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Richmond Rooster Staff

Publisher: Marie Knowlton

Editor: John Boccalini 239-6696

Design/Production: Eismont Design

Proofreaders: Jean Tandy, Bob Weekes,

Advertising Manager: Peter Majoy

Treasurer: Deb Coll

Distribution: Melissa Herman, Denise Crowl

Contributors: Frank Behrens, Richard J. Dwinell,

Judith Graves, Sandra Gillis, Pam Goodell, Judith Graves,

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welcomes comments and article contributions.

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J.C. Boudreau, Sandra Gillis, Lori Scanlan

Mon. 7:00 p.m.—?

Selectmen’s Assistant: Roberta Frasier

Town Secretary: Beverly Hart

Mon. 10 a.m. – noon, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wed. 8 a.m. – 12 noon, 1:00 p.m.– 5p.m.

Thurs. 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 – 5 p.m.

Thurs. 9 a.m. – noon

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy: Denise Nolan

Mon. 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wed. 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

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Meetings held at Civil Defense Building

1st & 3rd Tues of the Month – 7:30 p.m.

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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

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

Tax Collector – 239-6106

Visit town on-line: <http://richmond.nh.gov>



FEBRUARY 2012 • VOL. 22 NO. 2

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Bob Weekes

I fell in love with the Monadnock Region 68 years ago, when I was five years old. For family vacations, my parents used to rent one of the old Riverside Cabins that stood adjacent to the original arch bridge where Route 9 crosses into Brattleboro. The cabins were then owned by farmers, Frank and Ada Fowke, New Hampshire natives through and through. My brother and I would ride in the back of Frank’s ancient pickup truck, called the “Turtle,” to the sawmill to get sawdust for his chicken coops, to the ice house to get blocks for the ice boxes in each of the cabins, or to “assist” with any other chores associated with running the farm or the cabins. From her little general store up the hill, Ada sold pies she’d baked and soda pop (called “tonic” back then), things two city kids couldn’t get enough of. The Fowkes were the nicest, kindest, most generous and loving folks we’d ever met. To us they personified the people of the Monadnock Region, a place I always think of as the Currier and Ives corner of New England.

I learned to swim and fish under that bridge over the Connecticut River. Mt. Wantastiquet was the first mountain I ever climbed in a long list of mountains in New Hampshire and throughout the U.S. that I would later add to my list. As a kid growing up in the suburbs of New York City, I loved the contrasting lifestyle that New Hampshire offered and the people I met there. Later on, I made my living in New York City, commuting to and from the Big Apple with a few million other people doing the same thing. But through all those years I kept coming back to the Monadnock Region to recharge my batteries. If you have read “Perley, the True Story of a New Hampshire Hermit” (it’s in our library), you know a little about the years I spent with my growing family weekendng at Shinbone Shack in the hills of Stoddard above Granite Lake.

I bought our 1775 house in Richmond in 1985 and moved here permanently from New York five years later. Although my 26 years of home ownership in Richmond hardly qualify me as a “New Hampsha” native as local tradition defines it, it does give me enough perspective to comment on how this town has changed over the past quarter century. When we moved here from the hustle and bustle of a megalopolis, we were struck by the quiet little things here in Richmond, especially our kind and friendly neighbors. We had moved into a real “community,” a place where people genuinely liked and helped each other whenever help was needed. I soon found myself building picnic tables for the town beach, carrels for our

library (they’re still in use today), helping write and publish books about local history, running water stops for the “To the Border and Back” Races. I worked long hours helping to build the Richmond Pavilion behind the fire station, helped sheetrock the addition to the fire station, helped perambulate the town boundaries, painted a house for a resident whose husband had died, and helped neighbors whose projects needed an extra pair of hands. Does that make me a community hero? Heck no. I was working alongside neighbors who were doing exactly the same thing!

That was the Richmond I moved to. Happily that spirit of volunteerism is still very much alive today...with wonderful neighbors still willing to offer their time and resources and labor in support of all who live here. We have excellent town boards, staffed with honest, hard working and eminently capable people...*our neighbors*... who volunteer their skills and countless hours of work to keep our community functioning smoothly. After 26 years of living in Richmond it makes me feel good that our town is well run, that our roads are well managed, that the actions of our elected boards are conducted and recorded openly, transparently and honestly and that our town hall has been made safer and more user friendly. And that’s just for starters.

But something has changed...and I...and many of my neighbors that I regularly see and socialize with...feel that the change is tragic. *(Continued on next page.)*

The Richmond Rooster

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Our elected representatives should be commended not only for doing a great job conducting the town's business, *but also for working in an environment that makes doing their jobs even more difficult*. That is an environment cultivated by a small minority of Richmond residents who are carefully orchestrating a vicious and sustained attack against our able volunteers, both individually and collectively, via accusations and innuendos it spreads in a newspaper they publish, in blogs it places on the internet, in letters it writes to the Sentinel and, I have been told, in five separate lawsuits now pending against the town and our elected officials. *Richmond residents can only wonder why some people seem consumed 24/7, month in and month out, with attacking their own neighbors*. And all should be saddened that our neighbors, volunteers who we elected to serve us, must volunteer their efforts in the face of this sponsored acrimony.

That’s what has changed about Richmond and, as I said earlier, I truly regard that as tragic. Everyone I talk to tells me they also are sick and tired of this incessant negativity, a campaign whose only goal seems to be to create rancor and disharmony in Richmond. I know I’m sick of it and I am thoroughly

Thoughts From One of the Silent Majority

Bill Coll

I have been reading most of the articles published in *The Richmond Eagle* on a monthly basis since its inception. I’ve seen some articles written by different authors that seem to be rather pointed. In some cases, the point of the article is made by omitting contradictory facts and it is so blatantly obvious that it often brings a smile to my face and the thought “you are kidding, right”! I didn’t think the *Eagle* publication was dedicated to humor - oops, my bad.

Throughout my life I’ve been told that I’m a good listener, and I’m content in being a listener. I’m not one that often speaks out, especially loudly. My friends know I’m their friend, and that speaks volumes.

I’m far from being a master of the English language, but here is something to ponder. How many times have you heard someone say “no” in discussion? You heard it, you repeated it to someone else and maybe even wrote it down in meeting minutes for non-attendees to read. The second or subsequent listener or reader only knows it was a “no”. Accomplished writers can convey words in a meaningful way that can express the tone as well. For the rest of us, it’s up to how it was received, as an absolute “no” or astonishment “no”, and even then it’s sometimes a “crap shoot”.

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disheartened by it. We wonder if in Richmond the Second Commandment, “Love thy neighbor as thyself,” has been replaced by the First Amendment, free speech, interpreted by some as the right to verbally accuse, attack and abuse one’s neighbors day in and day out to further their own ends.

