prophecy is the biggest new-age hullabaloo since the Y2K bug failed to melt down the world's computers on Jan. 1, 2000.

Even the surviving Mayans in Central America have pretty much given up their intricate old calendar. Climate change, followed by invasions of Spanish conquistadors who carried deadly European diseases, almost wiped out Mayan civilization.

End of the world zealots also point to murky predictions by the 16th century French diviner, Nostradamus. His murky writings can mean almost anything. Unlike the Mayans, French civilization is still largely intact, but threatened by escargot and truffles.

Cataclysm stories are ancient and everywhere. The Gilgamesh epic, which is similar to the Biblical account of Noah's ark, dates from around 2700 B.C. Today, some mystics, sure the sky is falling, dissect religious texts from Baha'i to Zoroastrianism and seek signs in astrology, numerology, Ouija boards, pyramids and Stonehenge. At least they don't examine entrails of sacrificed animals like soothsayers of yore; or do they?

Recently, harbingers of doom raised a new bugaboo, the big bang bogeyman. Like Dan Brown's book, "Angels &

Demons," it uses scientific jargon to add the ring of truth to scary fables. This is what happened.

On Nov. 30, 2009, near Geneva, Switzerland, the CERN tested the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's most powerful subatomic particle accelerator. CERN is the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Its 20 member governments built their colossal LHC machine for \$10 billion. CERN's gigantic new laboratory hopes to crack the secrets of the cosmos.

CERN's scientists want to recreate, on a tiny scale, what happened fractions of a second after the universe began about 13.7 billion years ago in the big bang, a monstrous explosion. They seek the elusive Higgs boson, or "God particle." Finding it would prove the theory most contemporary physicists use to explain the cosmos. The theory, called the Standard Model, says the Higgs must exist, but no one has seen it, despite 40 years of searching.

CERN hopes their immense new collider will do the trick. The LHC's vacuum tunnel, a racetrack for subatomic particles, is more than 300 feet underground. Down there, enormous electromagnets hurl two streams of protons at each other. They whirl around the 17-mile-long tunnel 11,000 times per second and crash head-on. Think of a demolition derby where two fleets of cars thunder into each other at top speed so scientists can dissect the wreckage.

The November test smashed beams of protons together, using 1.8 trillion electron volts. That is a world high-energy record, but just a tune-up for CERN. They plan to boost power gradually for a year. After 2010, they will recheck everything before cranking up the

LHC all the way, to almost seven times more power.

CERN is moving slowly because this successful test came just 10 days after finishing more than a year of repairs. The LHC first fired up in September 2008. All started well, then a badly soldered splice overheated. A huge spark pierced the liquid-helium container that keeps the LHC vacuum pipes colder than outer space. Six tons leaked; relief valves failed. The pipes—about the diameter of a fire hose—clogged with soot. The setback ruined 53 of the LHC's thousands of superconducting magnets; each is up to fifty feet long.

This calamity filled some with dread. They worry the LHC might create a mini black hole or dangerous particles and destroy the world. Some even imagine that future scientists used time travel to sabotage the LHC and save the world in 2008. Of course, not every global disaster vaporizes the world; consider the dinosaurs.

Mainstream physicists poo-poo any dangers, saying cosmic rays constantly bombard us with more energy than the LHC. After the accident, CERN checked all 10,000 solder joints with a fine-tooth comb. They put in better vents to stop damage from any future liquid-helium leak. They added detectors to detect infinitesimal voltage changes and instantly cut off power.

The LHC Safety Assessment Group says these improved safety measures dealt with every possible danger; there is no cause for concern. The world will not end any time soon. Worrywarts who think some unknown peril could wipe us out are just foolish. Calm yourselves, you timid souls, there is absolutely nothing to fret about...

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Pausing for a picture in Bag Balm's Williams Street office in Lyndonville are, left to right, Krystina McMorrow, Barbara Norris Allen and Shawna Wilkerson. McMorrow and Wilkerson are office secretaries for Bag Balm's President Allen.

>> Page 1

His daughter, Bag Balm's president since 2002, speaks with great pride of the 66 years her father ran the Dairy Association Company.

Many have been well acquainted with the pungent balm for as long as they can remember. Once it made its way into homes, the number of medicinal uses increased steadily. The product has been used by everyone from nursing mothers to World War II soldiers. As it turned out, many soldiers used Bag Balm on their rifles to keep them lubricated and in good working order. In the 1940s, the company was forced to abandon its signature metal containers for glass because metal was being conserved for the war effort.

When asked to share some of Bag Balm's unusual uses, Barbara shows a copy of "Company Secrets," a book by Alice Hellstrom Anderson about Vermont companies. In one chapter, Anderson wrote about CBS journalist Charles Kuralt's book "On the Road" and his staff's visit with John Norris in Lyndonville.

In Kuralt's chapter on Bag Balm, he had quoted John, "Years ago, farmers' wives used to do a lot of milking," John told Kuralt's interviewers. "They'd put Bag Balm on their hands to rub on the cow's



udder, and they'd find how soft their hands stayed, so Bag Balm moved from the barn into the house."

Barbara says there have been dramatic uses for Bag Balm. The Dairy Association donated Bag Balm to the search teams looking through the charred rubble for survivors after the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. The salve was massaged into the paws of search dogs who

worked hours on end to find the living victims of the attack.

She added that "care" packages with Bag Balm have been sent to Afghanistan and Iraq at the request of troops who wanted the salve as a comforting reminder of home.

She remembers a dramatic letter her dad received the year he became president of the company. Edgar Fox, herdsman for Admiral Byrd on his last expedition to the

Antarctic wrote, "While I had the Guernsey cows in a tent for three weeks before the barn was completed, I had to depend entirely on Bag Balm to keep their teats soft and pliable in sub-zero temperatures, and when one of our cows did receive a severe frostbite I healed it up entirely with Bag Balm." Barbara noted that cows' healthy milk supply was important food for the rigors of the expedition.

Intriguing the public, Barbara says, was an Oprah Winfrey program that saw a participant bring out a can of Bag Balm. She adds, "If you've ever seen the movie 'Sleepless in Seattle' you might have noted a scene where a guy was in bed with a terrible cold, and on his bedside table is a can of Bag Balm. The most recent account of a celebrity that uses Bag Balm is Robin McGraw, Dr. Phil's wife."

"My dad always said, 'If it works, don't fix it,' Barbara says. "It's obviously working! Our quiet, steady growth as a company and the many testimonials that the company has received support that." She points to a 2008 "Vermont Centennial Business Award" from the Vermont Chamber of Commerce on the wall of the main room in the office.

Barbara is satisfied with the uncomplicated structure of her busi-

ness. The only outside assistance is provided by an advertising agency in Montpelier and a wholesale distributor in Portland, Oregon. "There's something special about a small company that has been doing business for 110 years with consistent success," she says. The company also manufactures Tack Master, a leather softener, and Green Mountain Hoof Softener.

Barbara's husband, "Chick," enjoys driving up to Vermont from Seaford, Delaware, where he has a business called "Allen Family Foods." Barbara explains that it is "a large poultry enterprise that does everything with baby chicks right on up to putting them on your plate." She added that her husband's large crew of "chicken catchers" is familiar with Bag Balm as a soothing ointment.

"Chick and I never mind the long drive up to Vermont to our Willoughby Lake place," she says. "We both enjoy the swimming in warm weather and the snowmobiling we will be doing this winter." There will be a happy family gathering at Willoughby over Christmas with children and grandchildren and, of course, trips down to Lyndonville to see what's going on at Bag Balm.



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The postwar car industry

by Bruce Hoyt

To mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, The International Spy Museum in Washington D, C, lined up a parade of Trabants, East Germany's contribution to automobile production.

While Americans were buying Buicks and Caddies, the East Germans were signing up to wait 10 to 15 years until their turn came around to buy an eleven-foot long, fabric and resin car with a 18 horsepower, 2 cycle engine that required mixing oil and gas. Mixing was done by shaking the car.

In the west, these "cardboard" cars were considered a joke. A political cartoon capturing the problems ahead for reunification pictured a massive Mercedes with its left front wheel replaced with a Trabbie. Forty years after the end of WWII, U.S. soldiers visiting East Berlin were astonished to find the war torn city much like old Life Magazine photos and the automobiles in spare simplicity. Now, these vehicles are prized by collectors who want a piece of history, or by hobbyists who know that a normal engine in this lightweight car can give it acceleration like a drag racer. Production ended in 1991, two years after the wall came down but it may be revived as an electric vehicle in 2012.

Scarcity and deprivation were the

hallmarks of the post war Soviet bloc, with the Trabant as the only vehicle produced in East Germany for four decades. The Russian masters in Moscow had done little better. Unable to design a vehicle on it own, the Communist state absorbed the 1939 Packard and produced it, vertical grill and all, as the ZiS 110B. They took away the swan hood-ornament and replaced Packard codes of arms on the hub-caps with red stars.

Our own postwar automobile economy awakened to immense need. In the war's final years, cars bought in the 1930s were going to the scrap yard at the rate of 4,000 per day. To meet the demand, some of the "new" cars were slightly modified prewar designs. The first Fords out were still rump-backed vehicles with cross axle leaf springs. People bought them anyway. The slow shift to civilian production was certainly understandable in view of the huge military output. Months before, Ford's Willow Run plant had been building B-24 "Liberator" bombers at the rate of one every 63 minutes. Packard had been making engines for PT boats and Rolls Royce engines for aircraft. Chrysler made Sherman tanks. General Motors made engines and transmissions for M-5 tanks. Willys, and a few others, had produced tens of thousands of general purpose (G.P.) vehicles - the storied and versatile Jeep.

All car makers rushed to jump into the burgeoning market. The first new car was the 1947 Studebaker, with rear deck trunk and wrap around rear windows. Willys made a fairly seamless transition from military to civilian jeeps, coming out with a 4 wheel drive model with power take-off that was supposed to challenge the farm tractor. Packard had built a few "Clipper" models in 1941 and quickly went into production with its handsome, smooth-lined road machine. General Motors soon followed with the much coveted and powerful Roadmaster Buick and the rest of the GM line, but, in the rush, having to accede to Union demands that would take their toll up to this day. Ford lagged behind. Henry's son, Edsel, died in 1943 and left the company in a leadership kerfuffle. Grandson, Henry II, eventually rose to head the company and steered it toward the completely redesigned and very successful 1949 model.

A few minor players fell by the way-side: Nash teamed up with Hudson to form AMC and then faded. Kaiser and Frazer took over the Willow Run plant to produce some pleasing automotive sculpture without the horsepower people expected. They faded. By the mid 1950s Studebaker teamed up with Packard and then faded. Some great vehicles were lost.

In the St Johnsbury of my teen years, the new cars were very exciting. Gosses' was displaying shiny Packards and Dodges behind plate glass windows on Central Street. Adelbert Smith moved his business to his garage at the corner of Railroad Street and Concord Avenue, and Bernard Murphy filled the former Chevrolet showroom near my home with beauties of various makes. Forrest "Wild Trader" Grapes had moved his Ford dealership to make way for the Portland Street overpass and was ready to sell cars from the showroom north of town. New cars and premium used cars were too important to be sold from sales lots.

Many old cars went out to pastures or riverbanks, where trees grew up through the rotting wood and fabric roofs. A few V8s made it into the hands of young guys who chopped and channeled the old high steppers into low-slung speed machines. Julian and Russell Butler found two perfect model Ts that would get up to 70 mph in high gear on long flats but they soon gave up this amusement for newer vehicles. Sturdy as it was, my father's 1937 Packard looked like something out of an old black and white movie. I was glad that, before I started dating, he bought a gorgeous, chrome-laden, black Chrysler with plush midnight blue upholstery. Even the Model A Post Office parcel post truck



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was getting tired. Everybody wanted a newer car.

America was not alone in the western world's automobile frenzy. Japan soon came on board, first with a cute little non-threatening motor cycle that appealed to the public with the ad "You meet the nicest people on a Honda." It soon followed with the Civic, which has sold millions.

In West Germany, the builders of the killer Messerschmidt aircraft turned to building a three-wheel vehicle with tandem seating like a small aircraft. The Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) produced a pod-like transport with one door that swung forward from the front taking the hinged steering wheel and post with it. Up in Wolfsburg, in a bombed out factory, some talented GIs found parts for the people's car designed by Frederick Porsche and promised by Hitler. They assembled the first Volkswagen, bringing the

concept of a fuel efficient, easy to maintain auto to the world. Clever advertising made Americans pay attention. In 1956, Dr. Farmer brought the first "Bug" to St. Johnsbury. Mercedes Benz, which had been well employed building cars and weapons for the Third Reich had little trouble recovering. In England, the Triumphs and MGs survived to bring sports cars to the nostalgic American drivers, setting off a brief period of happy free-wheeling before the baby boom came along and sent everyone looking for sedans and vans. In France, Citroen produced its own "people car", the two CV that can be repaired with a screw driver and pliers.

A lot of what we remember about our lives becomes more tangible and more fun when we think about the automobiles of that time. The Soviets missed out on an exciting half-century.



Children from Little Dippers Doodle Children Center's four-year-old preschool room helped hang ornaments on a Christmas tree in the Union Bank lobby on Railroad Street in St. Johnsbury. From left, Tracey Holbrook, Betsy Bailey, Hayley Goodwin, Grace Ulrich, Noah Murray, Alexis Sanborn, Konnery Buoniconti, Cigi Skerry, Bethany Goodwin, Carter Manchester, Dylan White, Christian Charon.

