



JANUARY 2016

Eleanor Mattson Apr 28, 1927 to Nov 21, 2015

Kim Mattson



B. Eleanor Mattson, 88, long time resident of Richmond and formerly of Redding CT, left this world on Tuesday November 21, 2015 much like she entered it, full of grace and beauty and anticipating the journey ahead. Eleanor passed pain free in the comfort of her bed as she desired, surrounded

by love and support.

Eleanor was eighty-eight years young born the daughter of the late Isabella (S) Tanton and Carl F. Sporie on April 28, 1927 in Mt. Kisco, NY. She was educated and graduated from Danbury High School class of 1945.

On Saturday May 4, 1946 Eleanor exchanged vows with Gerald G. M. Mattson at St. John's Parish in Lewisboro, NY. They were married with family and friends present. Sadly, Gerald passed on March 19, 1991 after 44 years of marriage. Gerald will greet Eleanor with a freshly picked bouquet of lilacs and his award winning smile.

Many of you will remember Eleanor for the 31+ years she worked for the Monadnock Regional High School lunch program or the 20+ years she worked in the central office of MRHS. Or, Eleanor's 35+ years of school bus driving, working first for Cheshire Transportation using her own vehicles, then Laidlaw Transit when she was upgraded to a small school bus. Though small and seemingly meek, Eleanor could navigate an icy, unplowed, dirt road at 5:30 a.m. like nobody's business.

Eleanor enjoyed gardening and sharing her harvest. Her holiday tables welcomed wayward neighbors, servicemen who were far from home, or students and friends in need of a warm meal. Her green thumb extended to her shoulder. She could cultivate healthy plants from fallen leaves, or nearly necrotic specimens given to her by others in desperation. She fed woodland birds and four-legged creatures that came in the hard cold months for scattered food. Eleanor took in and cared for many stray animals over her years in Richmond. Most recently, her feral cat,

Noizy who gave her comfort and companionship sharing her bed until the end.

Eleanor is survived by her six children: G. Tanton Mattson and his wife Helen of Fitzwilliam; Kendall S. Mattson and his wife Lyn of Campton; Kerwin M. Mattson of Dublin; Kandace I. Mattson and her companion Mark Beauregard of Richmond; Weldon C. Mattson and his wife Karen of Swanzey; and Duane R. Mattson and his wife Cathy of Bremerton, WA. Her siblings: Carol Lusby and her husband Alan of Seabeck WA, and Frank Sporie of Latrobe PA. She leaves 16 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Eleanor is predeceased by her siblings Mildred Ruscoe of Redding CT; Marian Cartagena of Vassalboro ME; and George Sporie of Strafford NH.

A celebration of her life was held on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Richmond Community Church. In keeping with Eleanor's wishes, there were no calling hours and the burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, Eleanor's family asks that you bake a fresh batch of oatmeal cookies using the recipe from the Quaker Oatmeal canister (omit the salt, use ½ the sugar) and share them with a neighbor, friend or complete stranger. Monetary donations can be directed to Joys Network Cancer Resources, PO Box 593, Marlborough, NH. They are a local resource aiding cancer patients in the Monadnock Region. Or, the Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzey Rd., Swanzey, NH.

Home to Taylor Hill by Jean Tandy

as a slow wind brushes among her grasses
 a favorite nudges the other horses
 down pasture as pond waters rise recede
 while night owls call her name
 now sun sets on her Richmond hills
 she came a long way
 to this place her home
 her song is the song of her children . . .