For my part, I’ll express my opinions by how I vote in town elections because, thank God, we still live in a democracy where the majority rules. I will also continue to volunteer my time and efforts to make Richmond a good place for my wife and I *and our neighbors* to live. We’ll still pick up road trash along Route 32 from the Four Corners to the Massachusetts border. I’ll continue to write articles for the Richmond Rooster, ones which deal with our local history or look on the bright side of things, hoping to entertain its readers. I’ll still attend to the “honey do” list of chores my wife gives me for things that need doing at the Richmond Library which she serves as a Trustee. And if we can we’ll help a neighbor who might need an extra pair of hands for some chore. Does that make us community heroes? Heck no! We’ll be working alongside neighbors who are doing exactly the same thing.

Enough rambling, points being...know your author, his or her perspective, be alert to all the facts pertaining to the article subject, be ready to smile and say “you are kidding, right”, and oh, don’t ramble!! No material or psychological awards desired.

105 Old Homestead Highway

Terri O’Rorke

Have you seen it? Have you seen the new and improved 21st century style Selectman’s Office? Several months ago, requests were made from the Selectman’s Office through the Richmond Rooster for resident input on how to improve a visit to that particular town office. Townspeople and employees from the Tax Collector and Town Clerk’s Offices came and voiced their ideas on how to make the Selectman’s Office much more accessible and comfortable for residents when business needs to be done. There’s so much more room now to sit in and observe the meetings. The chairs are very comfortable, there’s always an agenda readily followed and the Selectmen and secretaries couldn’t be more helpful. Need to see the Selectmen? It’s recommended that you call ahead to make an appointment, that way there’s no waiting around if you have a busy evening planned. But don’t take my word for it, check it out for yourself. Any Monday evening, beginning at 7:00 pm.

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Wes Vaughan

Phone Directory

John Boccalini

Along with the April or May 2012 edition of *The Richmond Rooster* we will be sending residents a phone directory that will contain corrections, additions and deletions to the directory sent in the July 2011 Rooster. If you have any corrections, additions or deletions that you want to make in this updated version please let me know by March 10, 2012. Without your input no changes will be made. Paid advertisers of the original directory will continue to be listed. If you want to place a new ad please let me know. You can call me at 239-6696 or email me at therichmondrooster@yahoo.com.

20 Years Ago
RALLY ’ROUND THE FLAG

Biff Mahoney

What began as two guys bored for lack of something to do grew into a community project. On warm, sunny Saturday morning in the summer of 1969 I sat with Roger Carrier on the back steps of the house where the Blais’ now live. Roger and Mary lived upstairs while my wife, Jackie, and I had the ground floor. Sipping coffee we pondered the weekend ahead.

“What this town needs is a flagpole,” said I.

“Your right,” nodded Roger. “We could put it over there,” he suggested pointing to a rise in the yard.

“Good location. It can be seen from all over,” I said.

“I know just the place to get a pole,” added Roger.

We hied off to the ‘Old Morgan Place’ to find a stand of Red Pine described by Roger as “dizzying” in the way the trees converged when looking skyward. At the time the Morgan Road was little more than twin paths through the woods with a ransacked cape at the end.

Together we surveyed the timber stand, selected a straight tree, felled it, limbed it, and tied it to the side of my ’64 Falcon wagon. Over thirty feet of it dragged behind making for slow-going. Near Ruby Austin’s, Guy Packard happened by and surveyed us with suspicion.

“Where ya draggin’ the tree to?” he demanded with constabular authority. Chuckling at our flagpole intentions he hit us with, “Law says ya gotta have a red flag tied to it!”

“Didn’t think to bring one,” Roger responded with a sheepish grin. Behind Guy’s two-day beard, piercing eyes and gruff manner, was a warm heart. Guy showed appreciation for our patriotism by escorting us the rest of the way.



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Once back at the Four Corners, we set the pole on blocks. Roger went to work with a drawknife and shaved the bark. We trimmed the top and base of the pole, painted it white and capped it with a toilet bail, painted gold. A hole was dug, creosoted telephone pole cross members set plumb, and concrete poured.

Sunday morning I discovered that the flagpole was missing. I searched the yard. It was nowhere. From their carrying on, it soon became apparent that Jackie, in cahoots with Roger and Mary, had played a prank and hauled it away, but they wouldn’t let on where. Putting on an all out search, I found the pole hidden in the tail grass against the stone wall bordering Alan Harvey’s yard.

Back on its props, Roger and I continued preparations. George Blais rummaged through his garage behind the store and came up with two telephone pole bolts to hold the flagpole in an upright position. Harry Lord drove to Winchester to buy rope, pulley, flag clips and a tie-down.

Getting the flagpole upright proved more difficult and frustrating than ever imagined. We lifted, pushed with pike poles, and pulled with rope. We used Roger’s car and various other means. There was a lot of grunting and heaving. Nothing worked.

A growing number of bystanders offered advice. “It’s too long,” we were told by Phil Dodier. His suggestion to lop off twenty feet of the top was received with disdain. We kept trying.

At the store Helen Blais enlightened curious shoppers of the commotion across the street. With each effort more onlookers gathered to offer assistance and advice. Chuck Galbraith and Norm Brewer joined in. Puffing on his pipe Bud Doubleday exchanged quips with Herb Steinberg.

Guy Packard directed traffic, heavy because of the Hinsdale races. Fran Jillson volunteered his expertise. Stanley Amidon rolled up his sleeves and pitched in. Henry Patnode put his muscles into the effort. Arthur Stinson offered to get a ladder truck from an area fire department. Dorian Sax took up a collection and bought cold beer at the store.

Finally Grover Labelle came by with his truck. We used the dump to lift the flagpole high enough for leverage to get ropes and pike poles to swing it upright. Cheers and applause followed.

No sooner was it secured than Gerry Brewer came over carrying the neatly folded funeral flag of her father. We were honored by her request that it be the first hoisted up the new flagpole. Jenny Bennett presented a State flag that had flown

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over the Capitol. Hugh Van Brocklin stamped out a brass plaque commemorating the event. It was affixed to the flagpole.

Raised with a lot of impromptu community enthusiasm, the flagpole stood proud for twenty years, even though it later lost about ten feet of its top in a windstorm. Old age and the elements took their toll. It surrendered without ceremony when it toppled in a high wind. A smaller pole replaced it for a short time but it didn't have the stout character of that forty-six-footer.

I miss seeing Old Glory boldly fluttering in the breeze above the Four Corners. What this town needs is a flagpole.

It's Not Spying, It's Stealing!