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Black, White, and Brilliant Color

The Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild opens the new year with an exhibition of the brilliant colors of stained glass artist Fred Varney and the intricate, intriguing pen and ink drawings of Sarah Kinsella Waite.

The exhibition opens on Jan. 14, and the public is invited to an artists' reception on Saturday, Jan. 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. The exhibition will be on view through March 4. The Artisans Guild address is 430 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury; hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Varney, a Marshfield resident, remembers being fascinated by stained glass windows in the elegant homes he saw in his hometown, Springfield, Mass.

Varney attended Clarkson College in Potsdam, N.Y. from 1966-1969, then moved to South Woodbury, Vt. Just prior to



moving to Vermont in 1970 Fred began working with glass. Restoration of some damaged windows for his future Vermont home, and constructing a lamp from leftover pieces of glass were his first experiences working with glass.

Since then, he has com-

pleted hundreds of commissions and autonomous works: free standing glass clocks with curved "slumped glass" sides, original design "Tiffany" type lamps, skylights and numerous windows. His work has been widely exhibited, and he was commissioned to produce figurative stained glass windows for the United Church of Hardwick. A love of drawing and designing, fascination with the beauty of the glass itself, and the desire to work with his hands made stained glass a natural career choice.

Sarah Waite's pen-and-ink illustrations, inspired by art of the Northwest coast, uses the natural forms of animals, plants and trees in a symbolic style. Their subject is the Northeast ecosystem and the relationships among the flora and fauna within it.

While Waite's work emphasizes the natural world, it's also



informed by design. Her training as a graphic designer and years working in the print industry have led her to develop the clean, black and white imagery on display in this exhibit.

"My drawings come from spending a lot of time in nature; hiking, fishing, or just being in my backyard," Sarah says. "I am especially intrigued by the patterns of the natural world and try to bring this to each drawing, keeping in mind how the parts make up the whole. When work-

ing on a new illustration, I learn as much as I can about the animal, considering its place in the food chain and its interactions with its surroundings."

The Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, with the work of over one hundred Vermont artisans on view. For more information visit the Guild at 430 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, on its Website, or by telephone (802) 748-0158.

Film Festival comes to St. Johnsbury

Annual tradition collaborates with Catamount Arts

The Green Mountain Film Festival, one of the state's most exciting and anticipated annual traditions, will return for its 13th season in Montpelier from March 19-28, 2010.

This year's festival, in collaboration with Catamount Arts, will add a satellite location in St. Johnsbury, expanding its reach into the Northeast Kingdom.

Focus on Film, the festival's parent organization, has shown independent, international and documentary films in and

around the state capital since 1997. The main festival holds screenings at three locations in downtown Montpelier, including the festival's headquarters at the Savoy Theater.

This year will feature ten days of screenings, then the focus will shift to St. Johnsbury, April 9 through 11, when Catamount Arts will host the festival at its community arts center on Eastern Avenue and at two other locations in town. In addition to screening many of the same films as the Montpelier locations, Catamount Arts will

feature a high school filmmakers showcase.

Catamount, a long-time mainstay of the arts community in the Northeast Kingdom, has been active as a movie theater and fine arts presenter since 1985. In October, 2008, Catamount opened its new community arts center in the Masonic Temple in St. Johnsbury. This new facility now includes two movie screens, which gives them the flexibility to become an active partner in the expanding Green Mountain Film Festival.



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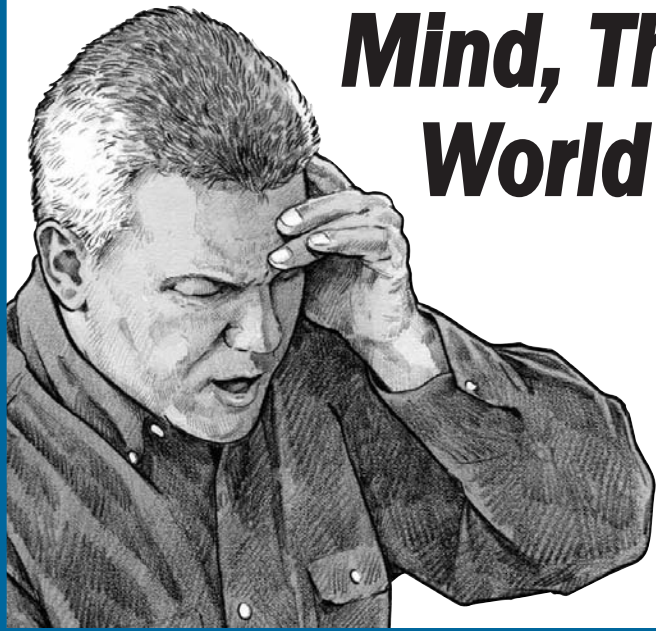


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“I couldn't sleep because I was in too much pain to lay on my sides or my back. I had **lower back pain, pain in my buttocks, hips and legs**. I couldn't stand in one spot too long even though I was supposed to for 8 hours at my job. I tried medications, other doctors, nerve blocks, pain management and therapy. I took many medications, most of which I didn't finish taking. I never thought I'd feel anything but pain. I'm a positive person but I was actually losing hope. Right now, I feel better than I have felt in 5 years after 3 to 4 weeks of chiropractic care. I can sit for short periods of time without too much pain. I can actually lie on my sides and fall asleep quicker most nights. It is unbelievable. I can proudly say that I am on the road to recovery.”

—Melanie Jones

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“When I first arrived at HealthSource I was in terrible pain. I could not walk, sleep or even sit in certain positions. My hips and leg were aching. I was walking with two crutches. I was helped with adjustments to my body—sides and back, also **my legs**. I feel great. I don't need crutches to walk. I highly recommend HealthSource. Go—you won't be disappointed. The staff and office are super!”

—Roosevelt Rogers

NUMBNESS GONE!

“I had chronic pain in my lower back. After standing for about 5 minutes my left leg would go numb. I tried over the counter medications and exercises, but stopped when symptoms returned when doing simple tasks like mowing the yard. I chose a course of treatment that best suited my situation. We set up a treatment schedule and I had my first adjustment and felt immediate relief. With each visit I feel better. HealthSource has given me back a positive attitude. I have already recommended HealthSource to several friends and family members. I am extremely pleased with my results.”

—Michael J. Balog

NECK PAIN GONE!

“My major complaint was **neck** and lower back pain with numbness in my left fingers. HealthSource was able to address the problem that was creating the numbness in my hand, neck and low back. They tailored a specific regime of adjustments, exercises and stretches. Now my neck and back pain are a thing of the past and the numbness is gone too. I can now concentrate and participate in my active lifestyle without constant pain and discomfort. I would recommend HealthSource to my family and friends because I truly believe in the benefits of the chiropractic care that they provide.”

—James Lawson

SCIATICA PAIN GONE!

“I had a **sciatic** nerve in my left hip which was going down my left leg down to the foot. I could not walk or stand and I was in excruciating pain. I had been suffering with this problem for about three years. I had tried numerous doctors before visiting HealthSource and they all wanted to treat me with drugs. At HealthSource I received a back adjustment, stretches and decompression. After the first visit I was able to stand and walk, it wasn't painful at all, no pain. I recommend HealthSource to all my friends and at work.”

—Stephanie Redman

HEADACHES GONE!

“I fell down the stairs at my house which gave me my migraine headaches. I was put on all types of meds and at one point took 9 pills a day and was still waking up almost daily with **headaches**. I would miss out on a lot of social and work activities. It really started affecting my mood and outlook of life for me. My migraines would at times put me in the ER with an IV and morphine for the pain. I believe the chiropractic care weekly in combination with the strength training program and the electrotherapy has been life altering for me. At HealthSource, everyone makes you feel welcome and happy.”

—Rhonda Mitchell

SHOULDER PAIN GONE!

“I had pain in my lower back and **shoulder** that caused me to change my daily activities just to AVOID the pain; which didn't help. I went to HealthSource for Spinal Decompression and now my pain is almost completely gone. Not only has my pain level changed but so has my attitude, I now have a positive outlook about my condition, where before I had given up on ever living without pain. Of course I'd recommend HealthSource, it's the most caring place I have ever been. The doctors are professional and treat you like family. And the staff is outstanding, well trained and make therapy a positive experience. I just can't say enough about HealthSource!”

—Elizabeth Murray

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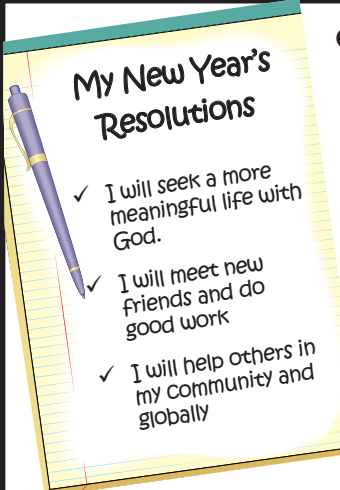
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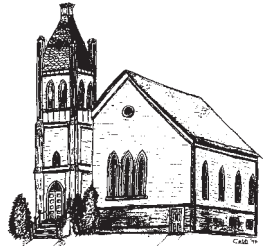
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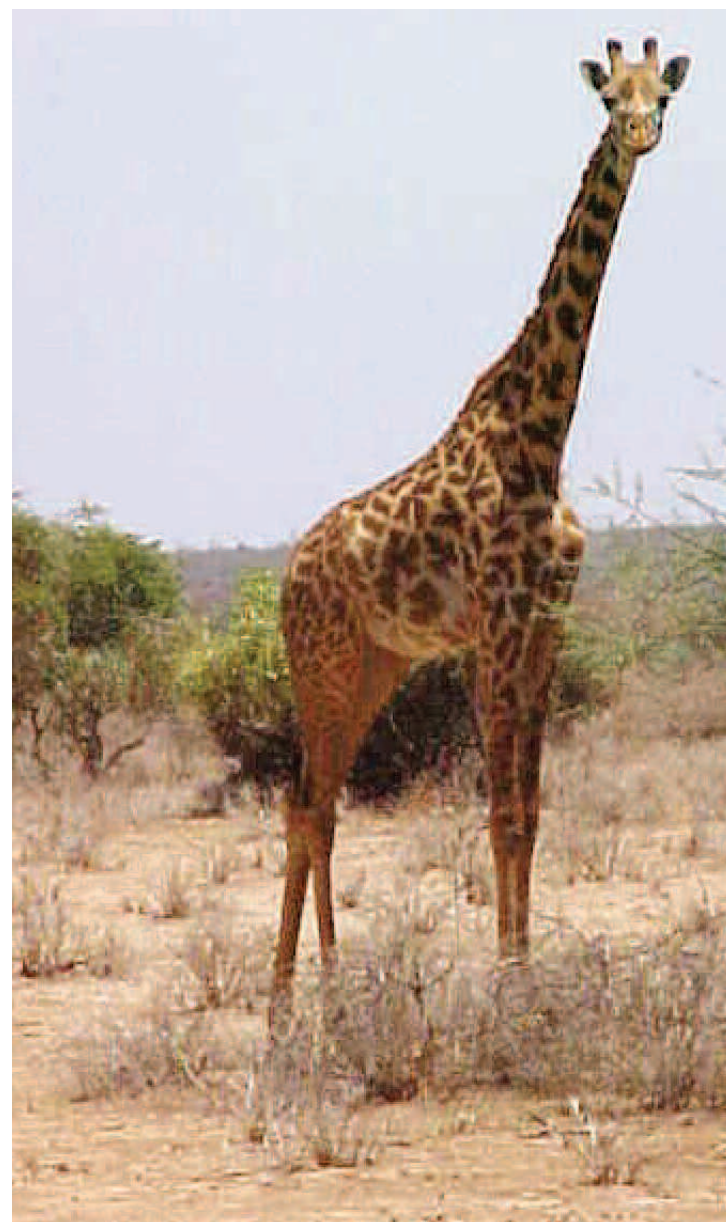
Heart of Africa

I had a farm in Africa..." When I first read these opening words of the book by Isak Dinesen (pen name of Karen Blixen), "Out of Africa," they didn't have the same significance as I experienced upon seeing the movie in later years.

As uttered by Meryl Streep, I heard a Danish-accented "I hahd a farm een Ahfreeka..." and was carried away to that coffee plantation on the outskirts of Nairobi that I had the pleasure of visiting just one month ago. The casting of that movie – Robert Redford was a perfect fit as the legendary hunter/adventurer Denys Finch Hatton – combined with its fascinating story line, Kenyan setting, and haunting music, obviously left a mark. A someday safari to that part of Central Africa was subconsciously added to my "bucket list."

Why Africa at age 84? My first contact with the Dark Continent was 63 years ago, touching ports in Capetown, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde Islands, French West Africa and Morocco while serving in the Navy aboard a light cruiser. More recently, I briefly visited Cairo, simply to amble up to the awesome Pyramids atop a camel. There has always been interest and curiosity about Africa inland. Earlier this year, I was privileged to be asked by photographer-author Robert Vavra to be one of several proofreaders of his (1,062-page) typescript "Remembering Africa." The stories were enchanting and encouraged more reading. Paul Theroux's "Sir Vidia's Shadow" was a start. But Beryl Markham's "West with the Night" spurred me on, one of the most remark-

...one of the most remarkable and finest pieces of writing I've been exposed to, to be sure, but additionally a story to beguile one and persuade me to see what Vavra, Ms. Markham, Theroux, and all of Vavra's protagonists witnessed in East Africa during the past half-century.