Calendar Dates – 2016 Richmond Town Clerk's Office

Fri. Jan. 1	New Year's Day CLOSED
Mon. Jan. 4	Dog licenses available
Mon. Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day CLOSED
Wed. Jan. 20	First day of filing period for Town offices
Fri. Jan. 29	Last day of filing period for Town Offices (3-5 p.m. only)
Tue. Feb. 9	Presidential Primary
Mon. Feb. 15	President's Day CLOSED
Thu. Feb. 25	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk for Town election
Tue. Mar. 8	Town Meeting, 1st Session (election) Town Clerk's Office CLOSED
Sat. Mar. 12	Town Meeting, 2nd Session (business)
Sat. Apr. 30	Dog licenses expire CLOSED
Mon. May 30	Memorial Day CLOSED
Tue. May 31	Deadline for late dog licenses CLOSED
Mon. July 4	Independence Day CLOSED
Thu. Sep. 1	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk for State Primary Election
Mon. Sep. 5	Labor Day CLOSED
Tue. Sep. 13	State Primary Election Day
Fri. Sep. 30	Transfer Station stickers expire CLOSED
Mon. Oct. 10	Columbus Day CLOSED
Thu. Oct. 27	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk for General Election
Tue. Nov. 8	General Election Day
Fri. Nov. 11	Veterans Day CLOSED
Wed./Thu. Nov. 23, 24	Thanksgiving break CLOSED

Running for Town Office

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The following officers will be elected at the Town Election on March 8, 2016:

- One Cemetery Trustee, 3-year term
- One Library Trustee, 3-year term
- One Moderator, 2-year term
- Two Planning Board, 3-year term

- One Planning Board, 1-year term
- One Selectman, 3-year term
- One Supervisor of the Checklist, 6-year term
- One Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-year term

If you would like to run for any of the above, please come to the town clerk's office during the filing period to fill out the Declaration for Candidacy form. The filing period begins January 20, 2016 and ends January 29, 2016. The office will be open from 3 – 5 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016 for Declaration for Candidacy purposes only. You must be a Richmond resident and a registered voter in order to run for a town office.

If it is difficult for you to come to the office to pick up and/or complete the Declaration of Candidacy, someone may pick up the form for you. I would also be happy to mail/email it to you. Once you have completed the Declaration of Candidacy, you may personally bring it back to the town clerk's office, have someone return it for you, or you may mail it. Any filings for Candidacy must be done IN PERSON on the last day. I cannot accept a Declaration of Candidacy by mail or from someone other than the candidate on the last day.

Please call 239-6202 or stop by the office if you have any questions.

Early Literacy at the Library

Elaine Moriarty

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. at the Richmond Library. Stories, finger-plays, snacks, and crafts. Please join us.

- January 6th – Reindeer
- January 13th – Penguins
- January 20th – Polar Bears
- January 27th – Alphabet Soup

Library News

Trustees

In mid-November a section of the suspended ceiling in the Edith Atkins Room collapsed onto a bookshelf. Fortunately no one was underneath it, but we have restricted access to the Atkins Room until the ceiling can be

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repaired. The computers have been moved temporarily into the main room and once the repair has been scheduled we will have to close the Library for at least a week so the work can be done.

In happier news, Paul Dobbs, our new librarian, began work at the Library in mid-December. We thank Susan Wyatt and Trish Newton for filling in over the past few months. Once Paul settles in and the Atkins room is repaired, we will host a reception so the community can meet him. We look forward to seeing you at the Library! Jan Weekes, Peter Mulhall, and Jonathan Bloom, Trustees of the Library

Things and Thoughts from the District

Neil Moriarty

Happy New Year to you all.

Do you think that it is important enough for more than six(6) Richmond residents to show some support for the Monadnock Regional School District Deliberative Session (Saturday, February 6, 2016, at the High School at 10 a.m.)? Five of the six attendees were elected officials. Consider yourself chastised! Seventy percent of your property tax money goes up the street to Swanzey/Keene. Can't we spend an hour to see that it is being well spent?

Dates To Remember: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 – last day to submit petition warrant articles (25 voter signatures required) to the District. Thursday, January 14, 2016 Public Hearing on the Warrant Articles (7:00 p.m. at the High School); Saturday, February 6, 2016 Deliberative Session (high school 10:00a.m.) Voters can amend Warrants. Tuesday, March 8, 2016 Distinct vote on elected officials and warrant articles.

