



Robert VanBrocklin - A Full Life John Boccalini*

Robert H. VanBrocklin, 92, died on July 7, 2010, at his home doing what he loved to do...gardening.

Bob was born on Nov. 4, 1917, in Nelson and lived in Richmond since the age of seven. He settled at 436 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond, in 1948 when he converted an abandoned cabin into the VanBrocklin's present home.

Bob began at the age of ten working many odd jobs. He worked as a janitor, hauling water for horses delivering cordwood and in the woods with a crew and a portable saw mill. He later went to work for few years at C.L. Lane, who was operating a mill in North Richmond and manufactured thousands of buckets and pails weekly. It was during this period that Bob married the love of his life, Sylvia Plummer. He then went on to work for Frazier and Sons in Swanzy for the next six or seven years. He then worked for A.C. Leather in Winchester as well as working for the Town of Richmond as the sexton of the cemeteries. He next lasted ten years for the Woolen Mills in West Swanzy then for Kingsbury Machine Tool Corp. in Keene from which he retired in 1982.

During this period, Bob and Sylvia were just as active in family life raising a two boys, Hugh and Bruce. He was unparalleled in his commitment to community. He was last of founders of the Richmond Fire department to survive. He served many years a Fire Chief and helped build the Department for a one room shed to what it is today. In his commitment to service he also served as not fire warden while Fire chief but also as a volunteer policeman and Police Chief all at the same time. He remained an active lifetime member in the Fire Department and was still seen out there and most emergency calls doing traffic duty for the Police Department. He and Sylvia were also Supervisors of the Checklist. He set up town hall for elections and manned the ballot box during elections. He open and closed Vet's Hall for most all events and occasions. He helped maintain the field behind the Fire hall.

He was a member of the Richmond Community United Methodist Church and his commitment was no less here. He was a member of the Community Church for over sixty years during which he helped with renovations, maintained well into his older years. He held position in the leadership of the Church and was a major fundraiser to help keep the Church fiscally sound.

Bob was also known for his skills at gardening. Besides all the ground maintenance he did for town, church and neighbors, he still kept his own

home a place of admiration. Gardening was one of his pleasures.

Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Sylvia, his son Hugh VanBrocklin and his wife, Alison, of Richmond and son Bruce VanBrocklin and his wife, LaDonna, of Falmouth, Ky. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Lori Thoin and her husband, Jon, and Larissa Thoin, all of Marlborough, Julie Craig and her husband, Ken, and Nathan Craig, Stephen Craig and Hannah Craig, all of North Tonawanda, N.Y., Andrew VanBrocklin and his wife, Kelly, and Hunter VanBrocklin and Madison VanBrocklin, all of Alfred, Maine, Emily Royal and her husband, Jason, of Athol, Mass., and Laura VanBrocklin of Richmond.

The family contributions be made in Mr. VanBrocklin's memory to the Richmond Community United Methodist Church Capital Improvement Fund, 11 Fitzwilliam Road, Richmond 02370; or to Richmond Fire and Rescue, 15 Winchester Road, Richmond 03470.

*This article is written from articles printed in the Richmond Rooster December 2005 and the Keene Sentinel July, 2010 as well as personal knowledge.



Bob VanBrocklin
Nov 4, 1917 to July 7, 2010

5 Things Dad Showed Me

1. Always be able to laugh at yourself - he loved the participation of everyone (including the kids!) in town in the Dessert Theater!
2. Be faithful as a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a responsible citizen.
3. Be a willing volunteer, be honest and hardworking.
His motto was: don't ask what your town can do for you, but what you can do for your town (he said that long before some famous president said that about our country).
4. Don't cut things in life down because it's too hard to build them back up again. Work with people, be a team! If you're going to commit to something - do your best. Play hard and long.
5. CARE FOR OTHERS! Until you care for others you can't care for yourself. Those who have given of themselves to others will live forever in each heart they have touched.

Dad didn't preach to you, he showed you by a grand example. It's not the size of the man that matters, it's the heart in the man that does. Thanks, Dad.

Love, Hugh

Dear neighbors and friends,

How do we begin to say thank you. It's so hard to fathom that Dad is gone. Our appreciation to the Richmond community began long before July 7, 2010, and your support has given us strength since that day.

Our prayer is that we all will rise to the bar that he set in serving his family, his church, and his community.

Thank you to the whole community, from the family of Bob VanBrocklin

Dates To Remember***Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk***

September 6, 2010	CLOSED for Labor Day
September 7, 2010	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk
September 14, 2010	CLOSED for State Primary Election

EMT Course***Terri O'Rorke***

There will be an EMT-Basic (Emergency Medical Technician) course given here in Richmond starting in Sept. It will be held two nights a week, Mondays and Thursdays, starting Sept. 13 at 6:00pm. The course will be held at the Richmond Fire Station and the cost is \$350.00. Please don't let the cost deter you as it all gets reimbursed over a period of two years once you have joined the Rescue Squad.

Please give some serious thought to becoming a volunteer and helping not only your town but friends, family and neighbors. For some people this is the beginning to a medical career. Interested? Call Terri O'Rorke 239-4595 or Buzz Shaw 239-4238 to say, "Sign me up!" Thank you.

Notes from Town Hall – August 2010***Selectmen's Office***

Richmond was settled in 1755 by people who fled religious persecution. They founded a community whose history has always been tolerance for all. So it is remarkable that in 2010, 255 years later, our town has on its books an ordinance which was found to be in violation of federal laws prohibiting religious discrimination! How did this happen? It was not intentional, given our history and tradition.

On March 12, 2002, the Town of Richmond, by a vote of 144 to 124, voted in favor of Amendment #3 as follows: To add 'Houses of Worship' following "manufacturing and commercial use" in Article 401.6. And to add "or uses for houses of worship" after "manufacturing, or commercial use" in Article 1001.1. The result? The Town of Richmond ordinance 401.6 now reads that the in the Residential District "Manufacturing, commercial use and houses of worship may

be permitted, by special exception, subject to the conditions of section 1001 of this ordinance."

However, two years earlier the federal law known as RLUIPA, Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, was enacted by Congress and signed by the President.

An internationally respected legal scholar and attorney known for her work on First Amendment rights and church/state relations, Marci Hamilton wrote *God vs The Gavel, Religion and the Rule of Law*. In it she analyzes the impact of federal law on local land use practices and zoning. She shows that framers of the legislation did not consider its impact on communities and neighborhoods, stating that "Before RLUIPA, religious landowners in virtually every jurisdiction were just landowners, required to abide by zoning and land-use restrictions, with the concomitant market price for property and for obtaining zoning alterations. If their project was incompatible with the district, they would have to apply for a special use permit or a variance, just like any other landowner. In 2000, President Clinton signed RLUIPA, saying "Today I am pleased to sign into law S.2869, the 'Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000,' which will provide important protections for religious exercise in America." With this law, the legal landscape changed for local governments, planning and zoning boards.

Further on, Ms. Hamilton writes, "In other words, Congress created a new 'civil right' and a new forum – the federal courts – for churches burdened by land-use laws." In her opinion, "RLUIPA has turned neighbor against neighbor and is one of the most religiously divisive laws ever enacted in the United States." She adds, "...nor does the cost of RLUIPA litigation typically deter religious landowners. The drafters of RLUIPA (the American Civil Liberties Union, the Department of Justice, and others) did not stop at providing "a legal weapon" no secular landowner could wield. RLUIPA contains what is called an "attorneys' fees" provision, which forces the government to pay the attorney's fees for both sides if the government loses."