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able and finest pieces of writing I've been exposed to, to be sure, but additionally a story to beguile one and persuade me to see what Vavra, Ms. Markham, Theroux, and all of Vavra's protagonists witnessed in East Africa during the past half-century. Purely coincidentally, just one hundred years ago, my hero Theodore Roosevelt ventured to Kenya on safari; conditions were surely more spartan than those I experienced.

In June, I signed up to join a tour group in November that would take us on (ten) game drives in Kenya and Tanzania, East (central) Africa. Over the intervening months, I obtained the two necessary visas, had my required yellow fever vaccination and optional typhoid shot, got a prescription for anti-malaria pills, and boned up on the culture and history of the region that I was about to visit.

Leaving Burlington at noon on November 5th, the flight to Nairobi via New York and London was uneventful, but a bit of endurance run...twenty-five and a half hours including the six-hour layover in New York. By the time I cleared Customs and Immigration, met up with most of the group and the tour manager and settled in at the Intercontinental Nairobi, it was just after midnight on the 6th. A bit irritated that my luggage hadn't arrived with me, but I'm told by British Airways "not to worry."

The following day was filled by a tour of Kenya's chaotic mile-high capital and largest city (3.5 million!), a visit to an elephant orphanage and giraffe compound (interesting, but not much different from touring a zoo), and a drive outside the city to the plantation home of Baroness von Blixen, now maintained as a fascinating museum after being gifted to the government.

On day four, the group of 16 headed south to Amboseli National Park in three Land Rovers. Each sub-group remained intact with its driver serving as guide and naturalist until we flew out of the Serengeti. It was a relief to leave behind Nairobi's pot-holed roads and put "civilization" behind us; the dirt roads were actually less bumpy as we rode across unspoiled savannahs and past rocky thorn bush, although dry and dusty. We spotted our first wild giraffes and zebras along the way, as well as an unexpected herd of domesticated camels. Our itinerary notes, "On clear days, you'll see the distinct snow-capped summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak." While it was generally clear, the fabled "Snows of Kilimanjaro" were never distinctly visible to the group, only its base...a major disappointment. My luggage is still somewhere between Burlington and Timbuktu, but "not to worry."

At the entrance to the Park, we encountered native Maasai with their colorful cloth wrappings selling jewelry and carvings. While they are stately looking, this group can only be described as "in-your-face" pests. The Amboseli Lodge was appropriately African rustic, but clean and comfortable. We barely had time to

settle in and have lunch before we were off on our first game drive. This part of Kenya has been noticeably affected by a severe drought, but somehow the elegant elephants, unruffled giraffes, hyenas-that-only-a-mother-could-love, skittish Thomson's gazelles, awkward ostriches, ugly warthogs, haughty yellow baboons, and sleek zebras that we now mingle amongst looked healthy enough while the wildebeest and Cape buffalo appeared to be a bit undernourished. The carcasses of the less fit were occasionally spotted on the arid plains. Our driver, Samson, proved he knows where to spot game. He knows his birds, too; here he points out Mara storks, Egyptian geese, egrets, tawny eagles, hooded vultures, and spoonbills. The roof of the Land Rover is hinged to move up about two feet, enabling us to stand as we're driving along and providing a photographic advantage.

Bedding in my lodge had netting all around, but I hadn't been bothered by mosquitoes yet, just some oversize beetles. Baboons and black-faced monkeys stood guard on my porch.

Day five and I was still basically wearing the clothes I started out with in Burlington, but I



started borrowing some items offered by others in the group. We were "on the road again" for a 6:30 a.m. game drive. In addition to more of the above fauna, we were treated to a lone kudu, Grant's gazelles, herons, two lionesses feeding on a kill, then real good close-ups of lionesses and elephants crossing the road. Back

at the Lodge by mid-morning, I spotted my long-lost and badly needed luggage sitting outside the entrance, having just been flown down from Nairobi to a field nearby. We celebrated with champagne at lunch. Another game drive added a solitary jackal to our species list, but scores of elephants, Cape buffalo and hippos

paraded and posed often in front of our lenses.

Day six started with a different treat for the three of us who signed up for a balloon ride. Up at 4:30 a.m., we were picked up at 5:00 for a drive in total darkness over a non-road in the wilderness for 35 minutes until we came to

>> Page 22



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the balloon take-off site. Within ten minutes we were climbing into the baskets and lifting off. It's an exhilarating sensation rising steadily into "space" in sublime silence with just an occasional blast of flame to warm the air entrapped in the balloon. The ground faded away as we rose above the clouds to 12,000 feet and a glorious sunrise. In the opposite direction, the peak of "Kibo" (Mt. Kilimanjaro) arose, snow-capped with its glacier visible. The five of us - including the two experienced captain-partners, a young man and woman, were aloft for just an hour, then it was back to the nearest available landing site. Within a half-minute, the tracking party arrived to re-pack the deflated balloon and we were off on another 30-minute drive through the wilds to a clearance where a champagne breakfast had been readied for us.

We were back at the Lodge by 9:30 a.m. and the envy of the others since there won't be another sighting of Mt. Kilimanjaro during the remainder of the tour.

After a chaotic Tanzanian border-crossing experience we drive west to Arusha. After a stop for lunch, it's another two-and-a-half hour drive and we're all exhausted by the time we reached the safari lodge at Lake Manyara. The heavy downpour while we were at dinner was accompanied by thunder and lightning. A hornbill on the ledge outside my room stared me down as I tried to keep my eyes open to write in my trip log and it took no time for the tree frogs to sing me to sleep.

There was no drought in this national park, just the opposite. It was a lush rain forest with an abundance of animals thriving on the nourishing foliage and available water. We added hippos (72 counted at one pool) to the usual species encountered, along with olive baboons, blue-faced monkeys, helmeted guinea hens, silver-cheeked hornbills, a leopard tortoise, gray-headed kingfisher, little bee-eater, and lilac-breasted roller.

After lunch, at my request, we visited the Watoto Care Orphanage down in the valley. A good



friend had advised me that the children in this land need school supplies and - incidentally - love our state quarters, so I had brought along a supply of both plus packs of candy. These particular children (just about 20) were the orphans of natives who died of AIDS. I wished I had brought along tons more and the others in our group were as moved as I was at the reaction of these tykes whose songs of thanks were so spontaneous, so

loud, harmonious, and enthusiastic. It was a wrench to leave them, but their dedicated teacher will be hearing more from us.

Two more days of game drives added impala, water bucks, dik-dik, and millions of flamingoes to our now-accustomed inventory. Six stately giraffes that surrounded and entertained us were a special treat. The rains came along with dinner at 7:30 p.m. on the second night, but once again the timing did not interfere with our itinerary.

Our next destination was the Ngorongoro Crater, and we arrived at the Lodge above the crater late in the day. My balcony overlooked the crater and there was a young waterbuck outside my door each morning. The next day we took along a box lunch for an all-day game drive down into the sunken caldera with its rich array of wildlife. We were greeted by a flock of ostriches, a kori bustard and black-bellied bustard, plovers, herds of Cape buffalo, hartebeest, gazelles, dozens of elephants, huge herds of wildebeest everywhere interspersed

with zebras and warthogs, hyenas, hippos, gazelles, elands, black-backed jackals, ibis, egrets, gray-crowned cranes, secretary birds, Speke's weaver birds, yellow-billed kites, and a couple of cheetahs. A black rhino was spotted in the distance, but it could not be confirmed. Highlights were a lioness chasing a buffalo and giving up; eight lionesses resting while two others fed on buffalo kill as vultures hovered nearby; two male lions nearby awaiting their turn at the feast; and a closer look at flamingoes. The wet clay "roadways" throughout the crater were terrible - bumpy and rutted - and the one-way return trip up the steep, winding road back to the Lodge was jolting. The Land Rovers appear to be indestructible! It was chilly throughout the day so the fleece jacket came in handy.

A stop at a Maasai Village the next day was made enjoyable by the fact that we could take pictures freely without their expectation of \$1 for posing. We took turns mingling with the colorful tribespeople and joined in their jumping dance. "Michael" took me into his family's home, smaller than my kitchen back home, but accommodating five. He had another home in the 'boma' with a second wife just a few huts away. Women construct the homes out of sticks, straw and cow dung; the men hunt and tend the cattle and goats. A visit to their kindergarten was priceless. They sang their alphabet song for us. One tiny lad went to the blackboard and pointed to numbers and multiplication tables with a stick; the class responded in unison. I rewarded him with a quarter and he's beaming. Quarters elicited smiles from other infants in the boma, still too young for school.

On the way to the Serengeti, we stopped at Olduvai Gorge, the steep-sided ravine in the Great Rift Valley that is referred to as "The Cradle of Civilization." This archaeological site was made famous by the excavations of the Leakey family, finding fossilized remains of the earliest hominids. After a lecture and tour of the small museum overlooking the ravine and venturing down into it briefly, we drove to a rest stop at the entrance to Serengeti National Park where birds, mice and lizards competed for scraps from our box lunches. Entering the Park, we drove endless miles across a flat bare plain, seeing mainly zebra by the thousands and wildebeest by the millions. Passing through an area where there's greener vegetation we spotted a leopard in the crotch of an acacia tree, into which it had dragged a gazelle kill to avoid the designs of other predators. Such sightings are rare, we're told, since leopards generally hunt nocturnally. Interestingly, the Serengeti "plain" is at an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

A light rain was falling as we arrived at the Serengeti Safari Lodge in late afternoon. It was a bit hard to find the dining room in the darkness this first night, but the customary buffet dinner had particularly appetizing choices.

At breakfast, one couple reported they were startled to find a giraffe peering through their win-

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dow when they woke up. Two game drives on this day added just one new bird species – a white-bellied bustard. We watch a lioness stalking two reed bucks, but failing miserably due to her greed in attempting to catch both. The highlight of the afternoon was encountering a “hippo frolic”

flivver” for a 45-minute hop to the Kilimanjaro International Airport where we went through Customs and Immigration, then a 55-minute flight on an Air Kenya Twin Otter back to Nairobi.

After boarding a motor coach, it took us an hour just to escape the city’s ridiculous traffic jams

only at Mt. Kenya. His project to save the bongo population, supported by many actor friends who visited him here and carried on by Stefanie Powers, is considered a major wildlife conservation success story.

In the morning, we took an hour’s walk around the spacious

through part of the animal preserve where one walks among most of the “residents,” pygmy antelope, giant land tortoises, baboons and monkeys, impala, crested cranes, and a half-dozen striking bongos of the fifty restored to the preserve.

I was finally able to have e-mail access to contact home and reply to the most essential messages. We met at the bar for a native dance show with dinner at 7:30 p.m. The underlying sentiment of the farewell comments by all was unanimous agreement that this had been the most compatible group we had ever traveled with; eight different states were represented.

We still hadn’t seen Mt. Kenya, but I was told it’s best viewed early in the morning. I set my alarm for 7 a.m., but happened to awake at 6:30, pulled back the drapes from my floor-to-ceiling window, and there it was at sunrise. By 6:45 a.m., it was fully obscured by clouds and I have the only two pictures of it among the group. We left the Club at noon, taking the same miserable route back to Nairobi, but it didn’t seem quite as bad as the trip north. We reached Nairobi at 4:30 p.m., had dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Carnivore Restaurant. It was the

mother of all barbecues! After soup and salad, servers brought to the table large kabob-style skewers of chicken, pork, lamb, crocodile, ostrich meat balls, sausage, turkey, lamb chops, and chicken livers. An always-welcome “Tusker” beer helped the digestion.

We were driven to the airport at 8:15 p.m. and took off at 9:40 for a nine-hour uneventful flight to London. I had a frustrating, irritating time with security in London, having to empty every single item from the carry-on bag. Having forgotten this second security hurdle, I was obliged to surrender a small bottle of wine and container of fruit juice saved from the plane. Ironically, they overlooked the pocket knife that I forgot to pack with my checked luggage. There’s a long layover to board the onward leg to JFK, then a late take-off for the 8-hour flight. In New York, it took over an hour of another six-hour layover to retrieve baggage, again go through Customs and security, take the air train to the Delta terminal, and find the right gate for BTV. The Burlington flight took off late, but the good news is it arrived a half-hour early. It’s still November 19th. I’m beat, but happy with the experience! ★

I think that travel comes from some deep urge to see the world, like the urge that brings up a worm in an irish bog to see the moon when it’s full.

- Lord Dunsany

alongside the river providing the best opportunities yet for candid, sometimes humorous, close-ups of these unhandsome beasts. A bonus was watching two crocs competing to tear meat off a wildebeest carcass.

Those who took a balloon flight over the plains earlier in the day in lieu of the morning game drive were not as ecstatic as the three of us were after the Amboseli flight. They stayed low to view game, but no different species were spotted. A photo of the balloon’s shadow on the Serengeti was more prize-worthy than any of the bird’s eye views of the animals. One of the Land Rovers gets stuck in the deep mud ruts and had to be winched out by another of our caravan. The weather was still gorgeous, averaging 75-80°. Moths, spiders, tsetse flies and beetles are a minor nuisance here, but still no mosquitoes!