It is Prime Time for 2016-2017 Budgets and Warrants With Exceptions, the first of the 2016 Warrant Articles (sans teacher contract and any partition articles) are approved by the School Board December 15, 2015, and await action by your Budget Committee. The exception

being the Teachers' Contract, which is in negotiations – mediation stage as of *Rooster* (extended) 12/17/2015. The value in dollars for the latter must be provided by the second Tuesday in January (labor contracts must be voted on by the District voters) or there will be no contract for July 2016. The budget committee will not set the Operating Budget until after the Public Hearing on the warrants – see dates above. Additionally the Budget Committee will vote to support, or not to support, all warrant articles that provide funding, that is: the Building Warrant, Health and Safety Warrant, Teacher Contract (if there is one), and any other articles that spend your dollars.

Other Warrant Articles –In Brief Construction Mt. Caesar \$1.1 million; asbestos removal middle/high school \$50,000; After School Program Trust cost TBD**; Given a surplus in this budget – put \$50,000 in Fuel Reserve Fund. Possible Warrant to close the 1975 Building Trust and move funds to newer Trust. There will be an article for a School Resource Officer cost TBD.

I have a concern with the Construction Warrant article in that we ask for all the funds for a project that we can't spend when we ask for it. Case in point is the article we approved for \$1.1 million we approved last March 2015 – we have spent less than \$400,000 and will not spend the delta until next summer – July 2016. Why didn't we fund this \$700,000 next March 2016? This doesn't reduce property taxes but it does fund it when we really need it – 12 months later!

On December 16 your budget committee looked at various items to reduce our budget and set the Operating Default Budget* at \$30,975,801.


Loss of \$360,000 in state funding of adequacy For various reasons including reduced enrollment, the State has cut our adequacy funding by \$360,000 – that is the same as increasing the property tax liability by \$360,000.

The District is still spending \$2,000 more per pupil than the State average expenditures. The Dept. of Ed-

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is to serve the greater good of the people,
not special interests, corporate
or otherwise.

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"YOUR NEW HAMPSHIRE LAND EXPERTS"

ucation (NH) has published the annual Cost Per Pupil figures which is for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015. We are spending \$2,030 dollars more than the State average (Monadnock per pupil=\$16,405, State average Per Pupil=\$14,375.) That makes us the highest spender in the area (tiny Hinsdale being the exception).

On The Monday after Thanksgiving 14 of 84 Parras (Paraprofessionals) called in sick or 17% of that workforce. But wait it gets better. Under the contract they still get paid for .5 hours for paid lunch. Paid lunch for the MESSA (union abbreviated) is costing \$190,000. Did you go to work on the Monday after Thanksgiving? What would have happened if you had not?

* The default operating budget is used in the event that the operating budget fails to receive a majority from the voters. ** To be determined.

Thanks for reading my article, suggestions and comments are always welcome, email: cmoriarty@ne.rr.com; phone: 239-4031; or mail: 782 Old Homestead Hwy., Richmond 03470. Jim Carney will also assist on school matters, reach Jim at 239-4948.

Elementary School Trimester Awards Announced for First Trimester 2015-2016

Neil Moriarty

Congratulations to our young award earners – keep it up.

There were no Richmond awards at Gilsum. If your child's name should be listed, you must release the district from the "do not disclose" agreement.

Name	Award	School
Calvin Burdick	Honor Roll	Cutler
Adorn Daugherty	Honor Roll	Cutler
Lily Mathewson	Sept. Recognition	Emerson
Raven Perry	Nov. Recognition	Emerson
Eli Richardson	Principal's List	Emerson
Gabrielle Schmidt	Sept. Recognition	Emerson
Gabrielle Schmidt	Honor Roll	Emerson
Isabelle Schmidt	Nov. Recognition	Emerson

Bridget Van Valla

Honor Roll

Cutler

Update

Jim McConnell – State Representative
Cheshire 12 – Richmond and Swanze

As readers of *The Rooster* already know, I filed fifteen Legislative Service Requests this year. All have been assigned bill numbers and committees which will hear them, probably in January and February. A complete list of all of the bills I have either sponsored or co-sponsored is available on line at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us>. Once on the site, select 2016 Bill Requests (LSRs) under the Pink State Legislation Dash Board, go to Select a Sponsor and select my name from the list found by selecting the arrows to the right of the Select a Sponsor window. From the list, you may select the bill, found in bold on the left, by double clicking on the number. The bill lists the sponsor and co-sponsors, the committees considering the bills and the bills' texts.