Frank Behrens

In 1962, a film came out named "Dr. No," followed by a seemingly endless series of sequels and prequels, all of which were spoofed and copied by the movies and television. The TV series "It Takes a Thief" (1968) is a case in point.

The latter is now available, all 66 episodes on 18 DVDs on the E-one label. Each of the three seasons is packaged separately in a fold-out arrangement with the DVDs held in sleeves. One disc has the full original pilot film and other bonus features.

Robert Wagner plays Alexander Munday, a thief serving his time but released on the condition that he steal for the Government. (Notice the morality behind all this!) He is always given a gorgeous companion to whom he gives the usual line of sexual innuendo. She resists, they do their job, and by the end. ...Well, each episode starts with a new cutie pie, so one draws one's own conclusions.

Basically, the plots are out of "Mission Impossible," but Munday alone succeeds just as well as Mr. Phelps' entire IM team and without the fancy inventions. The entire "Mission Impossible" team can easily speak the language of any country to which it is assigned. (Of course, all the citizens of that country speak in English anyway, but let that go.) In "It Takes a Thief," it is established in the first episode that Munday speaks six languages fluently.

Part of the fun is the guest stars. In the very first episode, there are cameo appearances by Raymond Burr, Wally Cox, Doug McClure, and Eddy "Rochester" Anderson. As the 66 episodes go on, there appear such notables as Ricardo Montalban, Bette Davis and Ida Lupino. And would you believe Fred Astaire as Alexander's father and teacher in the burglary art?

Special mention must be made of Munday's boss, Noah

Bain, played in his usual gruff way by Malachi Throne, a rare superior in series like this one who is not a fool. And Susan Saint James shows a good flare for the comic.

Wagner overdoes the "I'm so irresistible to women" routine, but the scripts always supply the willing woman to encourage his attitude. But it is all part of the fun. And this is, all in all, an easy to watch spy semi-spoof.

Welcome to the Meating Place

Marie Knowlton

When the State of NH decided to close its retail outlet in Fitzwilliam, it looked as if another vacant building would be added to the long list of unoccupied businesses in Fitzwilliam. This building did not sit vacant long.

Although appearing empty, there were cars and trucks in the parking lot suggesting changes going on inside. For months there was an air of mystery surrounding the new tenants, lights were on early and late,

On Thursday January 5, 2012 the closed signs came down and the doors of the *Meating Place* were open for business. The building is bright and cheerful portraying the image of its occupants.

The idea for the *Meating Place* came from conversations between Eric Scribner and Stacey Guyette who co-own the store with Staceys' daughters Hayley and Caitlin, (mom is a silent partner) and Eric's dad Bruce Scribner. Both families have been close for a long time and once the location was found the deal was done.

Eric Scribner is the meat cutter; he has a long history of experience as a butcher and is interested in creating more personal experiences with his customers. Eric had worked over eight years for a large retail chain in Phoenix AZ, the type of store where you have to take a number to get service. *"That's not going to happen here, I will get to know my customers names, they will not be just a number."* Eric is proud of the selection of meats that the store offers and said that he has taken special care to provide good meat at reasonable and affordable prices. As for seafood, *"we will have a delivery every Friday and customers can place a special order, if they know in advance, I'll get it for them."*

Eric's dad Bruce works with his son behind the meat counter, although they have never worked together they are enjoying the time they are now getting to share with each other. Bruce spent thirty-three years working at NH Ball Bearing in

Peterborough and is excited about his new venture. Bruce will be preparing hot meals for lunches, homemade soups and sandwiches with roast beef, turkey or a fine glazed ham.

Hayley Guyette spent her 18th birthday working to set up and renovate the store. She said this is a family oriented affair, we are a family and we are here for families. In addition to meat and deli the store carries a variety of grocery items, fresh fruit and vegetables, beer and wine. Soon they will offer prepared meals for take out. In the summer there are plans for a lobster tank, crabs, mussels and steamers will also be available. Hayley was proud to say that they prepare and offer their own label of spices, Bar-B-Que sauce, salsa and pasta sauce. Store motto *"If you can't find it, ask for it and we will get it for you."* The hours are Monday – Saturday, 8am – 7pm, and Sunday 9am – 6pm.

Where Have You Been?

Michelle Connor

How do you know where you are going if you do not track where you have been?

For small business owners, December signals both the end of an economically tough year and the start of a new business cycle filled with the prospect for growth and success. As they begin the business planning process, small business owners would benefit from identifying and tracking Key Performance Indicators or KPIs that reflect short and long-term business goals, and establish a measuring system to keep business owners on the right path to prosperity throughout 2010.

KPIs represent the 'vital signs' of a business, setting and measuring them throughout the year provides critical, objective data to help owners adjust their game plan and ensure the long-term health and profitability of their business. As an example, customer satisfaction can be an important KPI for many businesses, and can be measured by repeat business and referrals.

Typically developed to complement key short- and long-term business goals that have the greatest impact on the whole company's performance, KPIs can also be set at the department level to monitor progress up, down and across the entire company. KPIs could include measuring and monitoring customer retention, sales effectiveness, brand loyalty in certain segments of the market, order fulfillment, etc.

KPIs are important to a business because they're a reflection on how well they are succeeding with particular business goals. You can monitor the overall health of your business by tracking a few very important, yet insightful vital signs.

So...for 2012 create your KPIs and monitor these numbers on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. It will help you to have a successful year!

A "New Look" at Schoolhouse #6


Bob Weekes

Richmond is fortunate to have had town officials and residents whose efforts, past and present, have successfully preserved and, in several cases, repurposed some of Richmond's most historic buildings...buildings that contribute to our town's special rural character. Four buildings have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are the Richmond Town Library, built in 1850 as Schoolhouse #6; the Richmond Community Church, built in 1838 as a church shared locally by both Unitarians and Baptists; the Town Hall, built in 1870 as a Baptist Meeting House; and the Veteran's Memorial Hall, built in 1837 as a meeting house for the 1st Universalist Society. Today, Richmond's Brick Church is still used for religious services, its original purpose, while the Town Hall and Vets Hall buildings serve the town in different ways. This article will focus on Schoolhouse #6, presenting both an older and newer look at the building's use and appearance.

Schoolhouse #6 was erected just west of the Four Corners 162 years ago. It was the second schoolhouse on the site, the first being a brick building that was destroyed by fire, also in 1850. Schoolhouse #6 was one of 16 schoolhouses that ultimately existed in Richmond by 1848, each the result of petitions by townspeople living in various parts of the community when transportation was more challenging than it is today. In later years, as Richmond's population declined and its residents deserted the more remote areas, the number of schoolhouses also declined. But #6, located near the geographical and administrative center of town, survived. It operated as a one-room schoolhouse up until 1947. And thankfully, at least one Richmond resident, Dick Dickinson, is still with us today to relate his experiences as a student there from 1929 to 1937 (see Sept. 2009 Richmond Rooster article online).