Now, in 2010, it is time to correct what was intended to be an innocent ordinance requiring some oversight of non-residential development within the residential district. The Board of Selectmen has decided to hold a 'special town meeting' to amend the offending ordinances to allow houses of worship in the Residential District. The Planning Board is holding hearings on these ordinances. We know Richmond is a fair-minded and tolerant community. We also know that to comply with federal law, the three proposed ordinances must be passed. September 14, 2010 is Primary Day and you will be asked to vote for state and federal candidates. On a separate ballot you will be asked to vote on three amendments to the Richmond Zoning Ordinance bringing the town into compliance with federal law.

Full text of the three amendments is available online at the Town of Richmond website, and is posted at Town Hall, the Vets Hall and CD Building.



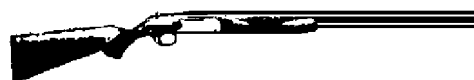
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The Father of Richmond ***Terri O'Rorke***

Right after we first moved here to Richmond, we met Bob Van Brocklin. It was probably at the Veteran's Hall where we went to vote. I don't remember who told me this, (to long ago) but Bob was referred to as "The father of Richmond." Over the years I could see why. Bob was always at a fire or rescue scene. Bob was always out behind the fire station mowing the grass. Bob was always ready to cast a ballot or help out in any way at all elections. Bob was always there. For his family. For his friends and neighbors. For his church. For his beloved town. Bob gave his everything and asked for nothing in return. For a small speck of time, our life paths crossed and I feel honored that they did.

State Primary Election ***Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk***

The NH State Primary Election will be held on September 14, 2010, at the Veteran's Hall from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. People not yet registered to vote may do so:

Up until September 7th at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.

At the Supervisors of the Checklist meeting held on September 7th from 7:00 – 7:30 PM at the CD Building. Or on the day of the election during polling hours at the Veteran's Hall.

Voters registered as Undeclared may receive either a Democratic or Republican ballot on Election Day by first stating their party preference to the check-in clerks. Voters wishing to return to Undeclared status should go to the Supervisors of the Checklist table after voting. Voters registered as Republican or Democrat will only be given the ballot of the party to which they are affiliated. The last day to change party before the State Primary was June 1st. No party changes may be made until after the State Primary. If you will not be in town on Election Day, you may contact the Town Clerk's office to obtain an absentee ballot. See you at the polls!

Cemetery Information

Geraldine Lutz, Cemetery Trustee

Every year a great deal of time and effort is given by everyone involved in the work of the cemetery care. The focus is to provide a decent place for the last resting place for our family and neighbors. We have gone from a budget of \$2.5K in 2004 to this years budget of \$13.7K which includes \$1K to come from perpetual care funds; if the perpetual care is not provided then the funds can not be used. It is been our goal to provide the perpetual care by tending to those grave sites in the manner left by the instruction given by families or friends who created the trust account.. Flowers are placed on these gravesites twice a year, headstones are repaired if needed and general maintenance provided. This information must then be provided with the expense support to the Trustees of the Trust Fund before the funds are approved for transfer to the cemetery. The increase in the annual budget is used to purchase and maintain equipment, purchase supplies, pay adequate wages to the maintenance workers, repair headstones, maintain the trees located in the cemeteries, fill sink holes, repair fences, sheds and whatever else is required. The town of Richmond does not employ a full time cemetery staff. Our maintenance people work on a schedule which is based on historical data, the weather and available funds. The spring and fall clean-ups are an hourly wage of \$10.50 and the mowing is a set amount based on historical data.

Richmond has many public cemeteries but it has been many years since any work has been done in many of these cemeteries with the exception of Middletown and South Cemeteries which are the ones that are available for burials. In 1975, the first of three sections of Earl R Howard Memorial Extension of South Cemetery (ERHM) was opened. The land for this cemetery was donated in 1968 by his family in memory of Earl R Howard, who is buried in New South Cemetery. ERHM was established by the Cemetery Trustees at that time as a perpetual care trust, which meant that all money from the lots sold would be placed in a trust account and only the interest would be used to provide the maintenance for that cemetery. However, very little interest, approximately \$20 a year, has been earned from this trust



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which makes it necessary to use town funds to provide the necessary annual maintenance. About two years ago it was evident with fifty lots remaining that it was necessary to clear and prepare ERHM Sections II and III. Section III was designed and opened last year. The design for Section II will be completed by Dick Drew and lots will be available for sale later this summer. Information regarding these two cemeteries will be our topic for the Rooster next month. Earl R Howard Memorial is now the only public cemetery in Richmond with lots available for sale. When a lot is purchased, a "Right to Interment" is provided along with the Rules and Regulations for that cemetery. This means you have the right to say who should be buried in the lot but not what goes on the lot. This information is provided in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations, if any issues are not addressed in the Rules and Regulations contact one of the cemetery Trustees. Updating the Cemetery Rules and Regulation is one of the duties of the Cemetery Trustees. We currently are in the process of finalizing the rewriting of the Rules and Regulations. These changes will reflect the wishes of the residents of the town in regards to burials. It has been recommended by the State that the name of the person(s) to be buried in the lot be provided to the trustee so that there are no issues when burials are necessary. The reason for this is because of the cost of funerals, the ever increasing cost of land and the lack of available land for cemeteries. Following are a few of the Richmond Cemetery Rules and Regulations currently in place for Richmond Public Cemeteries:

Plot holders in all cemeteries often misunderstand the purpose and function of Cemetery rules and regulations and the important part they play in the beautification and preservation of the grounds. Too often people are inclined to resent what they term restrictions on my rights and privileges." It is important that residents realize that the cemetery rules are for the protection of the plot holders and a safeguard from misdirected sentiment of those who might erect unsightly memorials or otherwise impair the dignity and beauty of the cemetery.

For the protection and benefit of lot holders, the following Rules and Regulations have been adopted as the Rules and Regulations of

the Richmond Town Cemeteries. All lot holders and visitors within the cemeteries and all lots assigned to individuals shall be subject to these Rules and Regulations, and amendments or alterations as shall be adopted from time to time by the Cemetery Trustees.

The Town may, and it hereby expressly reserves the right, at any time, or times, to adopt new rules and regulations, or to amend, alter or repeal any rule, regulation or article, section, paragraph or sentence in these Rules and Regulations. All rules formerly adopted which are contrary to these Rules and Regulations are hereby repealed and declared to be no longer effective.

DECORATION OF PLOTS

A. No flower receptacles may be placed on any plot unless they meet the approval of the Cemetery Trustees. The Town shall have the authority to remove all floral design, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, plants or herbage of any kind, from the cemetery as soon as in the judgment of the Sexton/Cemetery Trustees they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental or diseased. The Town shall not be liable for floral pieces, baskets, or frames in which, or to which such floral pieces are attached. They shall not be liable for lost, misplaced or broken flower vases. The town shall not be responsible for frozen plants or herbage of any kind, or for plantings damaged by the elements, thieves, vandals or by other causes beyond its control. The Town of Richmond does not have a full time cemetery staff and any flowers placed during a funeral should be removed by a family member when no longer in good condition.

Exception: No flowers, decoration of plots in Earl R Howard Section III are authorized. Any placement of flowers or decoration of any kind will be removed. The town will not be liable for any containers or decoration removed but reserves the right to bill lot owner for the labor to remove same.

B. For cut flowers, use of a sunken vase of heavy metal with removable inner container is recommended. The submerged vase keeps the water cooler and thus helps to prolong the freshness of flowers. Cut flowers are not to be placed on the grave in plastic wrappings or just placed on the ground. Cut flowers do not last long and should be removed by the family before they become unsightly.