Committees and their members may be located at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/housecommittees.aspx>. Once there, select Standing Committees.

Committees generally announce the dates and times they'll consider individual bills – the Thursday before the bills are heard – generally the upcoming Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday depending on the date of the weekly session. Sessions were held on Wednesdays last year, but there is a proposal to change that to Thursday.

There are a number of ways the public can help pass legislation. Contacting their legislators, or having friends contact their legislators, is almost always helpful. If the legislator is on the committee hearing the bill, even more so. Attending the hearing in person, whether one chooses to address the committee or not, is very helpful – particularly if a large crowd appears.

Once the committees begin to release their schedules I'll notify *The Rooster*, the New Hampshire Pipeline Awareness Network and the Municipal Pipeline Coalition each week to publicize the hearings. The list of bills I'll track will include all the pipeline and related bills I'm aware of.

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Richmond, NH

In my opinion, the most important pipeline bill is HB 1101, prohibiting charges to New Hampshire residents for the construction of high-pressure gas pipelines. Kinder Morgan's recent financial problems, largely a recognition of the company's \$42.5 billion dollar debt, have called into question the firm's finances, described by some as a "house of cards." Requiring Kinder Morgan to pay for the construction of the NED pipeline may make it difficult or impossible for them to finance should the sub-prime debt market continue to suffer.

I can be reached on my cell phone at 903-3878. I have decided it is much more efficient to use my cell phone as I'm frequently away from my desk and I'd rather take a call than return one. Please use mcc@mindspring.com my personal email since my legislative email is inundated from both out-of-state interest groups and individuals, and I'd like to make sure that you, my constituents, can reach me when you want to and not get lost in the shuffle.

SHOUT OUT

Sandra Gillis

Shout out for Road agent Mark Beal, John Holman and the amazing highway crew.

Congratulations for finishing the Fay Martin Road upgrade three months ahead of schedule and about \$100,000 under budget!

Some say the road is the best in Richmond – try it out and see what you think.

With the road upgrade and the bridge replaced, Richmond has met its obligation under a 2010 court order. We celebrate this huge accomplishment and congratulate the highway department for their amazing work – Mark Beal is to be applauded for his artistry in rebuilding the historic stone walls that had to be moved to widen the road.

And thank you to the residents along the road as they coped gracefully with any inconveniences.

The Richmond Community Development Association is preparing a presentation to give those of us who do not live on the road an idea of how much it has changed. Keep watch for an announcement.

RCDA News

Committee Members

Happy New Year from the Richmond Community Development Association (RCDA). With your continued enthusiastic support this could be the year we see the new Richmond general store and gas station at the Four Corners.

The lot is looking very empty and now comes the time to find a builder/owner so that we have our Community Store built according to specific design requirements. In

order to achieve this goal, we ask for your consideration and support of the following ordinance for inclusion on the March 2016 Land Use Warrant.

"To see if the Town will vote to create a commercial district consisting solely of Map 201, Lot 56, a .86 acre lot known as the Four Corners Store property, for the purpose of developing this property for commercial use as a new general store and gas station, according to specific guidelines that retain and support the town's rural character, and which apply only to this property."

Historic Zoning Background on the Four Corner Store lot:

The Four Corners Store was built and operated as a store and gas station prior to zoning. This property, like the rest of Richmond is zoned residential. The current ordinance defines the residential district as "All areas in the town of Richmond not otherwise defined."

Richmond has many businesses in town and the majority are home businesses, home offices, home occupations and cottage industries. They are operated primarily from the residence of the business owner. Richmond does not have a commercial business district and currently commercial uses are not allowed, except by special exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

When the Town adopted zoning regulations, existing non-residential commercial and business uses were 'grandfathered' as non-conforming uses in the districts in which they operated. The Four Corners Store was such a grandfathered use in the Residential District. Richmond zoning ordinance also states that "If any non-conforming use ceases to operate or is abandoned by the owner/operator for one (1) year, any subsequent use of the property shall be in conformance with this Ordinance." The Four Corners Store property was closed as a business on December 31, 2013, and the grandfathered use has been abandoned for two years.