In 1962, #6 was converted to the Richmond Town Library. A modest 1974 addition added a one story reading room at the west end with a below-grade fire retardant vault that houses what is today a very crowded Richmond Town Archives. Those modifications to the original structure resulted in the removal of the building's original bell tower and chimney. And in 1980, the building was accepted into the National Registry of Historic

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Places, which noted its significance as follows: “The Schoolhouse is actively used for educational purposes, including reading programs for children, meetings and forums. The Richmond Schoolhouse remains as an important cultural and educational center.” In that sense, it joins Richmond’s Brick Church as an historic structure still fulfilling its original purpose.


Recently a very old photo of Schoolhouse #6 found its way into the collections of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Badly stained and faded, it nevertheless presented a view of the original building that few have ever seen. I borrowed the photo (an accommodation accorded me by the Society where I serve as one of its Trustees) and conferred with Paul Clipper, the computer savvy volunteer who layed out each month’s Richmond Rooster for printing. Paul’s expertise with computer software miraculously restored the small photo and he then scanned it to a much higher DPI level that would allow enlargement to almost 4 x 5 feet (to fit the planned space at the Library). The photo file was then sent to a company in California for printing and a week later the poster enlargement arrived in our mail. Jan and I then took it to the Indian King Framery in Keene for mounting on foam board. The final step was moving books and shelves at the Library so we could install the photo “mural” on the wall.

We hope you’ll visit the Library to see firsthand its “new look,” shown here, with Wendy O’Brien, our eminently capable town librarian.






Librarian, Wendy O’Brien

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Volunteer of the Year

Bonnie McCarthy

The Board of Trustees of the Richmond Public Library is pleased to announce that the 2011 “Elaine Moriarty Volunteer of the Year” award has been given to not one, but two deserving volunteers, the mother and daughter team of Abigail and Gabrielle Connell. This dedicated team is among the RPL’s longest serving volunteers. They have faithfully and cheerfully re-shelved countless books over the years, and willingly jumped



into any project that was going on during their volunteer time. Congratulations and hearty thanks to Abby and Gabby! The formal presentation to add the Connells’ names to the plaque that proudly hangs in the library will be during a reception for all RPL volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, 2012. More information about the date and festivities will be forthcoming next month.

While on the subject of volunteers, our big teddy bear of an official library dog Kodah, a 13-year-old malamute-husky mix, retired at a special retirement party on December 10, 2011. Kodah and another therapy dog, Louie, were the only canines in attendance, and shared a heart shaped Iams Dog Food cake decorated with doggie treats. Humans in attendance shared cupcakes, cookies, coffee, and juice. We offered our deep appreciation to Kodah and his human companion, Kate Simmington, for their dedication to the RPL and to our young readers. Starting last month on January 14, Kate began accompanying four-year-old Kallie to visit our young readers. We gratefully look forward to many more monthly “doggie days.”



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Personals

Middle-aged books seeking new relationships with Richmond readers interested in arts & crafts, travel, adult and juvenile fiction and self-help (most are new categories of “slightly read” books newly placed on sale at the Richmond Public Library at bargain prices). Object: personal enlightenment. Please drop by and look us over.

Richmond Library Storytimes

Wendy O’Brien

There will be a brief story hour for younger elementary school aged children on Tuesday, February 7th at around 2:00 p.m. Preschool storytimes known as “Wednesdays with Wendy” continue at 10:00 a.m. throughout February. Come enjoy themed stories, a craft, and a small snack.

Reading with Kallie

We have tentatively planned for a February 11th at 11:00 a.m. visit with Kate Simmington and Kallie. Kallie is a certified pet therapy dog through Monadnock Therapy Pets and offers gentle listening ears for children just learning to read or who wish to be more confident in their reading. Come by for a story or just a pat – no reservations are needed.

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Online Catalog

We are also pleased to announce that we finally have a catalog of our materials that can be accessed from home. Please go to <http://opac.libraryworld.com>, and type Richmond Public in the Library field (no password is required). You are now able to view in real time whether or not we have an item, if it is available, and place a reserve on it through email. In the near future, we will begin collecting email addresses so we can let you know what you have out on your account, when it is due, and any reserves that you might have.

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Alexander James – Part II

Edie Clark

After more than ten years, in 1941, Alec had an oil burner installed but even so, this was the beginning of the end of the Richmond years. By then, World War II had begun and at the same time, Alec’s health began to deteriorate. Eventually all three of his sons enlisted, all of them sent to various and dangerous areas of the war. Alec suffered great anxiety over their well being. In 1942, Alec began to plan a studio behind the Dublin house. With his troublesome health, perhaps he felt it was time to find a comfortable place to paint nearer to home. He employed an architect, Eric Gugler, who designed a building with enormous twenty-foot windows to the north and to the west. Faulkner described the venture this way: “In spite of illness James continued to paint and embarked on his last great venture. He built himself the perfect studio. Hitherto he had worked in makeshift studios, now he would have space and light – a plentitude of space and all the light in the universe. He began with the frame of a New England barn which, under the sympathetic hands of his architect, grew into a studio forty feet square, twenty feet to the spring of the rafters and pierced from floor to ceiling with great windows. The proportions were superb, and the room looked, as a visitor once remarked, ‘more like a cathedral than a studio’. The neighbors were as keenly interested in the studio as the owner and they brought him wide pine boards, huge beams, whatever they had which might contribute to and complete the growing structure. It became a monument of love built by willing hands and by hearts warmed by Alec’s nature and the love and understanding he had given the community.”

It was the perfect studio. Alec moved in. Micky remembers it this way: “The war was on and materials were scarce so the place was primitive but he had this wonderful studio and he started to paint. But it was too much! He was beaten back by all the light. All those great windows and he had to put bamboo blinds over the windows to block out that light. He ended up painting in a little corner of this magnificent studio, killing the light. He loved the building. But it wasn’t good for painting. My mother and he slept out there and they sometimes entertained there but it was never a place for his painting.”

The grand studio was finished in October of 1945. By then he was in desperate health. The long war ended and Alec waited to welcome his boys home. Micky recalls, “He’d suffered from angina for three years. He promised my mother he would live until all the boys came home. Sandy came home first, Danny



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On the day of Alec's funeral, everything stopped in the village, no work was performed, all stores were closed. The church was filled to capacity to honor this extraordinary artist, friend and citizen. Those who could not get in were left to stand outside in the snow. He was buried in the village cemetery, looking out across Dublin Lake toward Mount Monadnock. These words are carved on the stone that marks his grave: "Love gave him wings."