The next day, we slept in till 7 a.m., bags packed and breakfasted by 8:00, and left for the airfield at 9:00. After a group picture and fond goodbyes to our drivers, we boarded a 20-passenger “air


and out into the suburbs and country roads. The slum area in this capital city was pitiful. The life of folks as viewed throughout the countryside was a depressing sight...hovels without water, sanitation, or electricity; filth; women carrying heavy loads of potatoes and firewood. Everyone has to walk along the highway or ride their bicycles in the dark; it’s very dangerous for pedestrians.

It was a four-hour horrendous ride to Mt. Kenya with just one pit stop at a darkened craft shop, memorable only for the potholes, bumps, and crude surface of the “highway” as well as the moans of the now-tired and cranky passengers. We finally pulled in at the unexpectedly elegant Mt. Kenya Safari Club at 9 p.m.; thankfully, dinner had been held for us. This lodging seemed out of place in these surroundings and almost out of context relative to the earlier portions of the tour. The preserve on which the Club is located was an enterprise of the late actor William Holden who became dedicated to the preservation of the mountain bongo, a type of antelope found

grounds where peacocks, marabou storks, geese and ducks roamed freely, even on the fairways of the nine-hole golf course. The equator runs through the seventh hole where one drives from the northern hemisphere into the southern. The equator also runs straight through the hotel grounds between the two elephant tusks gracing the office entrance. A troop of Maasai “inducted” our group with a formal equator-crossing ceremony (my fifth such crossing), replete with dance and the presentation of a handsome certificate. There was no game drive here, but a tour

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Last Night at Twisted River by John Irving

REVIEWED BY MARVIN MINKLER

My grandfather, Charles Minkler, was a river logger. When I began reading John Irving's new novel, *Last Night in Twisted River*, I thought of him during the first chapters, for their fascinating descriptions of the logging industry in Coos County New Hampshire in 1954.

The novel's grand opening vividly recreates danger on the rivers, the river drivers themselves, logging and sawmill

camp cooks and assorted characters that worked the timber towns and woods. They lived and died moving the logs downriver, during the waning days of lumberjacks. Modern logging machinery was fast making them obsolete.

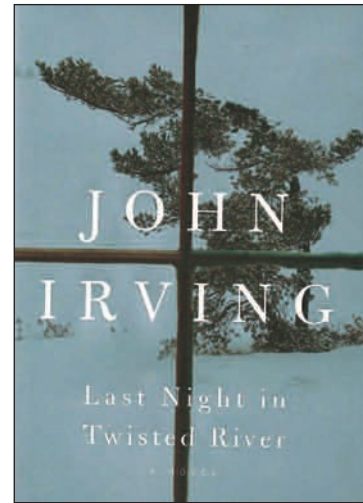
Although *Last Night in Twisted River* begins in a small logging town, it's ambitious timescale, from 1954-2005, takes the reader on the road with Dominic the cook and his son Danny. Father and son are on the lam from a crazed sheriff, after Danny accidentally kills the sheriff's girlfriend with

a cast iron skillet. Danny had thought that a large hairy bear was mauling his father in the middle of the night. Through the ensuing years "Cookie" and Danny are watched over and protected by their friend, Ketchum. Ketchum the old river logger is one of Irving's most finely realized characters.

From Boston's North End in the Sixties, the story winds like a northern river, through Brattleboro and Putney Vermont, to the Iowa Writers Workshop, to Toronto, Canada, and finally back to Ontario for its elegiac final chapter.

The densely populated saga covers three generations and touches on familiar Irving themes; wrestling, a severed hand, bears, a missing parent, friendship with a free-spirit older man, and the main character who is a writer. The author also touches on, Vietnam, hippies, Eighties consumerism, the war on terror, many women, and violence. The reader will become thoroughly entranced from the marvelous first paragraph to the satisfying ending.

Long and huge at 554 pages, *Last Night in Twisted River* is like a warm homecoming on a



cold winter's eve, and the perfect book to curl up with.

Last Night at Twisted River can be found at all local independent bookstores in the area.

My father faced his last days with courage and humor

BY VAN PARKER

Encouraged by our children, I've started going through some of the stuff in both our Danville home and our Connecticut apartment.

This involves a sort of "weeding" process, throwing away, saving or finding another home for books, old papers, bank statements, etc. One of the items that seemed worth saving was a family history my late brother, Doug, has on tape. Another was a letter my dad, Fletcher Parker, sent to his family March 24, 1963. In that letter, he summarized the news from his four children and their families. Then my father went on to describe some discomfort he'd been experiencing,

"Some months ago a lazy bug attacked me. I thought it was just a getting old critter such as attacked the Ford. Finally it burst out in my gizzard with a raucous squawk... I have lightened ballast quite a bit...Somehow the lazy bug ate up fifteen of my pounds so if I look more than usually like a scarecrow you will know who is guilty...Strangely enough I don't think my disposition is any worse than usual as the result of the bug's onslaught.

It turned out that the "lazy bug" was pancreatic cancer. At the time our family was living in

Michigan, but my brother, Scud, lived in Hardwick, where he was minister of the United Church. One day Scud called me up and said he had no idea how long Dad would live, but he thought I'd better come to see him pretty soon.

Scud said that I'd notice a change in Dad. He seemed very peaceful, almost detached.

It was difficult for me to believe that this very active, generous, lovable, at times impatient man could have

reached such a state. Dad always felt his time was limited and should be used to try to make the world a better place. Perhaps today dad would be described as a workaholic. My mother, Katharine, who died in 1952, and Torie, my stepmother, were a good balance for my father. They loved him, reined in some of his more impetuous instincts and helped bring out the best in him.

Scud met me at the airport when I flew to Burlington and

drove me over to Peacham. My brother was right. Dad seemed completely at peace. It was as though he had let go and moved to another country. As is often the case with fathers and sons, Dad and I hadn't always been on the same page. He worried about me and was delighted when I married Lucy, enthusiastically welcoming her into the family.

I realized on that visit and I realize more now how much he loved me and how much I loved

him. We didn't say it then. We just sort of felt it. Mostly it was unspoken. Dad died peacefully at home about a week later, nearly two months before his 75th birthday.

How many of us can claim a father who faced his last days with more courage, steadfastness and with such a dose of self-deprecating humor? Who but my dad would have described pancreatic cancer as a "lazy bug" that "burst out in my gizzard with a raucous squawk."

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The cure for January cold



No Small Potatoes *with Vanna Guldenschub*

I am cold! I want a pot of soup simmering away on the stove and I want to feel that same warm soup comfort me on this cold day. Just thinking about it makes me feel better. So, let's get ready to make soup.

My favorite cooking anecdote is the 'Stone Soup' tale. From a stone and water is concocted a fragrant meal – with the help of a piece of beef, carrots and potatoes and some simple herbs. It is the perfect explanation of how soup is made and why it has become a culinary staple. I think once you understand the mechanics of making a good soup it will become second nature.

While it may seem labor intensive to make a good soup,

consider that it will give you a satisfying dinner and still be good the next day for lunch. And, since soup usually contains all the major food groups it is truly the multi-vitamin of meals.

I give you some of my favorite soups and some basic helpful hints.

Helpful Hints:

1. You can make soup from many leftovers but don't just throw everything in your refrigerator in a pot and expect a tasty result. Think it through a bit. Decide on a theme and use seasonings that match the vegetables and meat you use. There is nothing wrong with buying new product to make a soup.

2. Soup is always better with a homemade stock. But don't

let lack of a real chicken, beef or pork stock keep you from making soup. The next best substitute is a boxed stock and in a pinch you can even use powdered or cubed bouillon (not recommended). Your soup will not have the depth that a real stock imparts but it will still be tasty and warm you on a cold day. One trick is to lift the flavor of a soup with the addition of a tablespoon or two of butter stirred into the pot at the very end of the cooking process.

Simple Homemade Stock

Put 6-8 quarts of water in a stockpot and add unpeeled, quartered vegetables (carrots, onion, celery and garlic), meat (chicken, beef or pork) and seasonings – thyme, salt and pepper and a pinch of sugar. Cook for an hour or two, strain the stock and reserve the meat. There are more sophisticated stocks and feel free to experiment with other recipes.

3. Adding pasta, rice or noodles to soup – The two prob-



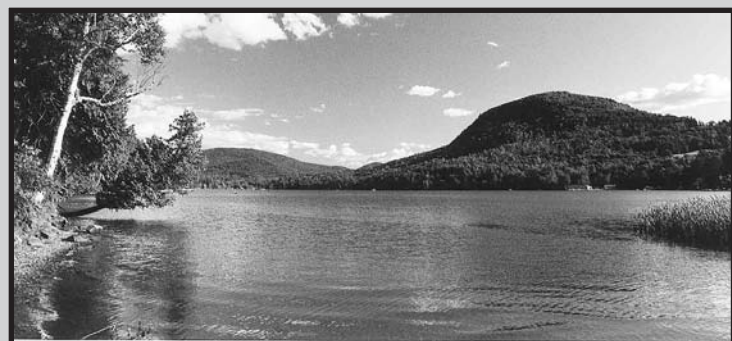
lems encountered in adding these starches to soup are: 1- they become soggy and overcooked when they remain in hot liquid for a long period and 2- they tend to swell and overtake the pot - turning a good soup into a pasta or rice dish. The simple solution – precook and cool the starch then add just before service. It will not be overcooked and you can add the perfect amount for soup. Cook the pasta (al dente), drain and rinse with cold water. To store it until you are ready to serve the soup, toss it with a little olive oil. This will keep it from sticking together. The rice I favor for soup is an American converted style. Cook the rice

and keep covered until ready to use.

4. Sauté the vegetables you will use (onions, carrots, celery etc...) at the beginning of the process to soften and release their flavors. You can just throw them into the broth, but this initial step adds depth to the finished product.

Mulligatawny Soup

This soup originated when India was a British Colony. The culinary influences of both countries combine to make this hearty stew like soup. You need to cook a whole chicken for this soup – it is a major ingredient and makes this soup a real meal. Apples and lemon juice along



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with the curry add great flavor.

- 1 plump roasting chicken
- 2 quarts water
- 2 quarts boxed chicken stock
- 3 onions – chopped
- 6 ribs celery – chopped
- 5 carrots – chopped
- 1 green and 1 red pepper – diced
- 3 cloves garlic – chopped
- 16 oz. can peeled tomatoes
- Juice of one or two lemons
- ¼ cup sugar
- 3 apples – peeled and diced
- 2 tablespoons curry powder
- Pinch of cayenne pepper (more if you like it hot!)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cut the roasting chicken into quarters and cover with the water and broth. Simmer for about 1½ hours and let cool a little.

Remove the chicken and strain the broth. Remove the chicken meat from the bone and set aside. Set the strained broth aside.

In a stock pot sauté the garlic in olive oil until just brown.

Add the onions, celery, peppers and carrots and cook until they are soft.

Add the strained chicken stock, water and tomatoes. Let the mix come to a boil and turn down to simmer.

Add the lemon juice, apples, sugar, curry powder and cayenne and simmer for about an hour to let all the flavors blend.

Adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper.

To serve – place a generous amount of chicken meat in each bowl and cover with the soup.

Chicken Florentine Soup

A variation on an old standby. This chicken soup includes spinach to make it Florentine and pasta to make it hearty. A dash of Parmesan on each bowl tops off the flavor.

- 6 quarts chicken stock
- 6 cups of chicken – cut in good-sized pieces
- 4 cloves garlic – chopped
- 2 medium onions – finely chopped

- 2 lbs. fresh spinach or 1 lb. frozen whole spinach leaves (not chopped)
- ¼ cup olive oil

Stock:

This is a brothy soup, so the stock is important. For a quick stock, buy boneless skinless chicken thighs or breasts and cook them in 4-6 quarts of water with 4 bouillon cubes for about a half hour. Remove the chicken and cut into chunky pieces and rough strain the broth. This provides you with the chicken and the stock without much fuss.

Make the soup:

In a large stockpot sauté the garlic in the olive oil until barely colored. Add the onions and cook until very soft. Add the stock and heat to boiling. Turn to simmer and add the spinach and cut chicken. Simmer for about 15 minutes.

Boil about 4 quarts of water in a large saucepan. Add ½ lb of pasta pearls (also known as soup-mac or acine de pepe) and cook thoroughly, stirring occasionally. Strain the pasta and

blanch with cold water. Toss the pasta with a tablespoon of olive oil and set aside. For a heartier soup you could use prepared tortellini in this soup. Treat the same way – cook ahead and do not add them until service.

When the soup is ready to serve add the pasta to each bowl, cover with hot soup and top with a sprinkle of grated Parmesan.

An Italian loaf and a tossed salad are good accompaniments to this soup.

Tomato Bisque

A simple soup that was always pleases. There is no better lunch on a cold day than a toasted cheese sandwich and tomato bisque.

- 6 quarts hearty chicken stock
- 4 onions – chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 quarts canned whole tomatoes (packed in juice not puree)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1-2 teaspoons coarse ground black pepper

In a large stockpot sauté the onions in butter until they are very soft and translucent. This is the most important step in making this soup. The onions should not be browned but sautéed on low to medium heat for about 15 or 20 minutes until they almost disappear. If you add the liquid too soon the soup will always have crunchy onions in it. When the onions are ready, add the stock and bring to a boil. Turn down to a simmer. Put the canned tomatoes in a bowl and squeeze them with your hands or use a masher to break them up into small pieces. Add the tomatoes and pepper to the pot. Cook until the soup is somewhat reduced. Add the heavy cream (don't substitute milk or even half & half – it will break in the soup) and bring to a boil. Turn the soup off immediately and serve when ready. This soup can be reheated.