The Richmond Community Development Association presented a proposed ordinance amendment to the Planning Board for its consideration on November 24, 2015. The Planning Board accepted the ordinance and held the first public hearing on December 22, 2015. The ordinance, if passed by voters in 2016, will designate as a commercial district Map 201, Lot 56, known as the Four Corners Store property, a .86 acre property. In this way, the Town can insure the property is redeveloped as a general store and gas station, according to the wishes of Town residents, as expressed in Community Forums and the town-wide survey in 2014.

How does it stack up to the RSA requirements and Richmond's Master Plan:

This proposed ordinance is in accord with RSA 674:17 II, which states "Every zoning ordinance shall be made with reasonable consideration to, among other things, the character of the area involved and its peculiar suitability for particular uses, as well as with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the municipality." The proposed ordinance is also supported by the Master Plan, Section III (2), which states "To create a district that designates an area for small retail shops centered at the four corners that retains and supports the town's rural character". It has been reviewed by the NH Municipal Association legal staff, who found that it was not spot zoning, and was appropriate for the site given the commercial use of the site for more than 100 years.

Your vote counts:

We encourage you to vote for this proposed ordinance that will enable private development of the site as a country general store and gas station. Questions? Comments? Contact us at rcdanh@gmail.com 239-6492.

Property Contamination: A Phase I Assessment, which is required by federal law when selling previously contaminated properties, was conducted in December. The practice of conducting environmental due diligence in conformance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations is intended to insure landowner liability protec-

tions. It is a necessary step to help attract a buyer and position the store for redevelopment. We expect the report to be completed in January and it will be available for the public immediately. Please check the town website.

More than 1000 tons of contaminated soil have been removed from the site in the last two years, meaning that rainwater and snow melt on the site will no longer seep through contaminated soil into the groundwater. DES will continue to monitor a well on site, to insure the groundwater quality continues to improve, as has been the case since the first 965 tons of contaminated soil were removed in 2014. [The pipe now sticking up out of the ground is an extension on the former (impacted) water supply well, which GeoInsight is preserving to act as a monitoring point going forward.]

Redevelopment Process: The Town acquired funding to conduct a feasibility study and create a bid package for potential private owners to develop the site as a general store and gas station according to certain specifications. We invite you to get involved in this process, too. If you visit a great general store in another town, please let us know. If you know someone who may be interested in developing and running a general store and gas station, please let us know. The professional request for qualifications (RFQ) and bid package will be available soon and if you want one for your own use, or to give to someone who may be interested, please let us know. We have already had several parties express interest in the site, and they will be contacted as part of the RFQ/bid process.

Unedited Letter

John Boccalini

Editors comment: This is the unedited version of a letter to the sentinel printed on 12-10-2015

Bob Weekes, Quaker Lane, Richmond

For more than a year New Hampshire residents have been asking for straight answers from Kinder Morgan, a Tennessee-based corporation, about its plan to build a \$5 bil-



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lion natural gas pipeline that would head north from MA into NH, passing through 17 of our towns in a 70-mile swath before it turns south back into MA. During this time our questions about the pipeline's benefits to and environmental impacts on New Hampshire's residents and businesses have been met with corporate obfuscation, misdirection and outright lies. Finally, on November 20th, 2015, K-M filed a 20,000 page report with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asking its approval to build the pipeline. One would expect that answers to residents' questions would be directly addressed in this voluminous report. Yet hidden in this latest wall of words are four fundamental lies that Kinder Morgan tries to keep hidden. Let me shed some light on them.

Lie #1: the fracked gas that this pipeline will carry is intended to meet New Hampshire's energy needs. The simple truth: most of the natural gas that this \$5 billion pipeline will carry through NH will wind up in Dracut, MA, where it will continue on to the seacoast to be shipped to foreign markets.