Alec James also possessed a rare generosity of spirit toward young artists. He mentored as he had been mentored, sharing his knowledge and his passion for work on canvas with a variety of young artists. To be given a chance – he knew that mattered and was willing to offer it to any in whom he saw promise. Most notably, he fostered the talents of the eccentric Russian, Gouri Ivanov-Rinov, the 16-year-old Onni Saari, and his dear friend and contemporary, Albert Quigley who made many frames for Alec's paintings and who accompanied him on many painting expeditions.

In Memory of John J Hillock Sr –

John James Hillock, Sr., 66, of 120 Whipple Hill Road, Richmond, died Wednesday, December 7 at his home with his wife Audrey and nephew Derek Labb'e at his side.

He was born in Richmond, October 2, 1945, the son of Homer and Zelma (Farnham) Hillock, and had resided in Richmond all of his life. He is predeceased by his parents, and his brothers Kenneth Hillock, Donald Hillock and David Hillock.

After twenty-one years at Troy Mills he retired and became the owner and proprietor of Hillock's Auto Service in Richmond, a firm that he ran for twenty six years. He served the town of Richmond as a police officer and member of the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department for more than ten years.

John was a member of the Towing Association and will be remembered by many for his years of service at the Monadnock Speedway and his love for NASCAR racing.

Survivors include: his wife of forty-six years, Audrey (Moore) Hillock of Richmond, his sons: Thomas James Hillock, John James

John Boccalini

****Thurs. Feb. 16. 7 pm Pre-Warrant Meeting – Vets Hall.**
 Fri. Feb. 17, 7:30 pm **The Wizard of Oz**, Colonial Theater,
 \$21 Keene (Sponsored by the Keene Lions Club.)
 Sat. Feb. 18, 10 am to 4 pm **11th Annual Keene Ice
 & Snow Festival**, Central Square, Keene
 Sat. Feb. 18, 1 pm **The Wizard of Oz**, Colonial Theater,
 Keene \$21 (Sponsored by the Keene Lions Club.)
 Sun. Feb. 19, 1 pm **The Wizard of Oz**, Colonial Theater,
 Keene \$21 (Sponsored by the Keene Lions Club.)
 Sun. Feb 19, 11:30 am-1:30 pm **Jane Miller**, jazz guitar,
 Sunflowers Restaurant, Jaffrey.
 Thurs. Feb. 23, 7:30 pm **Dianne Reeves**, Colonial Theater,
 Keene

It has been requested that gifts be made to the Shriner's Children's Hospital, Burns Center, 51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA, 02114 in memory of Mr. Hillock. (www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org),

For those who enjoy a nice family outing while learning more about agriculture, The Sustainability Project is having its 7th Annual Seed Celebration and Exchange on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 9 am-4 pm at the Gilsum School and Community Center. This event has displays promoting the agri-

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i.e., \$31,777,000. The school board has yet to make a decision as to what they will recommend to the budget committee. Additionally, the following special warrant articles could be changed, but are valid now: Health and Safety Maintenance – \$172,600 (up about \$40,000); The High School building maintenance (fourth year) will be about \$1,300,000. The resource Officer will be in its own article at \$71,000; a new Morning and Afternoon class for young kids for Northern Schools, Troy, and possibly expanded to Swanzey, for \$150,000 as a Trust; \$50,000 for the Special Education Trust. Up to two, and possibly three labor contracts will also be included. It is hard to believe that any labor agreement will not add to the overall costs.

**Your December 2011 Property Tax Bill
and the School Portion**

Thanks Sandra for the compliment (Sentinel Richmond Tax article) about reducing the budget. There are two reasons why Richmond tax is down and the other district towns are up (two towns yet to report) in school taxes. First, there must have been fewer (could be just proportionately less) students from Richmond; and secondly, about \$900,000 came to the district from the state. Of that \$900,000, about \$620,000 was returned tax money from the High School Building Program – that you, the District taxpayer, put up three years ago.

Given you have comments or questions, please call me at 239 4031; additionally, Jim Carnie at 239-4948 would be glad to answer any questions about the school board business.

SEE YOU February 11, 2012 AT THE HIGH SCHOOL!!

2011 TAX RATE

Town Portion

Appropriations approved at Mar. 2011 Town Meeting	\$809,947
Less Revenues	\$411,200
Less Fund Balance Used to reduce amount to be raised by taxes	\$101,850
Add Overlay	\$118,389
Add War Service Credits (Veterans Credits)	\$13,600
Net Town Appropriation–Amount to be raised by Taxes	\$296,847
Town Tax Rate	\$4.099

School Portion

Regional School apportionment (Amount Richmond Pays)	\$2,621,454
Less State Education Grant	\$988,069
Less Education Tax (from below)	\$229,462
Net Local School Appropriation–	
Amount to be raised by Taxes	\$1,403,923

Local School Tax Rate	\$13.418
State Education Tax	\$229,462
State Education Tax Rate	\$2.288
Due to County (Amount Richmond Pays)	\$333,904
County Tax Rate	\$3.191
Total to be raised by taxes	\$2,396,175
Total Tax Rate	\$23.00

The 2010 tax rate was \$24.76. So for a property owner with a \$150,000 home, the decrease in property tax this year will be \$264.

Property Tax Abatement. Municipalities (the Board of Selectmen) may abate taxes “for good cause shown” RSA 76:16. Good cause is generally established by showing an error in the assessment calculation or a disproportionate assessment. Good cause can also be established by showing poverty and inability to pay the tax. Property owners wishing to apply to the Board of Selectmen for an abatement, must submit the Abatement Application to the Selectmen’s office no later than March 1, 2012. You may obtain the application by going to the State of NH DRA website: <http://www.nh.gov/btla/forms/documents/2009AbatementForWeb.pdf>. Or you can call the Selectmen’s office at 239-4232 and we will be happy to mail the application to you.

Candidate for Selectman

Debbie Boncal

In January I decided to throw my hat in the ring as a candidate for the Board of Selectmen. It’s time for me to get more involved in municipal affairs and in my community. As a resident I understand how important it is to treat all residents fairly, enforce laws equitably, and build a strong community for ourselves and our children.

I was born in Winchester, and after living in nearby towns, my husband and I found our ‘home’ in Richmond. We have lived on Whipple Hill Road for nearly twelve years and raised our three children here. Nicole graduated from Monadnock Regional High School in 2008, Andrew is a junior and Joshua is in 8th grade.