A hearty salad and croissants go well with this tomato bisque as does a toasted cheese sandwich

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Berries and wildflowers

Walden Hill Journal with Jeff & Ellen Gold

Jan. 1, 2009 4:45— the sun has slipped below the horizon and the thermometer has dropped back down to the minus side. We started off the day at minus 7° with a high of 16° just before noon. Fortunately the sun stayed with us most of the day. The wind has kept up a steady pace, blowing down Arctic blasts from Canada and bringing flocks of redpolls along with it. They delight us with their well synchronized aerial ballet as they empty the feeder.

Jan. 9, 2009 5° with a bright, full spectrum sundog shooting up along the rising sun, illuminating ice crystals in the morning sky. It was 12 years ago today that we made our final move to Walden Hill, reuniting our cats and ourselves with our old belongings in our new abode. Like today, it was a lull between snow storms with a similar fresh powder blanketing the field and trees. It was good luck on our part to have a clear arrival in the depths of winter. A snow storm in Ohio

got us off to a slow start but it was clear from there until the day after we arrived. We awoke our first

Vermont morning to a full blown blizzard, happy to be home at last. With boxes to unpack, pictures to hang and furniture to rearrange, we had plenty of indoor activity to look forward to.

Jan. 11, 2009 More snow today; very fluffy, very plentiful. Snowshoeing was much more enjoyable, not the toe tingling, fin-

ger numbing cold like yesterday. Every bend in the trail opened onto more magnificent winter beauty. The smaller trees are dappled in wads of ultra white cotton, the spruces weighted down with cloaks of snow, fingers fanning out at branches' end. No chore breaking trail with such beauty to keep me company. Snow machines had been on the logging road which made that climb a little less strenuous. The calming silence was only interrupted by the occasional exploding grouse or bounding snowshoe hare. A hint of fiery sunset and pink glow as I reemerged from the woods, put a colorful end to my trek through winter's white.

Jan. 15, 2009 Another day of bright sunshine but bitter, bitter cold. Minus 8° last night and daytime temps that have stayed in the single digits. Passive solar gain has kept the house comfortable

with the stove being needed only by late afternoon. Just walking to the mailbox yesterday was all the outdoor time I could take. I'm hoping to snowshoe this afternoon but the thermometer is actually dropping and it's not yet 1:00. Well I got tired of waiting and headed out for a very invigorating snowshoe. The wind was comfortably calm and the directional late afternoon sun kept me warm enough. It was fun to see how the snowshoe hare have followed our well established path, leaving distinct paw prints within their larger tracks. A brief extension to fill the bird feeder completed my outdoor Arctic adventure.

Jan. 16, 2009 Record breaking cold today. The official weather station at the Fairbanks Museum reported minus 30° this morning. In Danville, Garren noted 37° below in his truck at 5:30 A.M. He wondered if the

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speed he was traveling may have created a lowering wind-chill factor. This cold spell was the topic of conversation all over town. One old timer in the bank just shrugged and said "This is the way it always used to be!". Once again we're not able to climb out of single digit temps, even with the sun shining off and on. We have a long, wide-spaced single track cutting across the side field and heading into the woods. It looks like a deer or moose went wandering through overnight.

Jan. 21, 2009 Sparkling snow-dust this morning as the sun shines through to warm up the day. Single digit temps are climbing into the teens, a veritable heat wave. We had a few days respite from the bitter cold and of course, several more inches of snow. Our snowthrower finally gave out after 11 full years of faithful service. We've replaced it with another Cub Cadet that's slightly larger and more powerful. Jeff has often felt that he was pushing the old one to its max. Meanwhile, Vermonters seem cheery and hopeful now that our new President is in office. It was

quite a joyous, mass celebration of wall to wall people on the Washington Mall. The only crowds around here however, are the redpolls flocking in our surrounding trees, waiting their turn for a seat at the seed table.

Jan. 23, 2009 It's temporarily warmed up enough for signs of animal activity in the woods. Dainty rodent chains, with and without connecting tail lines decorate the fresh snow. Snowshoe hare continue to use our well worn trail and a large canine track joined the path for most of the woods then onto the logging road. The gait measured 5 inches or so. It was a straight, deliberate trail until a concentration of hare tracks sent the predator off into the woods. I'm assuming it was a good size coyote. Of course there were plenty of human tracks too from people on snowshoes and snow machines.

Jan. 29, 2009 We're digging out from the biggest 24 hour dump so far this season. Fortunately it stayed cold enough to be a lighter, fluffy two feet of new snow. It took me over an hour to shovel the porch and stairs, three

shovel's-full deep. Then I donned the snowshoes and stomped down a path to the bird feeder. Even on snowshoes, I sunk down to mid-calf. Jeff spent the morning clearing both drives with our new showthrower. It seemed to do what was needed but took its toll on Jeff's back.

Jan. 30, 2009 "Have half your wood and half your hay and you'll come safely through to May." It looks like we'll be able to keep the home fires burning through another VT winter. We definitely have more than half our wood remaining since we've just finished our leftover 2007 wood and have finally begun using wood that was delivered last May. Fortunately our wood is delivered early in May so it has a good chance to season before going into the stove. This year's firewood had nearly nine months to dry out. Hopefully we'll have extra again to start out next Fall.



Photo by Jim Ashley

The 80-member North Country Chorus, led by Alan Rowe, performed for residents of Peacham on Dec. 6 at the Congregational Church.

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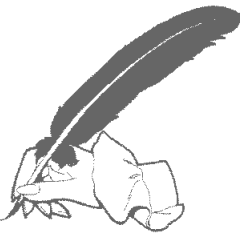
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 All Departed Loved Ones & Friends.....The McGill family
 Jim Daniels.....Julie and family
 Departed Loved Ones.....Shirley Langmaid "2"
 Kenneth Dwyer; Aurora Dwyer.....Kermit & Marilyn Dwyer
 Reginald M. Vance; Charles Vance & Curtis Vance.....Roy & Linda Vance
 Norman Maiden; Reg Smith; Ted Perrigard; Forrest
 Langmaid; Laine Vance; Curtis Vance and
 Arnold (Jim) Hutchinson....."The Huntin' Camp"
 Forrest Langmaid; Clara McGill Langmaid; Harry Drew;
 Howard & Williamina Penniman; Flora & Willis Pierce;
 Grammie Tennie; Grandpa Burl & Grammie Ethel;
 Mrs. Clarke; Mrs. Hall; Mrs. Bailey; Norman Maiden;
 Charles Vance; Clair Vance; Laine Vance; Curtis Vance
 Maurice & Susan Prior; Ann Langmaid;
 Phil & Ida LangmaidHollis & Mary Prior; Kim Prior;
 Dwayne & Susan Lynaugh;
 Roy & Linda Vance;
 Jane Langmaid & Clif Langmaid
 George & Barb Randall; Earl J. McReynolds;
 Stewart & Elva Coates; Darwin LaCross.....Everett & Martha McReynolds
 Deceased Members of the Ottinger Family and the
 O'Neil Family; Joan Shawney and Janet Wakefield.....Carol & Bill Ottinger
 Raymond LaBounty Sr.; Beulah & Joe Couture;
 Johnny Joyce; Ed Couture.....Leah LaBounty & Family
 Dad.....Roxanne, Bud, Janet, Ellen & Ozzie
 Mom and Roland.....Roxanne, Bud, Janet, Ellen & Ozzie
 Gram & Grampa.....Travis, Casey, Brett, Sarah, Asa, Meredith,
 Megan, David, Emily, Meriah, Taylor and Will
 Brett Carson & Asa White
 John Pearl.....
 Burns & Hazel Heath; Ray & Jeanie Locke;
 Ray Locke Jr.; David Locke and
 Hazen & Jerry Livingston.....Roland & Betty Heath & family
 Clarence Hubbard; Rufus & Lottie Hubbard;
 Wendall Tillotson; Ila Spaulding; Earl Tillotson;
 Maude & Carl Ailes; Homer Ailes; Glenn & Martha;
 Kenneth & Bea.....Arlene Hubbard; Mike & Gloria Tillotson & family
 Lorraine Legendre Desrochers.....Louise Legendre Lessard
 Mel McFarland; Eugene Charron; Pat Smith.....Donna & Julie
 Ida Langmaid; Vicki Campbell-Beer;
 Theda Williams.....Donna
 Cathy Potvin.....3rd Daughter - Donna
 Ann Langmaid; Dot Walsh; Alan & Natalie Amadon;
 Robert & Hazel Hill; Joan Davis; Bob Hill and
 Emile Senesac.....Scott & Laurie Langmaid & boys
 Wayne R. Bassett.....Mother & family
 Ann Langmaid; Raymond Locke Jr.;
 Raymond Sr. & Jeanie Locke; David Locke;
 All departed family, friends & neighbors.....Phyllis Locke & Dale Kendall
 Raymond Locke, Jr.; Raymond & Jeanie Locke;
 Ann Langmaid.....Janet Locke
 Ann Langmaid.....Sister Jean & Bill
 Percy & Gladys Rowell; Emile & Dot Berard;
 Norman & Marion Murray; Leonard & Helena Carson
 and Hap Hutchins.....Billy & Sue Murray
 Grandmother - Shirley Hutchinson;
 Grandfather - Allen Hutchinson;
 Grandmother - Cora MacLeod;
 Mother - Nancy Sevigny;
 Dad - Ahemed Hutchinson;
 Step Grandfather - Rob Sevigny.....Stephanie & Dakota Johnson
 Fran & Everett Tucker; Ruth & Leonard Freed.....Mark Tucker & Cathy Dellinger
 Charlotte Potok.....Mark Tucker & Cathy Dellinger
 Benjamin Sundance; Ray Sundance; Michele Byrd;
 Christopher McDonough; David Dellinger and
 Dan Dellinger.....Cathy Dellinger
 Elizabeth Peterson Dellinger.....Cathy Dellinger
 Our loved ones.....Matt & Marcia Pettigrew
 Kenai.....Dave Caplan
 Leonard Carson.....John & Jack
 "Dad" - Hap Hutchins.....Brent & Cyndy
 Darwin LaCross.....Sheila Otis
 Darwin LaCross.....Larry & Ann Filby
 Aunt Florence Ward.....Cathy and Tom Conte
 Esther Lowry.....Mary Barlow
 Polly Hamilton.....Gale Hamilton
 Leonard Carson.....Steve & Marcia White
 Levi Badger; Butch Gadapee and Florence Ward.....Dan and Mary Wyand & family
 Brother - Gary; Sister - Bonnie.....Brother Ray
 Isaac & Dorothy Stanton; Harold Beattie.....Guil & Jane Kitchel
 Leonard Carson.....Freda Maynard & Family
 Martin Maynard.....Freda Maynard & Family
 Leonard & Helena Carson.....Ron and Pat Drown
 Leonard Carson; Hap Hutchins;
 Lee Smith and Wayne Gadapee.....Marilyn Gadapee
 Mabelle Remick.....Stacy, Rodney, Jason Kaitlin & Lily
 Janet Wakefield; Martha Dole.....Kay Hopkins
 Leonard & Helena Cason.....Glen & Ruth Marceau
 1990 Nate Morrill.....North Danville Community Club
 1991 Reg Smith.....North Danville Community Club
 1992 Ruth Cousins.....North Danville Community Club
 1993 Arlene Swett.....North Danville Community Club
 1994 George & Barbara Randall.....North Danville Community Club
 1995 Mike Guertin.....North Danville Community Club
 1996 Howard Byron.....North Danville Community Club
 1997 Pearl Gadapee.....North Danville Community Club
 1998 Beverly Hamilton Jenks.....North Danville Community Club
 1999 Laine Vance.....North Danville Community Club
 2000 Dorothy "Dot" Gilfillan.....North Danville Community Club
 2001 Ann Langmaid.....North Danville Community Club
 2002 Diana Couture.....North Danville Community Club
 2003 Melvin "Doc" McFarland.....North Danville Community Club
 2004 Alice Couture.....North Danville Community Club
 2005 Helena Carson.....North Danville Community Club
 2006 Ruth Bailey.....North Danville Community Club
 2007 Rodger Boyle.....North Danville Community Club
 2008 Florence S. Ward.....North Danville Community Club
 2009 Leonard Carson.....North Danville Community Club

Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

By Lynn A. Bonfield



Discharging military duty was not the only activity of Civil War soldiers. Some used the war to make money. One such enterprising soldier was William Henry Whitehill (1841-1908), called Henry by his family. He enlisted from Barnet on July 2, 1862 in the Co. A, 10th Vt. and served most of the time in the 1st Brig, 3d Div., 6th Army Corps, fighting in several important battles according to Frederic Wells' History of Barnet (1923).

Henry's entrepreneurial skills are revealed in the dozen letters he wrote to his cousin, Andrew Whitehill (1836-1916), who was living in Peacham. In an October 1862 letter, Henry made it clear that the cutter in his regiment "asks double price for every thing that he sells butter 40 cts a pound[,] raisins the same[,] cheese and sugar 20 cts a pound[,] onions 10 cts a lbs[,] milk 10 cts a quart[,] cider 10 cts a pint[,] apples a dollar a bushel so that you see that if we get any thing to eat but our rations we have to pay for it." Steep prices no doubt inspired Henry to set up his own store.