Lie #2: the pipeline will lower NH's energy bills, the underlying claim in K-M's huge advertising campaign carried in newspapers and on radio, TV and lawn signs. The simple truth: most of the gas won't even reach NH. Furthermore there is evidence that the average NH gas customer (via locally based distributor, Liberty Utilities) will incur a cost of about \$600 per year – for 20 years – should the Kinder Morgan pipeline be approved. That number stems from testimony submitted to the state com-

mission from Francisco C. DaFonte, vice president for energy procurement for Liberty Utilities.

Lie #3: building the pipeline will create NH jobs. The simple truth: not only will those jobs be temporary, for pipeline construction only, they will be filled by out-of-state union workers hired by Kinder Morgan.

Lie #4: as a good corporate citizen, Kinder Morgan will keep NH communities and residents informed of their plans every step of the way. The simple truth: despite a few well-orchestrated "town meetings" replete with well-rehearsed and uniformed K-M representatives providing canned PR materials and free food, drinks and snacks for attendees, town officials and residents, especially those directly in the pipeline's path, have been kept in the dark. What K-M couldn't hide in its 20,000 page report, however, are the severe environmental impacts that building the pipeline will have on New Hampshire communities.

Now the truth about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) whose job it is to decide whether the pipeline will be built. It's about as "Federal" as I am. FERC is totally funded by the energy industry, Kinder Morgan's friends. Yet it has been given the power not only to approve this pipeline but if it does, to invoke its powers of eminent domain to seize the homes and lands of NH residents whose properties stand in the way. We have to ask ourselves, can this really happen in America? The simple truth: yes!

Massachusetts recognized these truths over a year ago. Their governor and legislators strongly opposed the

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	Danny Wahl	We are currently looking to purchase many different items, including but not limited to these items	603-239-7200	

pipeline, fought hard and won. Kinder Morgan's response: reroute the pipeline through New Hampshire. Now, after a year of sitting on the fence, Gov. Hassan, Sen. Ayotte and Rep. Kuster finally came out against the pipeline on Dec. 2nd. All three did so the same day, after Bernie Sanders and Susan Sarandon publicly denounced it. Were they thinking about facing reelection next year or the interests of NH residents? Only time will tell.

With Kinder Morgan, New Hampshire residents are facing a well-financed Trojan Horse, unabashed corporate greed masquerading as a public gift. We have to wonder how K-M executives and shareholders, seemingly concerned only with finding more markets for their fracked gas, can sleep at night. In our quiet Currier & Ives corner of New Hampshire, we can only hope FERC will see the light and tell K-M to take its rhetoric and its pipeline back to Tennessee.

My Roots

Betty Baird Brown

Richmond, New Hampshire is a small country town in the southwest corner of the state, close to both Massachusetts and Vermont. Nestled in the wooded hills and laced with countless babbling brooks, dotted with lush meadows and boasting two jewel-like small lakes, Richmond is a beautiful place to live, but a difficult place to make a living.

About 70 years ago my father's family moved to Richmond from Lynn, MA, which lies about a hundred miles to the southeast. Grandfather Baird's health was failing and country air was prescribed. And so the city dwellers bought a small farm in Richmond and resolved to learn how to live in the country. No electricity, no gas, no plumbing, no paved roads, no stores. But lots of fresh air, a comfortable house, enough land to raise a good garden, a flock of hens, some pigs, a cow, a couple of horses, and an apple orchard.

In 1914, Dad married his childhood sweetheart from Lynn and brought her to live with his elderly parents on the farm. She, too, was city-born and bred, and had much to learn about country living. She was young and strong and very much in love and proved more than equal to the

challenge.

World War I claimed much of my father's time for a few years, but in 1917 my brother Jim was born, and two years later I made my debut, thus rounding out the family circle.

I can't imagine a finer place to grow up. Though I know now that it was often a struggle for my parents to make ends meet, still, with home-grown meat and vegetables and fruit we never went hungry. And we were never cold, for Dad kept the woodshed full with the wood he chopped himself in the woods below the house. Though there were few frills or luxuries during my growing-up years, I am certain that my brother and I were privileged children. Good music and books surrounded us. Love and laughter were never in short supply. And there was a never-ending succession of interesting, talented people who came to visit and talk and sing and enjoy my mother's good cooking.