C. Plastic flowers are prohibited. Plastic flowers become unsightly when left any length of time and are often simply stuck in the ground. This makes for a poor overall appearance to the cemetery. They will be removed and discarded.

D. The use of glass or china jars, tin cans, or other than approved metal or plastic vases is prohibited under penalty of immediate removal.

E. Only one tub or one urn shall be allowed in any plot. No fences or wire enclosures for flower beds, may be placed on any lot and no wires or other means of supports may be used for flower containers unless approved by the Cemetery Trustees. No mulch is authorized if placed, the plot owner will be sent a letter to come and remove same, if not



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removed they will be sent a bill for the time it takes a cemetery employee to do the work.

F. The placing of shells, toys, metal designs, ornaments, pictures, photos, letters and similar articles, upon plots shall not be permitted, and if so placed, the Cemetery Trustees reserves the right to remove the same.

G. The American flag and holder will be placed by a Cemetery Trustee or designated cemetery employee upon the graves of those persons who have honorably serviced in the armed forces of the United States of America. These flags shall be removed without notice when they become soiled, faded, torn or otherwise unsightly. No flags are authorized in Section III of ERH and will be removed if placed there. The Rules and Regulations are numerous pages covering numerous topics and due to limited space in the Rooster additional information will be provided over a period of several months. If any questions please call one of the Cemetery Trustees.

Richmond Public Library ***Wendy O'Brien***

Summer Reading Program

Ahoy readers! We have planned a fun pirate party to wrap up this year's summer reading program. On Sat., August 7th at 1:00 p.m. at the Pavilion, we will have a sundae bar with lots of yummy toppings. There will also be pirate games and crafts. Reading certificates and gift certificates to Toadstool Bookshop will be presented to those children completing the program. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Book Sale

It's once again time for our annual Book Sale and Silent Auction on Richmond Day, Sunday, August 29th. (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!) Stop by and see our great selection of used books, as well as our outstanding prizes for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Book Sale and the Silent Auction will be used for children's books and programming. Have books to donate? We are currently seeking books for the sale. Feel free to drop them off when the Library is open, or we can come to you! Just give us a call at 239-6164.

Kodah the Library Dog

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We are pleased to welcome back Kodah, our official Library dog, back from his trip to Alaska with friend Kate Simington. We have tentatively planned a visit for August 21st at 11:00 a.m. Please drop by or call the Library to confirm the date and time. Kodah is a certified pet therapy dog from Monadnock Therapy Pets and loves being read to by children. This offers a chance for a patient and nonjudgmental ear for our younger or reluctant readers.

Story Times

It's not too early to start thinking about fall story times-September will be here before you know it! We have two offerings in September: Gwyn Powers will lead a preschool story time on Saturday, September 11th at 11:00 a.m. And new this year, Evelyn Winter will lead a pajama story time focusing on the popular story "We're Going on A Bear Hunt," on September 7th at 6:30 p.m. Each story time will have a craft and snack. We do ask that children come accompanied and be supervised by an adult

Grand Marshall ***Paul and Marie Knowlton***

Bob VanBrocklin didn't just live in Richmond he "lived Richmond". His life was dedicated to his family, his community, his church and his own individuality. Bob was involved in Richmond; he was a friend to all. It was impossible to go out and not see him somewhere, either at the Fire Station, the 4 Corners Store, in Winchester, driving on Rte 32 or out in his yard gardening, mowing or shoveling. He served as a Police Officer, a Volunteer Firefighter; he worked at the Bar-B-Q and participated in events sponsored by his church. Bob was the officer directing traffic at all the accidents in Town, sometimes he would give us the scoop and other times he just directed us through. For many years Bob mowed our lawn and did a spectacular job. He would always say "it was nothing" when I gushed about how immaculate it looked. When Richmond celebrated its 250th Birthday there was no question that Bob VanBrocklin should be our parade Grand Marshall. He was a monumental man then and still holds that title today. I smile when I think of Bob VanBrocklin, there is no other way.



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Editor's Note**John Boccalini**

We are interested in getting the readers take on the recent activity concerning the Saint Benedict lawsuit with the town. To avoid subject our readers to whatever comments are made this discussion will be contained to The Richmond Rooster group discussion page located at therichmondrooster@yahoogroups.com. If you are not yet a member of the group you may subscribe to therichmondrooster-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. There is no cost for the service and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Yard and Bake Sale**Pam Goodell**

Don't forget the annual yard and bake sale at the Richmond Community United Methodist Church (the Old Brick Church) 11 Fitzwilliam Road, being held this year on September 4th. Sales start at 8 AM and continue till 2 PM. Come early to get the best food and best bargains.

If you have any items you'd like to donate, you may call Alison at 239-4494 to make arrangements.

Police Chief**Judith Graves**

I have a great respect for Bob as the real mayor of Richmond. We laughed together that if we were both in Keene who was watching out for Richmond as we had an adventure together when two boys were breaking into homes on Bullock Road and together we were instrumental in bringing them to justice. It became a great bond for us and we laughed many times together over all the details. It was mostly between the two of us as to what went on, and it made for a great friendship.

Meadowood County Area Fire Department**Melanie Ellis**

The members of the Meadowood County Area Fire Department hopes that everyone is having a happy and safe summer. The members are busy this summer with fund raisers and other events. A reminder that on August 21st, the Annual Auction will be held at the Meadowood Assembly Hall on Bowkerville Road in Fitzwilliam. A preview of items that are going to be auctioned off will begin at 9am and the bidding will start at 10am. Please come down and see the many hidden treasures. If you have a new or like new item that you would like to donate to MCAFD, you can call Chief Robert Crowell at 603-352-3853 or Assistant Chief Winston Wright at 603-585-6808. Or you can bring your item to the Meadowood Fire Station on Sundays from 9am to Noon. The fire station is located on Upper Troy Rd in Fitzwilliam. The weekend of September 25 - 26 will mark the 55th Anniversary of

training at the Meadowood Fire School. In honor of this event, the Department will be having a Pig Roast on September 25th from 5pm - 7pm. Tickets to the Pig Roast will be \$10. Burgers and hot dogs will also be available for those that are not interested in the Roast. Those tickets will be \$5. That weekend, there will also be classes going on for fire school. We encourage everyone to stop by and see what goes on at the Meadowood Fire School. And everyone is invited to attend the dinner. Please see a Meadowood firefighter for tickets. If you have any questions you can call the Meadowood Fire Department at 603-242-3018.

Extraordinary Citizen**Annette Tokunaga**

This a picture of Bob was taken on June 3rd when he came into my office. This visit, like most others, was nothing extraordinary - he'd just stopped by for a visit. And the last time that he stopped by was July 1st. I remember it clearly. He'd mowed the area behind the police station just the other day and afterwards he'd let Hugh use the tractor mower. After Hugh'd unloaded it, it wouldn't work. Bob shook his head, feeling bad for Hugh. I remember telling him how he was such a hard worker, how, regardless of his age, he continued to work. He just nodded, like this was nothing extraordinary.

**A man for all Seasons**

Richmond has lost an extraordinary citizen, a humble man.

Summer Salad Supper and Service Auction**Pam Goodell**

Eat, bid and be merry! On August 7th the 17th annual super summer salad supper and service auction will take place in Richmond. It will be held at the Richmond Veterans Hall at 150 Old Homestead Highway. The meal is always delicious, and the auction is always a crowd pleaser. This year we are also very pleased to offer live music from 5:00 to 6:00 PM as local singer Mike France shares his vocal talents.