In May 1863 he wrote Andrew to thank him for the cake of sugar he had sent and added that "maple sugar sells first rate it is worth 25 cts a pound I sold one cake about like the one you sent me for 75 cts and I could have got 75 cts for that but I would not take it." Family gifts, it seems, were cherished, not sold. By the next spring, however, Henry was considering going into

the business of selling maple sugar. He wrote Andrew's father, William, to ask how he was "getting along making sugar this spring" and could he "afford to send me about 50 or 60 pounds in small cakes from ½ to 5 pounds each." He assured his uncle that he would pay for this "as soon as I know how much to send." Henry added that William should "be sure and nail the box up right so that it will not break open."

Before the sugar arrived, Henry sent five dollars "that is as much as I dare to send in one letter," and he promised "the rest in a few days as soon as I get the bill." He informed his family that if the package were lost, he would not risk much as he had the money in hand from "the boys," his soldier customers. The transaction must have gone smoothly as the January 1865 letter, printed below, sounds as if Henry might consider starting up his sugar business again.

Camp near the
Weldon railroad Va
Jan 3rd 1865

Dear Cousin

As I have a few leasuer moments this evening I thought I would write a few lines to let you know that I am in good health and hope this will find you the same. I hope you are having a good time there this winter I suppose the snow is deep enough for sleighing there now it is snowing here tonight the ground is white but I dont think it will last long you wrote about enlisting I think if you know when you are well

off you will keep out of the army. I see the President has called for three hundred thousand more men I guess that all that want to come out here will get a chance you wrote about sending some sugar I dont know what to say if I had it here now I could sell it very well but there is some risk in sending it I could sell it for 50 cts a pound in cakes if I had it[,] butter is 80 cts a pound[,] cheese is 50 cts a pound and every thing in propotinn [proportion]. I hope you have a good time there going to school this winter who keeps the school this winter please write all of the news we have got winter quarters built here and are having very good time now I dont know how long we shall stay I was on picket last night I could see the Johnnies [Confederate soldiers] once in a while about they did not trouble us I have 8 months more to serve Uncle Samuel he is a fine old fellow but I think I have worked for him long enough I dont think of anything more at present so I will close by giving my love to all both great & small in adams fall We built stone walls and ever since we built brush fence no more this time So good bye write soon from Henry Whitehill . I wish you all a happy new year

The original of this letter is preserved in the William Henry H. Whitehill Papers in Special Collections, University of Vermont. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Editor's additions are in brackets.

Rap Song for a Vintage Volkswagen

The quarter panel's rusted
And the headlight cowling's busted
And the floor pan's almost dragging in the street.
The muffler sounds like thunder
And the bumper's folded under
And the heater's blowing cold air on my feet.
I think the time has come
To junk it out.

The upholstery is tattered
And my girlfriend isn't flattered
When I call to take her for a ride.
The gas gauge works just partway
So she 's pushed a league of parkway
And she's wondering when I'll get some pride
And junk it out.

The accelerator's sticking
And the second gear is kicking.
The back seat's full of junk that should be tossed.
I've got a chainsaw, ax and spare tire,
But the hood's tied down with haywire
So my chance of getting at 'em 's all but lost.
You can understand why I might want to
Junk it out.

Where there's paint it's blue and hazy.
Where there ain't it's rusted lacy
And one fender's flapping in mid air.
Every side has had its mishaps.
There's no tread upon the recaps.
And the engine... well the engine, let's be fair:

Starts at thirty eight below.
Reg'lar gas will make it go.
Just a bulldog in the snow.
I don't know... Maybe Bondotm.
I think I should consider
If a little work will rid her
Of a blemish or an irritating trait.
It's getting cold for biking
And I'm not fit for hiking
And I'll save a lot of money if I wait
Before I junk it out.

Junk it out? Junk it out?
I might not be in style
But I'll go another mile
Before I get around
To junk it out.

-Bruce Hoyt

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What's happening at town hall

Barnet

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

December 14, 2009

David Warden - Warden explained that the real estate tax-exemption of the Barnet Historical Society is expired and requested that the question of such status be placed as an article on the warning for the 2010 Town Meeting. Warden explained that the BHS is currently the owner of one property on the Grand List: the Goodwillie House in Barnet Center. After brief discussion, the board decided an article will be placed on the warning for the 2010 Town Meeting asking whether the Town of Barnet shall vote to exempt the Barnet Historical Society from Real Estate taxes.

Fire Chief - The Board read a letter stating that at its business meeting held on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009, Barnet Fire & Rescue nominated

Ronald Morse for the position of Fire Chief. The Board accepted the nomination of Barnet Fire & Rescue and appointed Morse to Fire Chief.
FairPoint - At its meeting of Nov. 23, 2009, the Board agreed to not sign a FairPoint petition but to request a certified check for recording fees prior to signing. At this meeting, the Board read a letter from FairPoint explaining that a previous check in payment of recording fees was returned unpaid due to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing of FairPoint Communications. The letter also states that FairPoint is now in a position to continue to operate its business and that there should be no more returned checks. In addition, the letter states that FairPoint does not have the accounting mechanisms to issue a certified check and requests that the Town of Barnet resume a business-as-usual relationship with FairPoint. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to sign the petition upon receipt of a check drawn on the account of FairPoint

Communications.

Bridges - The Board briefly reviewed a letter and accompanying reports documenting responsibilities, recommended actions, countermeasures needed, and a plan of action of bridge monitoring and closure during high water events.

Key Box - A note was read indicating the recommendation of Fire Chief Ronald Morse to contract with the Fire Dispatch Center at the Grafton County Sheriff's Department for automatic-dial service. The contract would include a one-time set-up fee of \$50.00 and an annual fee of \$400.00 thereafter. Morse also recommended the Board also order a lock-box for a key to the Town Garage. Morse said such a box would reduce response time and property damage in the case of an emergency. The recommended box would cost \$185.00. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to accept Morse's recommendations by contracting with the Fire Dispatch Center at the Grafton County Sheriff's Department for automatic-dial service of the alarm at the new Town Garage and by purchasing a lock-box for keys at the new Town Garage.

money, and would advise him of their decision.

NVDA - Steve Patterson, Executive Director of NVDA, and Doug Morton, transportation planner, were present to discuss their services to the Town and surrounding areas. Morton spoke of the services that have involved the town including: the Transportation Committee, of which Merton Leonard is a member, advises VTrans of the regional priority list of road and bridge repairs as seen by local officials; the three year town wide culvert inventory that was just completed GPS mapping all of Danville's bridges and culverts; receipt of a safety grant for upgrading markings, visibility, and guard rails for an identified road safety hazard; as well as various meetings, guests, and discussions of interest to regional towns. Patterson said they also are involved with helping to attract and assist small industries that have located in area towns; encourages and assists complementary industry to locate in the area also; assists tourism development in the area, recently assisting the Jay Peak area development; and presently they are administering the ARRA stimulus project of public building energy audits; and encourages Danville to consider using some of their development services. The Board thanked them for their past services to the Town, and would expect to take advantage of their energy audit service.

Veterans - Reg Guertin was present to encourage the town to support the disabled veterans request to increase their property tax evaluation exemption from \$10,000 to \$40,000, as many of the towns in the state have already approved. The Board confirmed their request would be on the Town Meeting warning by presenting a petition signed by 5 percent of the town registered voters.

North Danville - Kevin Lessard, President of the North Danville Community Club and Vice president of the North Danville School Association, was present at the request of the Board to discuss their concerns for the security and reportedly unauthorized use of the North Danville School Building. Lessard discussed with the Board the previous attempt to control unauthorized use by limiting the keys to the President of the School Association, the librarian, and the town. This proved to be too restrictive to the use of the building and a great inconvenience to anyone that was trying to use the building. With the annual meetings taking

place in September many new officers of each organization was elected. With these new officers present at their first school association meeting the big discussion was over the key situation. It was decided by the school association, that the president of each club would have a key as well as the librarian and the town. The librarian has two keys as she schedules the rental and use of the school to others. The individual club members may get the key from their president for their clubs use of the building, the presidents being responsible for their clubs use of the building. Denise asked about reports of lights left on, doors and windows left open and a key by the window.

Road Agent - Kevin Gadapee reported that winter has arrived and the storms have kept them plowing and sanding. They got their "summertime" tools cleaned up and taken care of, now any spare time they may have between storms is spent tinkering on their trucks or cutting up fire wood.

Ball Room - Merton said he has a request from Martha Trudeau to use the Town Hall for Ball Room dancing on the second Saturday of each month. The group presently uses an auditorium in St. Johnsbury but would like to move up to the town hall. The arrangement would be similar to the agreement with the Contra Dancers. After some discussion, Steve Larrabee moved to approve the request with similar agreement with the Contra's and include the cleaning deposit as well; Denise Briggs seconded the motion which was approved.

Danville

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

December 17, 2009

Trust - Daniel Kimbell was present, representing the trust department of the Passumpsic Savings Bank. He informed the Board that the Town of Danville is named an heir to receive funds from the Marion E. Seigny Trust. Disbursements to the town in December 2009 will include: \$75,000 and 5 percent of any future disbursements to establish a fund with the income only to be used for the annual Memorial Day celebration in town; and \$600,000 and 40 percent of any future disbursements to establish a fund with the income only to be used to maintain and improve the Town Hall and Danville Green Park. Kimbell stated that the Town was free to invest the funds as the Board saw fit, or could leave them invested with the Passumpsic Bank. The Board thanked Kimbell for the good news and they would investigate how to best invest the



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St. Johnsbury Academy Winter 2009-2010 Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game

January			
4	Colchester (H)	5/6:30	
7	Champlain Valley (A)	5/6:30	
12	Rice (H)	5/6:30	
14	Essex (H)	5/6:30	
22	Mount Mansfield (H)	5/6:30	
26	Spaulding (A)	5/6:30	
29	So. Burlington (A)	5/6:30	
February			
2	Burlington (H)	5/6:30	
5	Spaulding (H)	5/6:30	
9	Mt. Mansfield (A)	5/6:30	
12	North Country (A)	5/6:30	
16	Burlington (A)	5/6:30	
19	South Burlington (H)	5/6:30	

Girls Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game

January			
2	Rutland (H)	1/2:45	
5	Essex (A)	5/6:45	
8	Champlain Valley (H)	5/6:45	
11	BFA St. Albans (A)	5/6:45	
14	Rice (A)	5/6:45	
22	Spaulding (A)	5/6:45	
25	North Country (H)	5/6:45	
28	Burlington (A)	5/6:45	
February			
1	Essex (H)	5/6:45	
4	Champlain Valley (A)	5/6:45	
8	BFA St. Albans (H)	5/6:45	
13	Rice (H)	5/6:45	

Girls & Boys Basketball Freshmen

January			
2	Mt. Mansfield (B) (A)	11:00	
	Oxbow (G)		
5	Hartford (A)	4/5:30	
7	Lyndon Institute (H)	5/6:30	
9	Rutland (A)	12/1:30	
12	CVU (A)	5/6:30	
16	Spaulding (A)	10/11:30	
18	Lyndonville (A)	5:30/7	
21	North Country (H)	5/6:30	
23	Rutland (H)	1/1:30	
29	Essex (H)	5/6:30	
February			
1	Hartford (H)	5/6:30	
6	Frosh Boys Tour. (A)	6/7:30	
8	StJ/BFA/Essex/BHS (A)	10/11:30	

Nordic Skiing

January			
2	NCU (A)	10:30	
9	South Burlington (A)	10:00	
13	Colchester (A)	4:00	
15	Lyndon Institute (A)	1:00	
19	Harwood (A)	3:00	
23	Brattleboro (A)	11:00	
27	Rutland (A)	3:00	
February			
10	Peoples Academy (A)	3:00	
17	North Country (A)	4:00	
20	BFAS/BHS (A)	10:30	
26	State Meet (A)	10:30	
March			
1	State Meet (A)	10:30	

Alpine Skiing

January			
5	Essex w/Lamoille (A)		
7	Harwood (A)		
9	CVU (A)		
13	South Burlington (A)		
15	Lyndon (A)		
27	MMU (A)		
28	Mt. Abraham w/South Burlington (A)		
February			
5	Essex Invitational (A)		
6	Essex Invitational (A)		
10	NCU (A)		
16	Girls NVAC (A)		
18	Boys NVAC (A)		
March			
1	Boys State Meet (A)		
4	Girls State Meet (A)		

Hockey

January			
2	Missisquoi (L)(H)	5:00	
6	Brattleboro (L)(A)	6:30	
9	Woodstock (L)(A)	8:10	
16	Middlebury (L)(H)	5:00	
20	North Country (NL)(H)	7:00	
23	Montpelier (L)(A)	8:00	
27	Milton (L)(A)	8:00	
30	U-32 (L)(A)	8:00	
February			
3	Stowe (L)(A)	5:00	
6	Peoples' Academy (L)(H)	6:00	
11	Mt. Mansfield (L)(A)	7:45	
13	Lyndon Institute (L)(H)	6:00	

Wrestling

January			
6	Randolph & Vergennes (A) 7:00		
9	Newfound Invitational (A)	10:00	
13	Mt. Abe & Essex (H)	6:00	
16	Mt. Anthony Invite		
22	Essex Classic (A)	3:30	
23	Essex Classic (A)	10:30	
26	Champlain Valley (H)	6:00	
28	Milton & Enosburg (A)	6:00	
30	Colchester Invite (A)	10:00	
February			
4	Middlebury (H)	6:00	
6	Jason Lowell (A)	10:00	
10	Colchester (A)	6:00	
20	JV States (Spaulding) (A)	10:00	
26	State Championships (A)	6:00	
27	State Championships (A)	6:00	
28	State Championships (A)	10:00	
March			
5	N.E. Championships	TBA	
6	N.E. Championships	TBA	

Gymnastics

January			
8	Harwood (A)	7:00	
12	CVU w/Midd(NL) (A)	7:00	
22	Randolph (A)	7:00	
30	Middlebury (H)	1:00	
February			
5	U-32 (A)	7:00	
13	State Meet (A)	2:00	

January 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.