All my adult life I have worked, managing Mr. Mike’s stores in Winchester and in other locations for 17 years, and volunteering and working in the Monadnock School system. In 2008 I was hired to be the Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police in Fitzwilliam, a job requiring tact, patience and tolerance. In 2011 I was also hired as the Deputy Tax Collector

in Fitzwilliam, another position calling for customer service skills and resilience. I am a member of the NH Chiefs of Police Secretaries Association, have extensive management training and am proficient in all aspects of computer technology.

With ‘only’ two jobs to take my time nowadays, and a nearly grown family, I feel I can focus on serving Richmond as a Selectman. I look forward to meeting you this month and hope you will consider voting for me on March 13, 2012.

Candidate for Planning Board

Deb Duffy

Hello, I’m Deborah Duffy and I’m running for the Planning Board seat vacated by Peter Majoy for a partial term of two years. I have been serving on the Richmond Planning Board since May 2011, first as an alternate and then as a board member and Planning Board Secretary. We have lived here for over ten years and our family enjoys living in the small town of Richmond.

The people here are friendly, supportive, and strongly committed to their town. My husband has been heavily involved in the Richmond Fire Department and myself in a supportive role through the fire department auxiliary. Between working for ES3 (C&S), raising a young son, and life in general, I find myself wanting to be more involved, so this is a great opportunity for me to give back. I enjoy working with the other Planning Board members and look forward to continuing my service to Richmond. I am asking you to cast a vote for Deborah Duffy for Richmond Planning Board for the (2)two-year term.

Notes from the Selectmen

Budget Hearings (Pre-Warrant). The Board of Selectmen will hold public hearings on the 2012 Proposed Budget beginning on Thursday, February 16. 7 p.m. at the Vets Hall. If a second hearing is necessary it will be announced at the February meeting. Department heads will be present to discuss their budget with you and answer questions. Warrant articles will be presented for your review and consideration. Please join us.

Annual Town Meeting, First Session.

Voting day for town elections and zoning amendments is Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at the Vets Hall. Polls are open 11a.m.-7p.m.

Annual Town Meeting, Second Session.

The Board of Selectmen set the date for the 2012 Annual Town Meeting Second Session on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 9 AM, Veterans Hall.

At the Town Meeting Richmond’s registered voters are asked to “raise and appropriate” funds. Appropriation is the underlying authorization to spend money, it is not the actual spending of money, nor is it the authorization to raise money. “Raising” indicates the source of the revenue; “appropriating,” states the purpose for which the money will be spent. A vote of the legislative body (Town Meeting) is required for a valid appropriation. A proposed budget or warrant article presented to the voters by the governing body is only advisory. It is not final and it is not an appropriation until the voters have spoken. The only legally binding effect of a proposed budget or warrant article is that the warrant notice requirement does not permit any new subject matter to be added by the voters. The budget hearings determine the final subject matter of the warrant and no new purposes can be added at town meeting. Voters do have the right to change the amount of money to be raised or appropriated but they cannot change a purpose or add a new purpose. Petitioned Warrant Articles. Tuesday, February 7, 2012 is the last day for voters to petition Selectmen to include an article in the warrant. This year, with 727 registered voters, the number of required petition signatures is 15. (RSA 39:3 states “Upon the written application of 25 or more registered voters or two percent of the registered voters in town, whichever is less, although in no event shall fewer than 10 registered voters be sufficient, presented to the selectmen or one of them not later than the fifth Tuesday before the day prescribed for an annual meeting, the selectmen shall insert in their warrant for such meeting the petitioned article with only such minor textual changes as may be required.”)

Involuntarily Merged Lots – Public Notice.

If you own real estate lots that were involuntarily merged by municipal action, you may be able to have those lots restored to their pre-merger status. Your property may qualify if two or more lots were merged for zoning, assessing, or taxation purposes and the merger occurred 1) during your ownership, without your consent, or 2) prior to your ownership, if no previous owner consented to the merger.

To restore your property to pre-merger status, you must make a request to the local governing body no later than December 31, 2016. Once restored your property will again become separate lots; however, they must still conform to applicable land use ordinances. Restoration does not cure non-conformity. The selectmens’ minutes can now be found at www.therichmondrooster.org.

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Dates to Remember

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Feb. 3, 2012	Last day to file for declaration of candidacy (open 3-5 p.m.)
Feb. 7, 2012	Last day to petition Selectmen to include an article in the warrant
Feb.16, 2012	7:00 p.m. - Public hearing on annual budget at the Veteran's Hall
Feb. 20, 2012	CLOSED – President's Day
Feb. 28, 2012	Last day for Selectmen to post warrant
Mar. 1, 2012	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk before Town Election

Greetings from Concord

On Wednesday January 4 the house passed bill HB 486-FN which concerns the penalties for alcohol interlock circumvention which in laymen terms means a court ordered breathalyzer mechanism which is installed in vehicles owned by those convicted for DWI. This mechanism requires that the driver of said vehicles blow into the breathalyzer to start it. If someone else is caught starting the vehicle for the owner by blowing into the breathalyzer the court may fine the owner of said vehicle no less than \$500 and order an enhanced technology ignition device be installed for an extended 2 year period.

I voted for this bill to keep habitual drunk drivers from causing accidents and possibly killing other innocent drivers, passengers and pedestrians on or along our roads.

Sincerely,

Representative Richard J. Dwinell

Representing District Cheshire #5, Fitzwilliam & Richmond

Town Meeting & More

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

ATTEND ON FEBRUARY 16th – BE INFORMED!

VOTE ON MARCH 13th – YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

ATTEND ON MARCH 17th – YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

The public hearing on the annual budget will be held on February 16, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. The Board of Selectmen will be presenting the budget and the attending public will have the opportunity to ask questions at the time of the hearing. No voting will be done at this time.

The town meeting is composed of two sessions.

The first session, also called the town election, will be on March 13, 2012. Voting by official paper ballot will be conducted at

the Veterans Memorial Hall from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The second session, also called the town business meeting, will be held on March 17, 2012 at the Veterans Memorial Hall. The meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. Attending voters will have the opportunity to discuss, amend and vote on the proposed annual budget and other questions on the warrant. The voting during the second session will occur in a public forum.

For those who will not be able to come to the polls on March 13th, absentee ballots will be available to those qualified to receive them. The conditions under which a voter qualifies for an absentee ballot are as follows:

– Will be absent from the town where the voter is registered to vote;

– Cannot appear in public due to religious reasons;

– Is unable to come to the polls due to a physical disability;

– Or is unable to come to the polls during polling hours because the voter is at work or is in transit to or from work.

All requests for absentee ballots must be in writing and request forms are available at the Town Clerk's office. Please call 239-6202 if you have any questions regarding obtaining an absentee ballot.