Food is homemade, and the meal consists of a large variety of summer salads, rolls, and brownies a la mode for dessert. The meal is served from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, and the auction starts at 6 PM. Prices are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children.

John Pappas, from Knotty Pine Antiques has volunteered to be the auctioneer. Auction items have been obtained from numerous local businesses as well as from among the talents and services of local people.

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Who will be the top bidder this year for Deb's homemade candy turtles? You won't want to miss Carolyn's Sunflower Café coconut cream pies either or a bid on a bit of history for a set of note cards showing old Richmond buildings. Who wouldn't want to be the high bidder of 3 hours of housework? Try your luck bidding on syrup from Stewart and Johns or gift certificates from the Toadstool Book Store and many other donated items.

If you have any items you'd like to donate, call Alison at 239-4494. Proceeds benefit the Richmond Community United Methodist Church (affectionately known as the Old Brick Church.)

Cornerstone of the Community ***Jean Tandy***

Every once in a while, someone comes along who manages to symbolize the very best of what it means to be human. Bob VanBroklyn was that kind of man for many of us. Solid, faithful, constant, he surely was. I remember Bob and Sylvia serving at Richmond Town Meetings for more years than most people have lived here. But Bob, well, he was here, and there, and every where; solid as the granite we walk on, faithful as the cardinals that return every spring to check on local conditions, then weave their world together, year after year.

And constant! Was not only his endless service to the Community he loved constant, but constantly were his eyes twinkling, and (for me, a Midwestern transplant), the constant delight of listening to his Yankee laugh and his New Hampshire way with words will not soon be forgotten.

A Richmond Farmer's Market ??? (continued) ***Kim Mattson and Jean Tandy***

In our July, 2010 column we discussed our (RPC) connection with the Richmond Conservation Commission, (RCC), to work as a team to establish an Agricultural Commission; a part of our Master Plan implementation. One essential task before us is to create an inventory of Town agricultural resources, historic farms, and farm buildings. Agri-resources can be as large as a farm producing horses, cattle, sheep, llamas, emus, or as varied as producing Christmas trees, or other species of trees, or cord wood. Flower growers, vegetable gardens, chickens, waterfowl, hay fields, home green houses, and pick-your-own-berries or fruits growers are all included. I was happy to learn that my collection of potted herbs on my east deck are considered Agriculture. One horse, etc, is Agriculture.

Our goal is to create an inventory of how variable the agri-experiences of our townspeople are in their daily work and pleasures of growing and caring for animals and plants. We invite you to contact one of our RPC/RCC representatives listed below and share your Agri-involvement, to be included in the "Outline of Richmond Agriculture" we're now attempting to shape.

We've scheduled the month of August to be our Contact Month: for the conception of "Richmond Farmer's Market" for locally grown produce. If you are willing to provide us with information about your agricultural products, you will be "an originator" in the shaping of "Richmond's First Farmer's Network", a tool that can be used to gather and generate information to benefit not only you, but your community. Who knows? A local market for your produce might begin with your decision now.

RPC is doing it's 4th year of BROWN BAGGIN' at the RICHMOND PAVILLION on AUG. 14th. If you have herbs, flowers, hay, or other produce that you could show, tell visitors about your animals, hand out business cards, raise a little cash...

Please call with information about your product(s), & interest in the possibilities of this Agri-project, Kim at 239-6606, Jean 239-6024 or Terri at 239-4598

or e-mail to Richmondagriculturalcommission@gmail.com

Have a great August!!! Keep things growing!!!

Roger A. Carrier ***Reprint from Fletchers Funeral Home***

Roger A. Carrier, Sr., 80, of Swanzy, died Sunday afternoon at his daughter's home, after a sudden illness.

He was born on October 23, 1929 in Winchendon, Ma., the son of Adrian and Yvonne (Roberts) Carrier. He grew up in Winchendon and attended Winchendon schools.

He worked at the American Box Company in Winchendon for over 25 years before moving to NH and working a short time for American Optical in Keene. He later worked for Seppala & Aho, later known as Famm Steel, located in Rindge, for another 20 plus year career.

He married Mary Caouette on November 25, 1950, and they were able to spend nearly 50 years together before her passing.


Mr. Carrier was a Life Member of the Keene Loyal Order of Moose #78, and was a past volunteer with both the Richmond Fire Department and the Richmond Police Department. He enjoyed deep sea fishing trips and the times spent at their cottage in Wells, Maine, assembling wooden airplane models and time spent working on the families Christmas tree farm. He spent time cutting and splitting wood for the family and he especially enjoyed his time spent with family and friends.

Mr. Carrier is survived by his four children: Susan Taylor and her husband Jeff of Richmond, Roger A. Carrier, Jr. and his wife Rae of Swanzy, Robert A. Carrier of Fitzwilliam, and Elizabeth Pursell and her husband Dean of Richmond; six siblings: Norman Carrier and his wife Cecile, Marshall Carrier and his wife Rita, Paul Carrier and his wife Lorraine, Gloria Casavant all of Winchendon, Ma, Annette Taylor and her husband Stanley of Rindge and Carol Fournier and her husband Morris of Chelsea, Ma.; eight grand children: William Packard of Fitzwilliam, Adrian Packard of Richmond, Amy Carrier of Swanzy, Yvonne Peters of Troy, Tyler Carrier of Swanzy, Ross

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Town News

Pursell of Troy, Matthew Pursell and Lynsey Pursell both of Richmond, eight great grand children as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is predeceased by his wife Mary and a sister Anita Barthel.

IHM Student Wins Lions Club Award Sister Maria Philomena, M.I.C.M.

Stephen Bryan won both the District and State Awards for fifth grade in the recent Lions Club Patriotic Essay Contest. The essay judges commented on his "creative originality." Mrs. Nancy Nye, a past District Governor of the NH Lions Club Youth Services, presented Stephen's medal, plaque, and \$100 check at the IHM graduation ceremony on June 13. Congratulations, Stephen!

A Pioneer Norm Woodward

The man was the pioneer spirit personified. His kindness toward and warm acceptance of newcomers to his Richmond had, it seems to me, but one prerequisite..that the flatlander "pitch in" to help the town in

some way. From then on a warm firm grip from his overused and carpal tunnel repaired hand was your pleasure whenever you ran into him here or around Keene. His was such an ever-giving spirit. You did not have to know him well to appreciate the goodness of the man. Thank you, Bob, for the example you set and for all you did for all of us.



Early and Dear Friends

Brown Baggin Judith Graves

Do not miss this must see event!!!

August 14th, 11-4 all ages welcomed!!

Pavillion, Richmond, NH rain or shine

Mark your calendars now for an all day Fundraiser event sponsored by the Richmond Preservation Committee

MUSIC BY THE FRIENDLY TOWN BAND from Orange, Ma.

BROWN BAG lunches available from the RPC (you know how good these are!)

*BAKE SALE TABLE (homemade foods from Richmond's finest cooks!)

*SILENT AUCTION (wow this is one that you will want to look over for sure. Many great items!!)

*DEMONSTRATIONS (come learn and be entertained)

*CRAFT TABLES AND FARM PRODUCE TABLES (your crafts OR produce the charge is \$10 a space)



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RPC TABLE (stop by as this is where you will find Richmond 2011 calendars available. Be sure to stock up for gifts as well.

QUILT RAFFLE (Richmond can boost some of the best quilters!)

LOCAL ART WALL (Paintings & Photos by local artists, look at where you will need artwork on your walls and get it here)

RICHMOND ROOSTER TABLE (Meet the staff)

*If you or someone you know would like to add to our bake sale table, silent auction area, do a demonstration, set up a craft table or farm produce table, PLEASE call me so we can include you. Judith M. Graves 239-8005

Looking forward to seeing everyone there at our small town event that is sure to put a smile on your face and a hop to your step.