Jan. 6 - Liver, bacon and onions, mashed potato, peas and carrots, muffins and sliced pears.

Jan. 8 - Buffet

Jan. 13 - Beef stew, potatoes, carrots, tossed salad, biscuit, pineapple-upside down cake.

Jan. 10 - Baked beans, hot dogs, cole slaw, brown bread and tropical fruit.

Jan. 20 - Salisbury steak, gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli and cheese sauce, dark bread and jello and fruit.

Jan. 22 - Hamburg loaf, potatoes, buttered carrots, dark bread and apricots.

Jan. 27 - Chop suey, mixed veggies, three-bean salad, Italian bread and chocolate pudding with topping.

Jan. 29 - Chicken and biscuits, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green peas, squash and cake and ice cream.

Lyndon

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

December 7, 2009

Skate Park - The Board discussed possible locations for the proposed skate park. The ice arena will be explored as a possible location.

Energy Park - As discussed at the Board's Nov. 30 meeting, the organizers of the proposed energy park would like municipal support in order to move forward with grant applications. Some members of the Board would prefer to see a feasibility study of the proposed project before officially endorsing the project on behalf of the Town.

Bond Resolution - The Board accepted the resolution for a \$700,000 bond vote for the wastewater plant upgrade project.

Intersection Improvement - The Agency of Transportation's High Risk Rural Roads program has studied the intersection of Back Center Road and Center Street. They recommend placing a stop sign heading west on Center Street, making the intersection a two-way stop. The recommendations will be discussed further at the Board's next meeting.

Budget Discussion - Health insurance options for 2010 were discussed. The premiums on the current plan are going up 20 percent. One option is to go to the HSA Value 1500 Plan. The Board approved a 3

percent pay raise for 2010 and was informed that the Municipal Administrator and Town Clerk would not be taking a pay raise in 2010.

Stray Dogs - The Town of Kirby has asked Lyndon to house their stray dogs. Dan Hill will discuss with the property owner. The Town of Kirby would also like Lyndon to chlorinate their roads three to four times a year. The Board would like more information regarding what and where the roads are they want done. The Town of Kirby will be charged \$40 per trip for the maintenance of their paved road for the 2009-2010 season as established last year.

Renovations - Caledonia North Supervisory Union would like Lyndon to renovate the two bathrooms on the third floor at approximately \$5,000 each. The Board denied the request.

Fire Truck - Tim Nolan gave the Board a tour of the new aerial fire truck.

Peacham

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

December 2, 2009

Energy Audit - The Board and Will Fitzpatrick discussed the Energy Audit. Fitzpatrick conveyed his findings during his visit to the Town Hall on Nov. 23, 2009. The Board proposed applying for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant from the VT Department of Public Service. Chad Dunbar and Jock Gill also discussed the Energy Audit with the Board, along with Dunbar's recent evaluation of the Town Hall propane boiler. They suggested insulating the Town offices and gym in order to tighten the shell of the building as the initial phase for energy savings. Dunbar presented estimates for a higher efficiency replacement for the propane boiler, and also for a wood pellet boiler with pellet bin.

Budget - Judge Vance presented the Selectboard with the proposed budget for Caledonia County.

Stray Dogs - Tim McKay moved to approve the proposal from Sharon Eaton of Lunenburg to shelter stray dogs. Joe Guertin would remain the Animal Control Officer, but strays would be housed by Eaton, at no cost to the town. McKay signed two proposal copies, one for the Town and one for Sharon Eaton. It was unanimously approved.

St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch
 Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier
 Selectboard: Bryon Quatrini, Gary

Reis, Daniel Kimbell, Jim Rust, and Jean Hall Wheeler.

December 14, 2009

Boy Scouts - Dean Cross from Waterford introduced nine members of Boy Scout Troop 707. They were visiting the meeting to earn a citizenship badge.

Dog Pound - Jo Guertin resigned as pound keeper effective Jan. 1, 2010, but agreed to stay on as animal control officer. Mike Welch reported that the North Danville Pet Hotel has agreed to keep dogs for the pound period, until they can be released to the Riverside Animal Shelter for adoption. Guertin said she would work with the North Danville Pet Hotel to assist with animals that need vaccinations, or other issues, and she will be available to help care for the animals. Sharon Eaton, from Riverside Rescue, agreed that the plan seems to be going forward and also agreed to work with the North Danville Pet Hotel in the case of aggressive or unmanageable dogs. Sharon indicated she would still like to see the Corrections Department get involved and perhaps build a shelter near their facility, but has yet to contact anyone connected with the Corrections. Guertin asked the Board if they would assist with getting the pre-rabies shot for the operator of North Danville Pet Hotel. Bryon Quatrini suggested Welch could start a dialogue with the Corrections Department on the dog pound program.

Health inspections - Tim Angell reported he had re-visited the apartment at 17 Church Street to address the complaint of silverfish infestation. Tim also said he inspected adjacent apartments and common areas of the building and found there were no silverfish in any other location, and that the apartment in question had one room stacked high with paper and other debris that would attract silverfish and provide a breeding ground. Tim Angell told the complainant that she should get rid of the materials causing the problem. As of the date of the meeting, she had not done so, but Kimbell indicated he felt the Town had fulfilled its obligation in having the Health Officer investigate, and it was not a closed issue.

Junk Update - Priscilla Messier reported that of the 14 locations she had investigated since June, six have complied; one is in foreclosure and sold on Dec. 11. She indicated she will contact the new owners and tell them that compliance with the clean up rule is required before clear title can be issued on the property. Of the remaining properties, only one is of major concern and Priscilla said she will be in contact with human services and the health department to assist with the clean up. Several other

locations are in various stages of compliance.

Town Plan - Priscilla Messier also addressed the upcoming 2011 Town Plan. The first meeting of the committee chairs is scheduled for Jan. 13, and the first open meeting will be held in February. Priscilla indicated the number of sections has been decreased from previous Plans, having combined several sections under the heading of Economic Development; projecting March to May, 2010 for committee meetings, and the summer of 2010 for revisions and suggestions. The projected completion and print date is March, 2011.

Three Rivers - Welch reported that Kevin Russell's contract would be coming up for renewal since he has reached the end of the funds originally allotted, plus the revision, because of the number of hours he has had to put into getting easements. General agreement that the remaining easements could be worked out and obtained with local talent and there is no further need for Russell's services, and no more money available to pay him. The board decided to discontinue the contract with Russell.

2010 Budget - Mike Welch reported that the Finance Committee is recommending to the Board of Selectmen that the Town level fund for 2010. Welch pointed out that some payroll expenses are locked in by contract in salary and benefits. Reducing the budget to level fund could cut services in other areas. Kimbell directed Welch to take the suggestion to the department heads and go from there. Public is invited to attend budget meetings.

Water/sewer rates - Welch included very rough drafts of proposed increases to water/sewer rates.

Welch reported that rates became effective on Jan. 1, 2009, should have been charged in 2008 but were delayed. The water usage has seen a greater decline than anticipated and therefore reduced revenue. The first draft would increase water rates alone by about 25 percent, with a net increase in combined water/sewer rates of approximately 11 percent. With reduced usage other options may need to be enforced to make up the deficit. Suggestions included a surcharge on non-water users, hydrant fees, etc. This will be examined at a future date.

Labor - Welch reported that the Board should be setting up a labor negotiations team. Daniel Kimbell and Bryon Quatrini volunteered to serve on the committee for 2010.

Pay rates - Mike Welch referred to proposed pay rates for non-union employees. Welch reviewed the raises built into union contracts and indicated that previously the non-union employees (which includes administrative and department heads) had received the same rate of increase as the best of the union contracts, which would be 3.5 percent in 2010. Welch reminded the Board that the non-union employees will also be contributing 2 percent of their salary to the pension fund, and paying 14 percent of the BlueCross-BlueShield premium as opposed to 1 percent to pension and 12 percent. The overall increase in the cost of insurance premiums to the employees is approximately 10 percent due to the increase in monthly premium. In 2009 the administrative employees received 3.5 percent and department heads 2 percent. Quatrini suggested looking at all the figures more closely before making a decision.

January 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.

Jan. 5 - New England clam chowder, chicken waldorf salad, homemade bread, tropical fruit salad and tomato juice.

Jan. 7 - Veggie lasagna, garlic bread, V-8 juice and apple crisp.

Jan. 12 - Cream of broccoli soup, lemon rosemary chicken, brown rice and peas and carrots.

Jan. 14 - Liver, bacon and onions hamburgers, whole wheat rolls, mashed potatoes, california vegetables, V-8 juice and pumpkin bars.

Jan. 19 - Chicken, rice pilaf, peas, carrots, homemade bread and brownie sundae.

Jan. 21 - Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, carrots, broccoli and whole wheat rolls.

Jan. 26 - Keilbasa with peppers and onions, macaroni and cheese, winter squash, homemade applesauce and rolls.

Jan. 28 - Curried pumpkin soup, spaghetti and meatballs, sponach salad, garlic bread and bread pudding.

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**Lyndon Institute Athletic Events
 Winter 2009-2010**

Athletic Director: Paul E. Wheeler (802) 626-9164

BOYS BASKETBALL (JV/V)

1/6/10	at Montpelier	6/ 7:30
1/8/10	at Lamoille	6/ 7:30
1/12/10	(H) U-32	5:30/ 7
1/14/10	at Randolph	5:30/ 7
1/16/10	(H) THETFORD	1/ 2:30
1/22/10	at Harwood	5:30/ 7
1/27/10	(H) OXBOW	5:30/ 7
1/29/10	(H) MONTEPELIER	5:30/ 7
2/3/10	(H) LAMOILLE	5:30/ 7
2/5/10	(H) RANDOLPH	5:30/ 7
2/8/10	at U-32	5:30/ 7
2/10/10	at Thetford	6/ 7:30
2/17/10	(H) HARWOOD	5:30/ 7
2/19/10	at Oxbow	6/ 7:30

GIRLS BASKETBALL (JV/V)

1/5/10	at Thetford	6/ 7:30
1/7/10	at Lamoille	6/ 7:30
1/9/10	(H) MONTEPELIER	1/ 2:30
1/15/10	at Harwood	5:30/ 7
1/18/10	at U-32	5:30/ 7
1/21/10	at Randolph	6/ 7:30
1/26/10	at Oxbow	6/ 7:30
1/28/10	(H) THETFORD	5:30/ 7
2/2/10	(H) LAMOILLE	5:30/ 7
2/4/10	at Montpelier	6/ 7:30
2/9/10	(H) HARWOOD	5:30/ 7
2/11/10	(H) U-32	5:30/ 7

FROSH BASKETBALL Boys

1/4/10	at Lamoille	7:30
1/7/10	at St. Johnsbury	6:30
1/13/10	at U-32	7:00
1/15/10	(H) ENOSBURG	7:00
1/18/10	(H) STJA	7:00
1/20/10	at Hazen	7:30
1/23/10	at Harwood	1:30
1/25/10	(H) NCU	7:00
1/29/10	at Enosburg	7:00
2/1/2010	(H) LAKE REGION	7:00
2/4/10	(H) HAZEN	7:00

FROSH BASKETBALL Girls

1/4/10	at Lamoille	6:00
1/7/10	at St. Johnsbury	5:00
1/11/10	(H) OXBOW	5:30
1/13/10	at U-32	5:30
1/15/10	(H) ENOSBURG	5:30
1/18/10	(H) STJA	5:30
1/20/10	at Hazen	6:00
1/25/10	(H) NCU	5:30
1/29/10	at Enosburg	5:30
2/1/2010	(H) LAKE REGION	5:30

ICE HOCKEY

1/2/10	(H) STOWE	3:00
1/9/10	at MMU	7:00
1/13/10	(H) MIDDLEBURY	6:00
1/16/10	(H) PEOPLES	7:00
1/20/10	(H) MILTON	5:00
1/23/10	(H) MSJ	5:00
1/27/10	(H) MISSISQUOI	6:00
1/30/10	at Brattleboro	2:45
2/3/10	(H) U-32	7:00
2/6/10	at Northfield	4:00
2/10/10	(H) WOODSTOCK	6:00
2/13/10	at St. Johnsbury	6:00

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Winter is no vacation for farmers

By JANE WOODHOUSE

Snow covers gardens and fields and the season of growing is a distant thought.

How easy we forget the challenges of the former season as we look forward to what will be a perfect season next year. But those

who grow our food do not have the luxury of sitting still, dreaming of that perfect growing season. In the dark of winter the new season comes to life and takes shape, if only abstractly; but the real thing follows fast.