For those not yet registered to vote, voter registration will be available on March 13, 2012 during the polling hours but not on March 17, 2012. Thus, if you are not registered to vote by March 13, you will not be able to vote at the second session held on March 17.

License Your Dog Early (Or Who's Your Dentist?)

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

I sometimes equate a visit with the Town Clerk to a visit with your dentist. Nobody wants to go but everybody at one time or another must. And then, to top things off, you must pay for something that you don't really want. As things would have it, I am your local "dentist." And here I am asking you to come on in!

If you have a dog that you licensed in 2011, the tag expires April 30, 2012. But I would love to see you earlier. You can license your dog any time prior to the expiration date. So, if you're bored or sitting at home with nothing to do and would like to visit someone, how about a visit with your town clerk? I would love to see you. And remember – please bring the rabies certificate with you if you had your dog vaccinated recently.

Have you added a puppy or dog to your family? If you have, you are required to vaccinate it for rabies within 30 days after it reaches 3 months of age or after acquiring an adult dog. After you've vaccinated the puppy or dog, you will need to license it. Please bring the rabies certificate when you license your puppy or dog. If it is neutered or spayed, please bring documentation to verify that.

Dog fees are relatively inexpensive. For puppies or dogs that have been altered, the fee is \$6.50. Unaltered dogs cost \$9.00. If you, the owner, are 65 years of age or older, you will pay \$2.00 for your first dog and the regular fees for any additional dogs that you own. Please avoid late fees and/or civil

forfeiture fees by licensing your dog on time. Or license early. Please don't make me pull any teeth!

The NH Presidential Primary in Richmond

Annette Tokunaga

The NH Presidential Primary was held on January 10, 2012. The Town of Richmond saw a 44% voter turnout. This included 34 people who registered to vote that day. Of the 339 ballots cast, 262 were Republican and 77 were Democratic. Following are the results:

Republican		Democratic	
125	Ron Paul	66	Barack Obama
58	Mitt Romney	1	Randall Terry
37	Jon Huntsman	1	John Wolfe, Jr.
26	Rick Santorum	1	Ed Cowan
8	Newt Gingrich	8	Write-Ins
3	Buddy Roemer		
1	Joe Story		
1	Michele Bachmann		
	Herman Cain		
	Gary Johnson		
	Andy Martin		

At the 2008 NH Presidential Primary Election, Ron Paul received the most votes in the Town of Richmond for the Republican Party. According to James Pindell of WMUR, Richmond was the only city/town in the State of NH where Ron Paul was the Republican winner. This year told a different story.

Richmond 250 Cane

Pam Goodell

The Richmond 250 Cane is given each year to the oldest person residing in town. It has been given since 2001, which was Richmond's Bicentennial year. It represents the fact that age itself is to be venerated.

The present holder of the cane has a birth date of May 11, 1913. If you know of anyone who lives in town who is older than this, please let Pam Goodell know at 239-4790. The deadline for notifying Pam is Feb 15, 2012. The cane will be presented at the March Town Meeting in 2012.

From the Planning Board:

(See Pullout For Actual Changes)

Proposed Zoning Amendments

The Planning Board is proposing the following seven amend-

ments to the Zoning Ordinance. These amendments are the result of the Board's work on recommendations from a planning consultant who was hired last year to review the ordinance for compliance with state statutes and consistency with the Master Plan.

The Planning Board began this process in June, and after receiving a report with recommendations from the consultant in August, began holding regular workshops. These workshops were held in conjunction with the Board of Adjustment (ZBA); since this is the board that hears all applications for relief from the zoning ordinance, their involvement in the process was considered important, especially in terms of understanding and interpreting zoning provisions.

The six-month long process resulted in proposed revisions to five of the 16 articles in the Zoning Ordinance; the revisions range from editing language for clarity, to amending for compliance with state statutes, to more substantive changes that reflect the recommendations of the Master Plan.

The Planning Board is pleased to offer these proposed amendments to the voters, and wishes to thank the members of the ZBA for their faithful commitment to the process, and to the citizens who last year approved the funding for this work.

Amendment #1: To rewrite and reorganize Article 3. The purpose of Amendment #1 is to edit language so that the section is more understandable. Some of the specific changes to the section are: (1) 301 Ruins – which moves the reference to non-conforming structures to Article 9; (2) to add a provision for fences (314); (3) to add a provision for temporary signs; and (4) to relocate the Cluster Development section from Article 4 to Article 3.

Amendment #2: To rewrite the provisions for Cluster Development (Section 406). The purpose of Amendment #2 is to provide specific standards for lot size, frontage, access, common open space, and density for Cluster Development, and include a process for the applicant to earn up to a 25% increase in density. The intent of the changes is to make this option more appealing to property owners by providing incentives for its use, consistent with Master Plan recommendations regarding housing opportunities and protection against sprawl.

Amendment #3: To rewrite and reorganize Article 4. The purpose of Amendment #3 is to edit language so that the section is more understandable. Specific changes to the section are: (1) to state clearly which uses are permitted by right, which are permitted by special exception, and to identify permitted

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Pastor Arnold Johnson

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accessory uses; (2) to allow a two-family dwelling on three acres instead of six acres; (3) to clarify the lot and yard requirements, including changing the front setback from 83 feet from the center of the road to 50 feet from the front property line so that there will be consistency in this measurement; and (4) to delete the provisions for Conversion Apartments (405) because they are made redundant by the revised provisions for Accessory Dwellings and Multi-Family Dwellings. These changes are consistent with Master Plan recommendations speaking to the needs of an expanding, aging, and retiring population, and to provide opportunity for small-scale commercial and light industrial use in town.

Amendment #4: To rewrite the provisions for Accessory Uses and Accessory Dwelling Units (Section 407). The purpose of Amendment #4 is to: (1) provide clarity regarding uses that are permitted as accessory to principal uses; (2) to provide more specific standards for Accessory Dwelling Units, including removing the requirements for documentation of the owner-occupied status; and (3) to relocate the provisions for Cluster Development into Article 3. These changes are consistent with Master Plan recommendations speaking to the needs of an expanding, aging, and retiring population.

Amendment #5: To rewrite Article 9 – Nonconforming Uses. The purpose of Amendment #5 is to provide specific provisions for nonconforming lots, buildings and uses, which all have different issues and impacts and need to be addressed separately.