My School Years

Elementary school for me was a one-room rural school situated about a half mile from our house. The one-room school really gave us quite an adequate preparation for high school. There is a lot to be said for the individual attention received in such a situation. Some years there were only one or two of us in a given grade, and, always, each child was encouraged to progress as fast as he could.

When I was twelve-years-old I had completed the elementary curriculum and was ready for high school. The nearest high school was six miles away in Winchester and incredibly, no one from Richmond had ever attended that school. Most children had simply dropped out after the eighth grade; the few who had gone on had moved to the larger town of Keene, coming home only on weekends. But my parents saw no reason why the town should not provide school bus service to the nearest high school since, legally, children were required to attend school until they were sixteen. So, at a town meeting it was decided that my father could transport my brother and me and three of our classmates who were interested in attending high school if they could still live at home. Thus Rich-



This photo shows William L. Baird, former mayor of Lynn, MA, and his wife Clara who moved here about 1914 with their son Howard and his wife Marion. Their daughter Elizabeth ("Betty," born in 1920) was the author of the memoir.

mond's first school bus came into being, with my father as the bus driver, using our family car.

Although we were two years apart in age, in high school my brother and I were often mistaken for twins. We were in all the same classes and even looked very much alike. A year of illness in his early childhood and the opportunity for rapid promotion in the one-room school had conspired to allow me to "catch up" with my brother by the end of the eighth grade. We had always

been very competitive and in high school neither of us could bear to let the other get better grades. Consequently, we both worked hard and we were graduated at the top of our class with enough honors to assure us of acceptance at the colleges of our choice. My brother went on to MIT and a successful career as a chemical engineer, while I elected to become a teacher and got my degree at Keene State Teachers College.

One of the important influences which helped to

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shape my life was Camp Takodah, the YMCA camp in our county. Every summer the month of July was Boys' Camp and August was Girls' Camp. When I was nine years old, the minimum age, I attended, living in a cabin with nine other girls, a counselor, and junior counselor. I adapted to camp life like a duck to water! From then on I ate, drank, slept, and lived CAMP. All the other eleven months of the year were simply prologue to AUGUST when I could be at camp again.

For five summers I attended Takodah as a camper in August. The following five summers, as a member of the staff, I spent both July and August assisting the dietician and sharing her cabin. It was there, during the summer between my junior and senior years of college, that another event occurred which has influenced all of my life since.

Meeting Arnold and Becoming a Teacher

A young man who just graduated from Yale Divinity School arrived to be the minister of the Congregational Church in Walpole, NH. Wishing to enlist the help of the County YMCA director in the Walpole youth program, he drove into camp to introduce himself. He stayed for supper and was introduced to the staff. And the die was cast!

During the following year the young minister's car frequently found its way to the Keene College campus. I remember one Saturday night when he came at my invitation to a dance on the campus. We arrived at the dance about 8:30, and at 10:00 he said we'd have to leave, because he had to get back to Walpole in time to get his eight

hours of sleep so he would be ready for his church services in the morning. Little did I know then that that would become the pattern for several hundred Saturday nights in my future.

In the spring of my senior year, practice teaching behind me, job interviews began. My very first interview was with the superintendent from Walpole, NH. I know that he didn't know I had been dating his bachelor minister all winter! He offered me a job in a rural school a couple of miles outside Walpole. Salary, \$850 the first year, \$900 the second year if they liked me and I wanted to stay. I accepted.

Those two years in #14, as my school was called, taught me far more than all the preceding years of my life. How to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as spelling, grammar, geography and history, art and music, and PE, to say nothing of honesty, kindness, and fair play to 36 children in six grades in one small room. AND at the same time keep the fire going, cook a hot lunch, care for a sick child who can't go home because there is no one there, keep an eye on the little ones who have to be excused earlier than the older ones, but still have to stay at school until the school bus comes for all of them, how to keep the boys' john from freezing solid in the winter, how to put on a Christmas operetta with only a pitch pipe, AND still find time to teach a Sunday School class, sing in the choir, attend the Grange meetings, go square dancing, bowling, and always have a happy smile for everyone. It was hectic. It was hilarious. It was terrifying. It was frustrating. It was impossible. It was delightful. It was fun. It was awful. It was exciting. It was rewarding. And it was over before I realized it.