A Great Man John Bocalini

A measure of a person's greatness is through their selfless acts. Bob was a great man.

A measure of the wealth of a person is the amount of love he has to share. Bob was a wealthy man.

When Jesus was asked "Master, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like to this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments dependeth the whole law and the prophets." Bob exemplified the meaning of both of these in all that he did.

The heavens are blessed to have him back.

Protecting the Environment at Cass Pond Elaine Moriarty

The residents of Richmond are blessed to have one of the nicest beaches in the area. To keep it that way, requires all persons using the beach to respect it. The majority does so, but there are always some who live by their own standards.

Among the offenders are the ones who drive on the beach or perform



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wheelies over and over in the parking lot tearing it up.

Other offenders feel the "No Dogs Allowed" that is posted, certainly doesn't apply to them. Why be concerned if your dog urinates or defecates on the beach, where small children play and dig in the sand. Never mind the potential for E-coli contamination of the sand or leaching into the water. If those who swim were denied the right to do so from indifferent dog owners, this would be a sad consequence for the majority of beach users.

Then there are those who torment the mallard ducks, they feed them human food which can make them sick or change their inborn foraging instinct. After these people get tired of the ducks hanging around, they chase them. If they would stop and think, this is after all the ducks home and instead provide a short science lesson for their children, much would be gained.

Lastly there are those people who do not feel they want to cart home their trash. I'll never understand why you can bring food and drinks to the beach and not put the remnants back in your vehicle. Do you even stop to consider how damaging it is to leave cans, bottles, diapers, sandwiches, wrappers and remains of fruit, cigarette butts, etc on the beach? Protecting and preserving the environment I think not.

Obviously the people who need to read this article the most, will not be the one's doing so. I've been heavily criticized for speaking out on these matters, but my attempts to keep Cass Pond pristine are important to me and I know I've done my part to respect the beach, have you.

A Man to the Rescue ***Jonathan Bloom***

When we moved to Richmond we flatlanders had no idea of what to expect during the winter. We didn't even have a driveway and just parked the car on the grass beside our house. After the first snowstorm we realized that we'd need help, and as we knew nobody in town, we asked our neighbor (and Town Clerk) Dot Robbins what to do. Dot suggested that Bob VanBrocklin, who plowed her driveway, might be willing to do ours as well, so every time it snowed, Bob would appear around 7 AM with his tractor to plow our driveway after he had done Dot's. After the second winter, he said sheepishly that he was getting "too old" to do it, so we went out and bought a snowblower and learned to do it ourselves. It's hard to believe that Bob thought he was getting "too old" over twenty years ago! He certainly didn't act it.

Definition: Shunning ***Russ Provost***

"Shunning" is the act of deliberately avoiding association with and habitually keeping from an individual or group. It is a sanction against association, often associated with religious groups and other tightly knit organizations and communities

Blueberry Fiddle Festival ***Sister Maria Philomena***

IHM School continues its annual food and music Festival as a busy one-day Event on Aug, 14.

The price is right to celebrate with a one-of-a-kind, old-fashioned family festival: the eighth annual Blueberry Fiddle Festival, organized by Richmond's Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Admission is FREE; parking is a one-time \$5. Enjoy live music and delicious food, browse the craft vendors, run a sack race, participate in an original New England melodrama, cheer for your favorite fiddler (the contestants are judged partially on audience response!), and join us for a family contra dance. Lots of fun for all ages!

The festival is held at Cheshire Fairgrounds (Route 12, Swanzey, NH) on Saturday, August 14, 9am-9pm. For more information, visit <http://www.blueberryfiddlefestival.com> or call 603-239-6495.

Tentative Schedule Saturday, August 14, 2010

- 9:00 - Festival opens
 - Contest registration
 - Open Mike
- 9:30 - Contest Judges Q & A
- 9:45 - Jr.-Junior Division
- 10:15 - Deep Hole Road
- 11:00 - Jr. Junior Awards
 - Junior Division
- 11:45 - Future Famous Fiddlers & Blueberry Jammers
- 12:30 - Junior Awards
 - Senior Division
- 1:15 - The Homegrown String Band
- 2:00 - Senior Awards
 - Open Division
- 2:45 - Well-Tuned Trio
- 3:30 - Open Awards
 - Championship Division
- 4:00 - FISH FRY
- 4:15 - Blueberry Jammers

- 5:00 - Championship Awards
- 5:30 - Melodrama
- 5:45 - Knitting Circle with Erica Jackofsky
- 6:00 - Twin Fiddle Division
- 6:45 - The Homegrown String Band
- 7:15 - Twin Fiddle Awards
- 7:30 - Jamboree and Family Contra Dance

A Sad Day ***Dick Drew***

This is a sad day for Richmond. He was the steady rock of this town. Nothing seemed to change his friendly nature.

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Roundabout Richmond

The Fire Chjef

Ed Atkins

A look at interesting things in and around Richmond.....

My intention this month was to write about the large quantities of moose that inhabit the woods and bogs in our town. That was until July 7 came.

As I sit and write this article, the Richmond Fire Department, of which I am a member, is preparing to say goodbye to one of our own. Robert Van Brocklin was more than just a member, he was a founding father. Someone decided in 1943 that the Town was in need of a fire department, Bob Van and others stepped up. For the next 67, yes 67 years, Bob maintained a readiness, an eagerness, an unselfish desire to rush right out and help the people associated with his beloved Town. Be they longtime residents, relative newcomers, or just people passing through, Bob would venture out in adverse weather conditions, leave his family at holidays, and drop everything he was doing when the fire alarm sounded to go and help ease someone else's suffering. That is what is expected of you when you are a volunteer firefighter, and Bob Van did it for 67 years. As far as I know, he never once complained about it.

Bob passed away on the day of our monthly meeting. As we discussed training, equipment, critiques of other calls, and even the b-b-que, I think all of us only had Bob on our minds. After the meeting, no one left. We all knew the Department would, in some way, be a part of Bob's funeral, as it was such a huge part of Bob and his family's life. A phone call from Hugh let us know of this tremendous honor. Chief Pearsall requested that all available personnel show up the next night to polish trucks and get things ready for this solemn occasion. The next night we had even more people show up to work, some from other towns. When the trucks were polished, and funeral plans in place, some went home. Others stayed longer to remember Bob and share our "Bob Van" experiences with each other. Mike Bailey told of how his Grandfather and Bob were Town Policemen and responded to a break in at the store. Bob left his gun home, not figuring he would need anything like that in Richmond. Mike Pearsall told of a homeowner burning brush illegally and had gotten away from him. The Fire Department put out his fire and the homeowner stated that now that the Department was there he could continue burning. Bob got red in the face and Mike stated that that was the only time he had ever seen Bob get mad! My own input was that whenever I saw Bob, I would ask "How ya' doin' Bob?" to which he would stare at me and reply



Grand Marshall - Bicentennial

"Well.... I'm still kicking". I always chuckled after. After the stories petered out, I asked a question of all who were still there, knowing what the answer would be. Could anyone say anything bad about Bob? Not one person could think of anything. Then it came to me, there was just one bad thing we could say about Bob that all agreed with me on. Bob was one of the S-L-O-W-E-S-T drivers we had all ever encountered!!!!!! He seemed to know whenever we were late for appointments, work, dates or whatever 'cuz he would pull out in front of us just we were about to pass his house!!!! MADDENING!