Amendment #6: To rewrite Article 11 – Board of Adjustment (and renumber it to Article 10) and renumber Enforcement and Administration to Article 11. The purpose of Amendment #6 is to provide specific provisions for the four essential responsibilities of the Board of Adjustment. Other specific changes include: (1) to rewrite the criteria for Special Exceptions that apply generally to all special exception uses, removing the existing criteria that more appropriately belong in Site Plan Review with the Planning Board; (2) to provide criteria for multi-family uses including changing the minimum lot size from three acres per unit to three acres for the first unit and 10,000 square feet for each additional unit; and (3) to establish specific standards for home occupations, commercial and light industrial uses, and recreational uses, none of which currently exist. These changes are consistent with Master Plan recommendations speaking to the needs of an expanding, aging, and retiring population, and to provide opportunity for small-scale

commercial and light industrial use in town.

Amendment #7: To rewrite Article 16 – Definitions, by adding definitions for uses newly identified in the Ordinance, and revising others for clarity and compliance with state law. The purpose of Amendment #7 is to rewrite the section for better clarity, add new definitions for uses that are currently not defined, including new proposed uses, and renumber the entire section for ease of use.

Change of Staff

John Boccalini

We wish to thank Kathleen Bersaw and Paul Clipper for years of service to “The Richmond Rooster.”

Kathleen Bersaw officially joined our staff as a proofreader with the December, 1998 issue but worked behind the scenes for sometime prior to that. Paul joined our staff as the design artist and production manager since the October, 2008 issue. Both Kathleen and Paul have been a great asset to our newsletter.

Jeani and Rosti Eismont will be taking over Paul’s responsibilities starting with this issue.

The Raveling

Jean Tandy

We can never know ourselves too well.

Beyond the warped tongues, the lies,

The bard owl calls at the moon,

waiting there on the stone monument,

warning: “I am watching what you do!”

Crash, crash go the townfolk,

years of slaving and dreams undone.

The financial closing hastens night,

stealing the blue hills from their keepers.

Rust turns their trucks’ frames black.

The ancient village dissolves its order—

greeny mossy fragments cover stones.

How strange time is, changing our lives

always changing changing; and knowing,

more new knowing, always becomes.

Immigration Questions for Obtaining Citizenship In the USA

Neil Moriarty

1. Who was President during the Civil War?

2. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

3. What special group advises the President?
4. Which President is called the "Father of our country?"
5. What Immigration and Naturalization Service form is used to apply to become a naturalized citizen?
6. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?
7. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?
8. What were the 13 original states of the U.S. called?
The next two are not on the list
9. Who was Marvin Lee Aday?
10. In only one year in our history did we have three different presidents – who were they?

The Keg of Nails

Hank Hallas

It was the summer of 1953 and this 12 year old was quite excited about taking a solo trout fishing excursion down Perry Brook. The first step in such an adventure was to dig the worms. There were only two spots on the farm, which held good trout worms. The first was behind the house near the privy. The land sloped away and was always moist and dark with leaf decay. The only hazard was occasionally you might come across broken bottles, which could cut your fingers when you searched the soil for the worms. The second site was across the street where the cows would feed on the east side of the rotting barn. There was a depression there that was always moist and held decaying leaves. I never could be sure which of these two spots held the day’s worm catch but one or the other always did!

I placed about 15 small trout sized worms into a green metal worm container, which I wore on my belt. I think the container was called “Old Pal”. I then gathered up the rest of my gear; my trout creel over one shoulder, my dad’s trusty fishing rod and a straw hat to help repel the bugs. I yelled to my mom that I was headed to fish Perry Brook down at the old mill site. She came to the screen door and asked me to pick up a red wooden sap bucket if I saw one in the woods. The old steam mill at the bottom of the hill had burned down in the late 1890s and an inventory of red wooden sap buckets was stacked in the woods against the old stone foundation. Richmond white pine is quite durable apparently.

I wandered down the dirt road north to the Perry Brook past the “Willard’s” (currently Mattson’s). It was a delightful day of fishing this beautiful section of the brook, which has a cascade of small trout pools running about a mile down hill. I had caught about 5 or 6 trout all slightly over 6 inches; perfect for

breakfast. I worked my way downhill to the base of the hill close to the Perry Farm. Much to my surprise, curiosity and attention was an “Auction” in progress at the Perry Farm. You can’t imagine how exciting this was to a boy of 12 with his fishing pole, worms and boots. An auction was an adult thing, something Mom and Dad occasionally went to and spent some precious dollars for items, which ended up as prized possessions. Here I am, no parents at an adult event, How cool is that !!!!!

I recall it took a bit of courage to ease up to the farmyard scene, at first to observe and then to become engaged. I watched many items come and go. At some point I reached into my pocket to check to see if I had any money; surely Mom and Dad would want me to snare a bargain, some great antique...consider the possibilities!!!! The fishing expedition had become a discovery, an opportunity, and a chance to land a big one. Get real my inner voice said...big deal, 6 cents was all I could find in my pocket. Oh, well nothing ventured nothing gained. It took awhile but I decided to jump into the action with my 6 cents. Eventually I sidled up to the front and whispered “six cents” at any item that caught my eye. The Auctioneer would ignore it and continue to sell item after item. Obviously I had to change my strategy; I had to get more aggressive. So I raised my voice and bid on almost every item. Again the Auctioneer ignored my six cent bids. The people nearby snickered. But I had my pride at stake. I had to win something; something I could bring home to show Mom and Dad. I had come this far; I had to hang in there.

I suspect in retrospect the Auctioneer eventually found me the pest I had become. Being a veteran, his strategy to deal with me was quick and simple. He looked around his table for anything he knew would not sell easily and was more trouble than it was worth to those attending. He spied a ½ keg of nails in a small old wooden barrel (too heavy for most to carry away) and a dingy old kerosene lantern (not yet a sought after item due to the recent arrival of electricity in the area 1952). He put the two items up on the table and said “now what do I have for these two items?”...“Six cents!” I said. “Sold” said the Auctioneer. Two hard-to-sell items and the pest were gone; next item please.

I took my prizes to the bushes by the brook and hid them there with my trout and my dad’s pole. There was no way that I could carry all these things back up the hill to the farm so my parents would have to drive back down to pick up the nails and my gear. I then walked up the hill swinging the lantern to show off to my parents. Mom was delighted with the lantern and Dad was thrilled with the ½ keg of nails to add to his treasure trove in the “Magic Shed”.

(To be continued in the March, 2012 Rooster.)

ANSWERS: 1. Abram Lincoln 2. Freed many slaves in USA 3. Cabinet 4. George Washington 5. Form N-400, Application to File Petition for Naturalization. How many got this one without using Google? 6. American Indians (native Americans) 7. Mayflower 8. The Colonies 9. The Singer Sewing Machine 10. In 1881 the three presidents were: Arthur Hayes, James Garfield (who was assassinated in office), Chester Arthur

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