Vermont's growing season requires forethought and innovation

to produce crops early, reliably and in abundance. It's not a haphazard proposition. Each year, seed catalogs begin arriving in late November and each is required reading. Farmers and gardeners study these catalogs carefully to find a new seed that might be this year's goldmine.

A season is planned around past sales. What sold last year and what did not? What was in short supply and what went in the compost or to the pigs or chickens? As seed orders are calculated, the new season takes on character. Charts, diagrams, and notes all come into play as each farm makes changes to old garden layouts and puts together new ones.

Talking to local growers, one receives an education and an appreciation for time that will be spent before a single vegetable or fruit hits the market stand. This, coupled with work to keep a year-round cash flow, means rest and relaxation are not daily occurrences. The work continues behind the scenes, but just as many tasks are shared, each farm is unique and their winter rituals are unique as well.


Elizabeth Everts at Too Little



Farm in West Barnet has just finished processing and selling holiday turkeys that went to customers the week of Thanksgiving. She will spend time planning her garden plots and ordering seeds and supplies for the new season. She mentions winter as a time to attend conferences such as the Direct Marketing Conference, the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Conference both in January and the NOFA Conference in February. It's the time to network with other growers, take workshops on new growing techniques, learns more

business and marketing skills, etc. Elizabeth wears two hats, one as a farmer and one as the co-manager of the Caledonia Farmers Market. Attending the Direct Marketing Conference sponsored by NOFA-VT, offers her an opportunity to catch up on new market trends that will affect the farmers market as well as marketing her own products. February sees the beginning of lambing at Too Little Farm for the Easter market. It is cold, hard work checking for new lambs in the coldest of temperatures. To round out the year's income Elizabeth sells yarn year round and they do some small scale sugaring as well. Peter Everts works the farm and runs Everts Forestry. Diversity is the key to keeping the farm sustainable year round.

Curt Sjolander, also co-manager of the Caledonia Farmers Market, farms several plots of land in Wheelock and St. Johnsbury as Mountain Foot Farm. He lives in Wheelock, but the farmland he owns is a number of miles down the road. Talking to Curt it is clear his mind is active and busy during the "down" garden months. He speaks of detailed plans and planning to prepare for another year of



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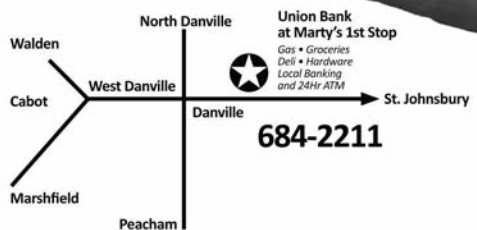


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farming. He orders from the more popular seed catalogs that are worth mentioning. *High Mowing*, in Wolcott, is the most local seed company and grows many of their seeds here in Vermont. *Fedco Seeds* is a cooperative business in Maine that specializes in cold-hardy seeds and plants some locally grown and some from larger companies. *Johnny's Selected Seeds* in Maine has been a source of seed for local growers for many years. Curt also looks for more obscure seed varieties from smaller specialty companies, such as the Vermont Bean Seed Co. and Totally Tomatoes. This prompted me to ask him if ever saves seed? "Yes", said Curt and launched into a discussion of heirlooms and seed saving. Clearly he has a keen interest in researching and testing old varieties of seed and saving them. But as is often the case, there is not enough time to do as much as he would like. Still he makes an effort to try new varieties and to pick and choose according to the results.


Curt starts seeds in a greenhouse attached to his house in the winter. He has a heating system to keep young plants warm and secure. The tomato plants are not moved to the unheated greenhouses until late May. He has tried to push that date, but suffered frost damage in the earlier part of May. Once planted in an unheated structure the tomatoes remain throughout their growing season. It should be noted that, for the most part, it was only greenhouse tomatoes that survived the blight this past season.

Field grown tomatoes were lost from a New England based blight that affected tomatoes and potatoes. So these crops were most appreciated at market.

Expanding at Mountain Foot Farm is probably not in the cards due to a shrinking workforce, his family. Curt's children are college age and the last of three heads off to school next year. Curt and his wife Joan remain as the staples on the farm. In addition to growing produce, Curt raises trout that he sells at market and to restaurants.

However, he is not able to produce as many during winter months. He supplements income, in the winter, doing computer-programming work and Joan is a visiting nurse with Caledonia Home Health Care. Maryellen Griffin of Old Shaw

Farm in Peacham spoke to me after returning from a trip south to the tropics. Her family is able to take the month of December off from farming. However, she points out, >> Page 40



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Happy New Year



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 This village home "On the Hill" offers 3 levels of living, a large eat in kitchen w/ pantry, stainless steel appliances & Corian countertops. Tons of character, re-finished wood floors, formal dining room, living room, den, family room, 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Detached garage, landscaped lot. **\$189,900**

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▼ MLS # N2089872
 Enjoy the southwesterly views and sunsets overlooking Joe's Pond from this 1850 circa farmhouse sited on 3.8+/- open acres including a barn. Updates include heating, electric, sheetrock and windows. Plenty of room for home office/studio and guests.
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◀ MLS # N2810112
 Let's begin with the Hilltop setting that offers both sunrises and sunsets. Sited on 10.5 Acres of meadows and trees this custom built home offers living space accessorized with double sided glass fireplace, handsome tile and bamboo flooring, floor to cathedral ceiling windows, built-ins. Gourmet kitchen offers granite countertops, window seat/breakfast nook, center island, top of the line appliances and so much more.
\$655,000



▶ MLS # N2776653
 This comfortable country cape has a large lawn, covered brick patio with outdoor fireplace, storage pole barn, three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, updated country kitchen and attached garage.
\$175,000

W **E**
S

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.

Tuesdays in December: Baby/Toddler Storytime, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

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

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

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

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

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

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. Check website, www.parkerpie.com for details or call (802) 525-3366.

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

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

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

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

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

Fridays: Friday Afternoon Tea Room at the North Danville Baptist Church, 2-4 p.m., through March. Call (802) 748-4096. Handicapped accessible.

1st Fridays: Contra Dance, 8 p.m. at Danville Town Hall. All levels welcome. (802) 563-3225 or samlyman@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: Winter Farmers Market in Lyndonville at the Breslin Community Center on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

1st Saturday: St. Johnsbury Winter Farmers Market at the St. Johnsbury Welcome Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.


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

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

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

2nd Saturdays: Winter Farmers Market, Breslin Community Center, Main Street, Lyndonville, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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



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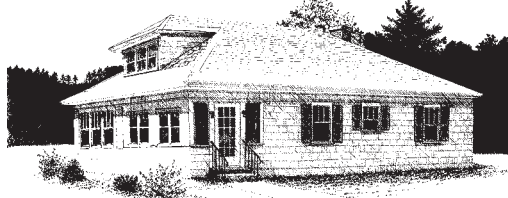
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ML2792846 Relax on the new 10'x24' deck and gaze out at your own 14-acre wildlife refuge. Many great features include a paved driveway, and walkout basement with 300 sq. ft. finished room could be additional bedroom, den, office or all three. This cottage could be handicap accessible with street-level entry. 1st floor bedroom, bath and laundry and extra wide doors. **\$152,500**

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Events in the NEK

FRI.1:

NEK Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count. Join us for all or part of the day as we inventory the birds of the Kingdom. Call Charlie Browne at (802) 748-2372 or email cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org for information and to register.

New Year's Day at Burke Mountain, parade, face painting, sledging from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Save your noise makers, dress up in your favorite costume and join the parade! The parade will start at the top of the Willoughby Chair at 1p.m. and descend all the way to the Sherburne Base Lodge. Face Painting starts at 11 a.m. and Sledging Hill is open from 5 to 8 p.m. Call 888-BURKEVT for more information.

Annual Highland Lodge Open House in Greensboro, 1 to 3 p.m. Call (802) 533-2647. Highland Lodge, 1608 Craftsbury Road Greensboro, VT. Email: info@highlandlodge.com.

SAT.2:

Mt. Hor Hop freestyle Cross Country ski race, noon to 4 p.m. 10 Kilometer freestyle race for all ages. Meet at Mt. Hor trails on Rte 5A Westmore. Call (802) 334-7676. Memphremagog Ski Touring Foundation.

SUN.3:

Craftsbury Classic - Mass start classic racing at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (802) 586-7767 for more information. Craftsbury Outdoor Center, 535 Lost Nation Rd. Craftsbury Common.

MON.4:

NEK Audubon Informational and planning meeting; 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Fairbanks Museum. Open to all: Call Laura at (802) 751-7671.

WED.6:

Holiday Show and Sale at NEK Artisans Guild, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Featuring paintings, jewelry, pottery and more by local artists. Phone: (802) 748-0158.

The Enduring Appeal of Anne Frank and Her Diary - First Wednesdays Lecture series at the St. J Athenaeum, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dartmouth Professor Irene Kacandes examines some of the reasons why Anne Frank's diary continues to be read worldwide by people of all ages. Email: inform@stjathenaeum.org

THURS.7:

Music and Tapas at Parker Pie in West Glover, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Check the website for this week's performer and menu. Phone: (802) 525-3366. Web: www.parkerpie.com

First weekly Ski-Inn (through March 11th) of the winter season at Highland Lodge: Meet at the Lodge at 9:45 a.m. for free group ski. Please call ahead (802) 533-2647.

SAT.9:

Ski Touring the Kingdom Series: Mt. Hor and the Willoughby State Forest, 9 a.m. to noon. Kick off the Ski Touring the Kingdom Series with an introduction to mountain ascents and descents: including the use of climbing skins, route-setting, and downhill survival techniques as well as an introduction to the graceful telemark turn. Call or email to preregister. Phone: (802) 723-6551 x 112.

Winter Trails Day at Highland Lodge. Free ski/ snowshoe equipment for novices. Please call ahead (802) 533-2647.

SAT.12:

Greensboro Wonder & Wisdom, 4 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Greensboro. A traditional folk storytelling program for adults and children, created and performed by Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder. Tim and Leanne are two of New England's foremost interpreters of the traditional oral tale. Appealing equally to adults, teens, and children 6-12. For more information contact Drex or Diana at 533-9216.

SAT.16:

Retro Ski Day at Highland Lodge. Dress in your favorite retro/ ski attire and hit the trails! Two winners will receive a gift certificate for lunch for two! Ski Shop is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SUN.17:

NEK Audubon field trip to Lake Champlain, walk the causeway north of Burlington and look for wintering waterfowl. Call or email Tom to register. Phone: (802) 626-9071.

FRI. 29:

Guided Full Moon Snowshoe walk at Highland Lodge (no charge) at 8 p.m., Please call ahead (802) 533-2647.

SAT.30:

National Theatre Live -Catamount Arts is proud to be part of the National Theatre of London's presentation of *Nation*, based on a novel by Terry Pratchett. 2 p.m. Web: www.catamountarts.org.

WED.3:

100 Years since Triangle - The Fire that Seared a Nation's Conscience - Lecture series at the St J Athenaeum, 7 p.m. Dartmouth Professor Annelise Orleck reflects on the March 25, 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Greenwich Village, which killed 146 workers, most of them young immigrant Jewish and Italian women. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main St. St. Johnsbury, VT. Email: inform@stjathenaeum.org Web: www.stjathenaeum.org

SAT.13:

NEK Audubon field trip to the Victory Basin - snowshoe along the Damon's Crossing trail, Snowshoe along the Damon's Crossing trail. Phone: (802) 626-9071. NEK Audubon Society, 1302 Main Street, St. Johnsbury VT. Email: blackpoll@myfairpoint.net Web: www.nekaudubon.org



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it puts them behind by early January and they must hit the ground running. Bookkeeping and taxes are high on the agenda.

Maryellen works part-time as an attorney at Vermont Legal Aid. She also runs the market stand at the Danville and Waitfield farmers markets. She is not involved in the fieldwork but is very involved in the farm plans and planning. She relates that last year, they held a January "summit" to plan this year's growing season and she thought that it worked well for them.

Old Shaw Farm has an active CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), a subscription model

option for marketing a portion of their produce. Planning and marketing new shares will happen this winter as they project the totals to grow next season. They maintain a blog, <http://www.oldshawfarm.com/blog>, to journal their current farm activities. Promotion and public relations are strong points of their farm and take constant work to stay current on the internet.

Peter Griffin is the farmer and fieldworker and maintains a small workforce of hired hands and apprentices. His work starts with seedlings in the basement under lights that are moved to heated greenhouses in late March. Later some crops will be moved to un-

heated hoop houses. Their early sales include seedlings. An increase in flower seedlings means starting dates to produce blooms by sales season. Customers want to see the flowers and want them to produce early in their gardens.

It can be noted that about the time the snow covers the garden and all is quiet outside, the seed catalogs begin arriving and the garden comes alive again. The ideal that farmers strive for is alive in their imaginations as they chart the plans and order seeds for 2010. The blight of 2009 is only a bad dream that will quickly fade away. Farming is an ability to look forward with great optimism as you roll your dice with nature.

In Memory of
Gerald F. (Hap) Hutchins



September 2, 1924-December 30, 2008

It's been a year, Dad, since God took you home.
It's been a very long year.
I think of you everyday, Dad.
I miss your Laugh, your smile.
I miss the wink you would always give.
I especially miss our talks.
It will never be the same.
There is a hole in my heart that will never be filled.
I will see you again, Dad.
Sadly missed and always in my thoughts and prayers.
Your, Loving and Grateful Daughter.
- Barb Fontaine




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