I could write on and on about Bob, in fact, a book could probably be written about him and his life. Bob wouldn't want anyone to fuss about him though, I suspect. I would, as a Richmond resident, a Firefighter, and most importantly, a friend, like to thank Sylvia and the rest of the family for allowing us to take Bob away from your Birthdays, your Christmases, your family dinners so that he could help others. He will always be a vital piece in the history of our Department, and our Town. The day of his funeral promises to be a hot, sticky day. The sense of loss is great, emotions high and low when we remember him, but the Richmond Fire

Department will be there to look after him as he did for us for 67 years....and no one will complain.....

It is what is expected of you as a Volunteer Firefighter.

I'll see you 'Roundabout Richmond'

Questions or comments, please call 239-6337

Salmorejo

Johnathan Bloom

When we were in Spain, we were at first mystified by this orange-colored soup or dip that we enjoyed in the very hot weather. It's somewhat like gazpacho (but much better!)

Two large tomatoes, cored and quartered

2 thick slices stale french bread, crusts removed and cubed

1 medium clove of garlic

1 TB wine vinegar

1/3 cup good olive oil

Put tomatoes and garlic in a blender and blend until liquified. Add stale bread and continue blending until the puree turns creamy and very smooth.

Add vinegar, olive oil, and salt to taste and blend to mix thoroughly. Chill. (You may want to thin it a bit with cold water.)

Serve in shallow bowls and sprinkle with chopped hard-boiled eggs, chopped ham, and/or chopped cucumber. You can eat it with a spoon like a soup or sop it up with bread like a dip.

Makes about 2 cups.

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SUPERVISOR EXTRAORDINAIRE A MAN OF GOOD WILL

Melissa Herman

One of the many town positions that Bob VanBrocklin held in service to Richmond was Supervisor of the Check-list. For [XX] years he, along with his wife, Sylvia, registered voters, maintained the town voter list, and worked many long hours at the Supervisors' table during town elections.

I first met Bob back in 1987 when my husband and I became residents of Richmond before taking jobs overseas. In his kindly, sloooow-talking way, Bob welcomed us into the town and onto the roster of Richmond voters. Little did I know that a few years later, after retirement, I would be working alongside Bob as a Supervisor myself. He took me under his wing and guided me in what I needed to know for the position. By the time he decided not to run again and his daughter-in-law, Alison, replaced him, I had become confident in carrying out the tasks of a Supervisor. We regarded him a Supervisor Ex Officio and kept a chair ready for him at the Supervisor "command post" on election days for the times when he took a break from placing ballots in the ballot box. He was always eager to keep up with the status of The List and see who had been registered or deleted since the last time.

Over the years I always looked forward to receiving the affectionate hug bestowed by this generous and warm-hearted man. There was something about Bob that just made me feel good. And now, whenever I drive by Bob's resting place in the Earl Howard Cemetery on Rt. 32, the memory of this man and his benevolent spirit abide in my heart. Thank you, Bob.

Fitzwilliam Historical Society **Terri Sillanpaa**

The FHS is offering an enjoyable, skilled workshop on "Pressed Flower Arrangements Workshop," conducted by designer Trudy Harper of Keene. Harper has handled many craft and flower classes over the years and this hands-on workshop promises to be one of the best she has done. We have requested that the focus be on old time varieties to fit our vintage theme along with some of the colorful flower species we find in today's markets. The date is Saturday, August 14th beginning at 1:00 pm, to be held at the Amos J. Blake House Museum, on the Fitzwilliam Town Common. Cost is \$15 per person, all materials included, non-refundable. Limit 12 with members being given first acceptance. Non

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members will not lose their money if they are bumped for a member!

Please contact us at least one week in advance to guarantee your spot.

The "Dolls, Dollhouses & Miniatures Exhibit," the most successful exhibit the FHS has EVER held, has now come to a close. We are still taking names for the Doll and Miniature Club which will be formed some time in the fall, to be based in Fitzwilliam. Contact us!

The FHS Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 17th at 7:00 pm at the Fleur de Lis Girls Camp on Laurel Lake. A pot luck supper will be the highlight with music and a program held by the "Open Spaces Committee" of Fitzwilliam. This informative event will feature a thoughtful talk on conservation along with a sur-

vey which can be filled out on location. Special guests for the evening will be members of the Troy Historical Society. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Free tours continue at the Blake House on Saturdays from 1-4 through Labor Day week-end. "Twilight Tours" and other special tours can be made by special arrangement. Family groups are particularly encouraged to take part in this delightful evening tour with soft, dim lights and lollipops for the youngsters, if they can find them! Please contact us for information at fitzhs@peoplepc.com or visit us at www.fitzhistoricalsociety.org

Monadnock Community Market **Bonnie McCarthy**

EXTRA, EXTRA...Coming soon to a town near you...

On June 28, 2010, I attended a kick-off meeting which launched the membership drive for the Monadnock Community Market (MCM). Since February 2008 a group of dedicated professionals has been researching ways and means to open a food co-op in downtown Keene in 2012. It will be a member owned cooperative with an emphasis on local, sustainable foods. The vision is to make it "walk-able" and "bike-able" for people who live near downtown, and provide free parking for those of us who do not. Current plans call for it to be somewhere around 11,000 square feet, provide upwards of 70 jobs, and support local food producers and farmers. In order to prove to



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banks and other business lenders that there is serious grass roots support for a local food co-op, there must be a sustained membership drive to gain initial capitalization. You may ask, if the goal is 1000 founding members by 2012, "Why join now?" Because if founding membership goals are not met incrementally between now and 2012, the co-op will not become a reality until 2014 or later. You get the picture, I am sure. The one time, member-owner, founding membership cost is \$200, which can be paid in as little as \$25/month installments. I joined with a small down payment at the meeting. What a win-win situation for you and the Monadnock Region: cooperatively owning a business that benefits our community as well as local farmers and food producers who provide access to high quality food. The website is: www.MonadnockCommunityMarket.com. The call is to "Enjoy great food and invest in our community's future." For more information and/or a membership application, please call me at 239-4088 or email me at ceremonies.heart@yahoo.com.

Bob VanBrocklin
Jill Rodd

There are so many wonderful things about our town, but for me The Richmond Fire Department would have to be the best. Bob Van Brocklin would arrive in less than five minutes and after checking out to make sure it was a minor emergency, he would go back town to the entrance of Martin Cook Road to direct the trucks in the right direction, then come back up to oversee everything.

One particular incident involved a minor chimney fire with the wood stove, and as Bob sat in one of my rocking chairs watching Bud Jacobsen and his crew take charge, He began to tell me stories of his days as a boy in my house.. He spent many happy times helping with the hay and milking and then every Saturday night dancing on the porch while Carl Johnson and Ned Martin played their fiddles.

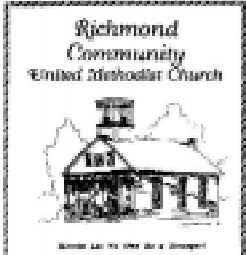
He had a great dignity and kindness about him. I never felt like "a summer complaint from Connecticut" with him and when I moved up here permanently in the winter of 1991, He was one of the first to call to make sure I had enough wood for that stove.



Our Flag, Brave and True!
By Stephen Bryan

Once a boy went to visit his grandpa and asked him, "Grandpa, why do you stand up when the flag goes by in a parade?"

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The flag had undergone modifications over the years. At first, our flag was a red piece of cloth with a white asterisk lined with blue. This was called the Continental Colors in 1775-77. In 1777, the first official flag was founded at the Second Continental Congress with thirteen white stars in a field of blue. Also on the flag were seven red stripes and six white ones, which represented the thirteen colonies. As our country continued to grow, so did the flag. In 1955, the flag had forty-eight stars for the forty-eight states. Currently, it has fifty stars for our fifty states.

In our flag, the red represents hardiness and courage; the blue is for preservation and justice; and the white is for purity and innocence. Our flag has undergone wars and changes, but it will always be our flag to lead us on. Isn't it a beautiful sight waving in the breeze?

HISTORY OF HERBS Part 1
Judith M. Graves

August is a great time to settle back and enjoy the fruits of our labors. Gardens started and watered, fed and eaten, herbs adding flavor and color to our foods, flowers filling vases and shared with friends. The work has been done and now we enjoy through till frost.

By the year 1600 Europe had more people than it could feed. Farming was less efficient then, as large fields were needed to feed even a small village. Wood was an important fuel so forest occupied what would have been good farmland. The only frontier left was the sea and that could be crossed. Columbus had proven it in 1492, so people set ships for America. Some to escape religious and political persecution and some had hopes of getting rich quick.

The English came first, landing in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. It was also the English who in 1620 began to settle in New England. In 1623 the Dutch came to New York which they named New Netherlands and groups of Scandinavian Finns, and Swedes made their homes in Delaware, English Quakers came to Pennsylvania in 1681 and to Pennsylvania came Germans. The German word for Germans was "Deutsch" and neighbors called them Dutch. Today some of them are

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still known as the Pennsylvania Dutch.

The first group of pioneers landed in a wilderness. The wealth of food delighted them. Game animals were abundant, esp. deer, moose, elk, bear, rabbits, and squirrels.

The Atlantic yielded a treasure of soft shelled clams, plump oysters, cod, mackerel and salmon. Fresh water fish in streams and rivers were so thick legend says hungry colonist could simply scoop them up with the pan he was going to fry them in.

Skies were offend filled with flocks of geese and pigeons. Sometimes so numerous that the sky darkened when a huge flock flew across the face of the sun and when they settled in trees to roost, whole branches sometimes snapped under their weight.

Berries grew in wild profusion, and vegetables unknown in Europe such as kidney beans, lima beans, peppers, pumpkins, corn, squash and sweet potatoes. The Colonists found that many of the seeds they brought from Europe, when set in the American earth flourished greatly.

The first to arrive in Virginia 1607 were soon in danger of starving. Capt. John Smith led the English gentlemen who had no intention of staying long. They wanted the New Worlds legendary gold and silver. They wanted to load up and return and were not prepared to survive in wilderness. They didn't plant crops and lived off the salted beef and hard biscuits they had brought. When that was gone they traded guns and gunpowder to the Indians in exchange for food. This later proved unwise!!!

The Pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower in 1620 coming ashore in Plymouth, Ma. They too knew almost nothing about living off the land. Most had been townspeople, shopkeepers, laborers and artisans. There was plenty of fish, but no nets, there were countless rabbits, but no way to snare them and the seeds they brought took a long time to clear the land to raise. They didn't wish to ask the Indians as they were looked upon as 'Wild Men'. Many died.

This is the first of two parts about the History of Herbs. Knowledge comes from understanding and thirsting for it. There no doubt could be volumes about herbs from growing to using in our medicines and eventually into our foods. Until next time if this is something that you enjoy knowing about, visit the library and book stores and enjoy learning more about herbs.

HINTS: Fill a small muslin bag with dried peppermint. Hang from your mirror, place in your purse, or in a drawer at work. Squeeze the herbs and place the bag against your nose, inhale slowly in and out 3 times. This will clear your mind for taking a test, giving a speech, and will help make you an alert driver should you feel sleepy. Natural uses are always a good thing.

Cornerstone of the Church

Pam Goodell

Bob VanBrocklin will be sorely missed. Not only was he a pillar of the Richmond community, but he was also a cornerstone of the Richmond United Methodist Church.



There Whenever Needed

Bob joined the church in 1949 at the age of 31 and had been a faithful member ever since. Just like in the community Bob held leadership positions in the church and worked hard to keep the building in good repair and looking nice both inside and out.

During the major church renovations in the late 1990's and 2000, Bob worked as hard, if not harder, than those of us who were so much younger than he was. To this day I have never forgotten how he was over 80 years old but still working in the crawl space under the church with us. I can still picture him bent at the waist for lack of room to stand upright, swinging a pick over and over again to remove rocks and boulders. I was amazed at his strength and endurance. I remember thinking, "He has the strength of "Babe" and the heart of "Ferdinand". I admired and respected him a great deal.

Bob was a quiet, unassuming man. He didn't say much, but when he did people listened because he was interesting and succinct. He was very proud of his family, and more often than not he would be telling of their accomplishments. Over the years I heard about his grandson Andy's sports activities, his granddaughter Emily's musical activities and his granddaughter Laura's nurses activities. He talked of Hugh's house building activities and spoke affectionately of Alison as "Ali". He would tell me when he and Sylvia were going to Maine to visit the great grandchildren. Sometimes Bob would come out with his family stories right in the middle of some discussion at a church business meeting. He always seemed to know when we were "stuck" on some issue and needed a little break like that before continuing on. At least that is what I

thought it was. Maybe he just couldn't wait any longer to tell us the family news he was so excited to share.

No job was too big or too small for Bob. He mowed the church lawn, shoveled the snow, and passed the offering plate. I think he was in charge of selling tickets at every church supper, dessert theatre, and



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holiday fair luncheon. He loved to be around people and to be helping out.

I also had opportunity to know Bob on two particular community levels, his election day work and his town hall maintenance work. As usual Bob completed his work efficiently and in an uncomplaining manner. For years Bob, as a supervisor of the checklist along with Sylvia, sat at a table close to mine at every election held in town. Whenever the moderator needed a break, Bob would man the ballot box for him. He also set up the voting booths ahead of time, arranged the chairs, and sharpened the pencils as well as sweeping the floors and picking up at the end. When things were slow during the day, he always made sure to take the time to chat a bit and to ask "How many voters have been in now?"

From the time I first started working at the town hall, Bob was the man I called when something needed doing or fixing. He was always dependable and quick to respond, whether it was to climb the rickety old ladder to change a light bulb, or to open a stuck window, or to see why it was only 40 degrees in the building on a winter morning. He got in the habit, also, of dropping in every so often just to say "Hi. How is it going?"

What a legacy of hard work, caring, dependability, humility, dedication, service, friendship and love Bob has left! He has touched our lives in ways that will remain forever.



Lifetime Commitment

Suspenders

Bonnie McCarthy

Suspenders defy gravity

Clipped to a bit of cloth

Not conscious of their support

He carries on...

In the garden, mowing the lawn

Volunteering in every way

Nothing is too demanding

He serves his family, his town

His church...Humanity

Nothing suspends belief

Like the departure of a friend

Despite knowing he is blessed

Jolly Good Mysteries on DVD and CD

Frank Behrens

AGATHA CHRISTIE HOUR Back in 1982, someone decided to do a miniseries dramatizing several of Agatha Christie's short stories not featuring Poirot or Miss Marple but more or less ordinary people to whom extraordinary things occur. Acorn Media has released a boxed set of 2 DVDs that includes 5 of these tales, under the series title "The Agatha Christie Hour." It is a pure delight.

Two of them, "The Case of the Middle-Aged Housewife" and "The



arrow in his back, it did not have to come from a bow. And so on. Religious matters are used only to further the plot, not to convert a character or the reader.

So at present, I am having a wonderful time listening to two Naxos boxed AudioBooks titled "The Innocence of Father Brown," Volumes 1 and 2 respectively.

The first includes unabridged readings of "The Blue Cross," "The Secret Garden," "The Queer Feet," "The Flying Stars," "The Invisible Man," and "The Honour of Israel Gow." The second holds "The Wrong Shape," "The Sins of Prince Saradine," "The Hammer of God," "The Eye of Apollo," "The Sign of the Broken Sword," and "The Three Tools of Death."

Each is as much fun as the title, with added spice provided by the master thief (soon to reform and become a detective) Flambeau and the intrepid (but soon to go too far) French detective Valentine. But in such recordings, much depends on the reader; and here, veteran Naxos narrator David Timson does his usual splendid job in keeping the pace moving and the listener riveted.

The Gift Named Bob

Pete Majoy

On a morning of the first weekend of July 2010, I entered the 4 Corner Store. It was the last time I would see Bob VanBrocklin. I spoke to my wife, Theresa, of my delightful encounter with Bob that morning. There was never a moment that I did not completely enjoy seeing Bob whom I consider to have been a gentle, energetic, wonderful and giving person.

In the 4 Corner Store, Bob was filling his cup with coffee when I told him I would need his help with the coming elections. He was delighted to hear that, and I told him I would be in contact. We began a brief conversation during which I told him how good he looked to which he responded with a "thank you" and added "but my back is bothering me." He then showed me that he had to make sure he had the waist of his pants securely hugging his mid-section to provide a kind of pressure support for his back.

As I narrated this description to Theresa of my few moments with Bob, I then told her of the last part of the communication which, for me, sits in my memory as an instance of luck and gratitude. Bob's coffee cup had now been filled to where he wanted it to be, and Bob had selected a sweet



Familiy

snack along with it. I told Bob I would be paying for it, and after I did, the last memory snapshot of Bob was his smile and his thank-you. Sometimes, timing is everything because within a few days I was informed of Bob's passing.

There are gifts that we cherish in this life. Bob was one of them. Many times, I would pretend with Bob that I was not sure of his age and was he now 50 or 55 years old to which he would laugh and say "I wish", and then I would go through a series of guesses, all 20-30 years younger in age than he really was, and he would finally tell me the truth to which

I would say something like "oh, c'mon, Bob, you're kidding me, right?!" This would provoke a smile in us both.

So, there I was exiting the 4 Corner Store after having been gifted with a memory which I shall honor for

the rest of my days, the opportunity to gift Bob with a cup of coffee and



90th Birthday Cake

something sweet to eat with it. That small gift was a much bigger gift to me of Bob's smile which was priceless.

Selectmen's Meeting

Date: 24 May 2010 - Time: 7:00pm

Attending: Wes Vaughan, Sandra Gillis

Read mail and signed checks.

JC Boudreau is out tonight.

Ed Atkins, Fire Warden, came in and had an informal discussion with Sandra and Wes about possible arson activity up on Benson Rd.

Christine Bryan called regarding raffle permit 2010-003. She would like to extend that permit to later into the month of June. The extension was authorized by the Selectmen.

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk, Wendy O'Brien, librarian and Bonnie McCarthy, library trustee, came in to see the Selectmen regarding some Town Hall attic issues.

Annette brought up that she thought someone had accessed the upstairs and placed two boxes of misc material. The Selectmen gave her authorization to remove it.

Wendy and Bonnie requested that some tables presently being held at the library be placed in the Town Hall, upstairs. The Selectmen also gave authorization for the Librarian to place them upstairs.

Andy Wood, Police Chief, came in to see the Selectmen regarding the upcoming hearing about weight limits on sections of Fish Hatchery Rd. and Sandy Pond Rd.

Andy has the latest letter from Mr. Mann dtd 19 May 2010.

Bill Johnson came in to go over two building permits with the Selectmen.

Building permit #2010-006 and 2010-007 were approved for M405-078-1 and M405-078-2 and a Certificate of Occupancy was issued for building permit # 2010-001.

Wes made a motion to go into non-public per RSA 91-A:3II (c) Sandra seconded it. Motion carried. Non-public session is entered at 8:55pm. Public session is reconvened at 9:12pm. Minutes have been sealed.

Forest fire deputy warden Melanie L. Ellis is appointed by the board. Pistol permit # R338519 and R338518 are approved

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Board adjourned at 10:00pm.

Date: 7 June 2010 - Time: 7:00 pm

Attending: JC Boudreau, Wes Vaughan, Sandra Gillis

Read mail and signed checks.

Marcus Beauregard came in to see the Selectmen about a cartridge for the printer at the CD building. Marcus advised the Selectmen the culvert in front of the CD building is filled up and needs to be cleaned out. JC recommended emailing Dana Taylor, Road Agent, about the matter. Another matter brought up was the sand accumulation at the Fire Station from winter sanding. Darrold will be contacted to clean this up.

Wilson came in to see the Selectmen about using Camp Takodah YMCA's new dining hall for wedding receptions, graduations parties and etc. JC recommended Pete discuss this matter with the State regarding any existing requirements. This office will check with the Police Dept. and Wes will check with the Planning Board at their next meeting on the 6th of July. Bev emailed Andy regarding any actions that need to be taken by the Police Dept.

John Ruel, Building Permit 2009-019, came in to see the Selectmen about the deadline for starting and finishing the walkway that is part of his permit. JC discussed the deadlines with John.

Kathy McKirk came in to inquire about when Old Turnpike Rd is going to be graded and ditched. The Selectmen will look into it. Pole licenses for poles on Taylor Hill Rd and Fish Hatchery Rd are approved for Public Service of NH

The Selectmen read the proposed article that Sandra drafted for The Rooster and Sandra submits it.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Board adjourned at 10:25pm.





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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Town Business Hours

Board of Selectmen: J.C. Boudreau,
Sandra Gillis, Wesley Vaughn

- ☐ Mon. 7:00 —7:30 p.m. Town Departments
- ☐ Mon. 7:30 —? p.m. Public Concerns

Town Secretary: Beverly Hart

- ☐ Mon. 6 p.m. —9 p.m.
- ☐ Wed. 8 a.m. — 12 noon, 1:00 p.m.- 5p.m.
- ☐ Fri. 8 a.m. —12 noon, 1:00 p.m.— 4p.m.

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy: Pamela Goodell

- ☐ Mon. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m., 6 —8 p.m.
- ☐ Wed. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m.
- ☐ Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. —Noon

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

- ☐ Mon. 7 p.m. —8 p.m.
- ☐ Wed. 2 p.m. —4 p.m.

Planning Board: Richard Drew, Chairperson

Meetings held at Civil Defense Building

- ☐ 1st & 3rd Tues of the Month —7:30 p.m.

Transfer Station & Recycling Facility

- ☐ Tues. 8 a.m. —4 p.m.
- ☐ Thurs. 8 a.m. —7 p.m.
- ☐ Sat. 8 a.m. —5 p.m.

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian

- ☐ Tues. 4:30 p.m. —8 p.m.
- ☐ Wed. 9:00 a.m. —12 p.m.
- ☐ Thurs. 4:30 —7 p.m.
- ☐ Sat. 10 a.m. —2 p.m.

Fire Warden: Ed Atkins

EMERGENCY: POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE 9-1-1

- ☐ Selectmen —239-4232
- ☐ Town Clerk —239-6202
- ☐ Tax Collector —239-6106



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Richmond Rooster Staff

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- ☐ Treasurer: Janel Swanson
- ☐ Distribution: Melissa Herman; Denise Crowl
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Deadline is the 10th of each month.

The Richmond Rooster welcomes comments and article contributions.

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