For the young bachelor minister asked me to marry him, and I accepted.

Welcome Baskets

Karen Daugherty

Since the fall of 2014, twenty-two welcome baskets have been delivered to new residents in Richmond. Thank you to those who have contributed to the baskets and helped

"Lead Us Not...the true story of the first religious discrimination lawsuit in NH"

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to deliver them. A special thanks goes to Windswept Mountains View Christmas Tree Farm and Fairfield South for gifting new residents with coupons and certificates to their respective businesses. These baskets are received gratefully, and I believe it makes new-comers feel welcome here in Richmond. If you would like to contribute to the baskets or include a business card/pamphlet for your business please contact Karen at 239-8236.

NH Towns Question Potential Impact

Mark Bender

The New Hampshire Municipal Pipeline Coalition (NHMPC), a group of 15 towns opposed to Kinder Morgan's Northeast Energy Direct pipeline project, is raising concerns given recent news about the financial well-being of the project sponsor. Kinder Morgan's stock price continues a steep decline as company spin doctors try to deliver some positive news. The stock has declined by over 65% during 2015, is tracking at record lows, and analysts are not sure where the bottom is.

Additionally, Kinder Morgan (KMI) announced that it would slash its dividend by 75% to \$0.12 per share. Analysts had speculated that Kinder Morgan would need to cut its dividend by 98%, to one penny, to conserve cash for pipeline projects and avoid a downgrade of its credit to "junk" status. As recently as one week ago, the company had talked about dividend growth of 6% to 10%.

"This is news that I associate with a company in a cash crunch and struggling to meet its commitments," said Brian McCarthy the Town Administrator in Pelham. "Over the past year, many towns in southern New Hampshire have been hearing a lot of promises from Kinder Morgan and I now have serious concerns about how this news could impact the NED pipeline," McCarthy continued. "Unfortunately, our country has seen many examples of companies cutting corners on projects to save a buck. This news is not reassuring."

The dividend reduction will "save" the company about \$3.5 billion annually, but that money will have to be redirected to fund operations and follow through on


planned pipeline construction projects as their credit lines are closing. KMI's balance sheet has taken a few hits also. Total debt is a staggering \$44.67 billion, which many investors consider unmanageable and their debt to equity ratio is 125%.

Coalition member towns question if Kinder Morgan may become another example of a US company that grows quickly, by adding significant long-term debt, and then is unable to avoid significant stress when inevitable business pressures arise.

"Let's put this into perspective," said Mark Bender, Milford's Town Administrator. "Kinder Morgan is the company trying to convince 19 southern New Hampshire towns and tens of thousands of residents that they should be entrusted to construct and operate an 80-mile, high-pressure, 30-inch pipeline through our communities, conservation lands, private property, rivers, and aquifers. However, recent assurances they made to their own stockholders about dividend increases were flipped on their head. This sends up a number of red flags for me."

Charlie Moser, a selectman in Mason, noted "The fortunes of Kinder Morgan have changed dramatically in just the past couple of weeks. They are just beginning the approval process with federal and state regulators for the pipeline and I certainly hope the regulators will be looking very carefully at the finances of this project and its sponsor. If such a company came before our town to construct something in Mason, we would be looking long and hard at ways to protect our town and its residents from a firm

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that could be looking to minimize construction costs. Unfortunately, on interstate projects like this, we are forced to trust others, such as FERC, to look out for our interests.”

The NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition consists of municipal officials from Amherst, Brookline, Fitzwilliam, Greenville, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, New Ipswich, Pelham, Richmond, Rindge, Temple, Troy, and Winchester.

The Kinder Morgan pipeline has been proposed to cross approximately 80 miles of southern New Hampshire on its way from Pennsylvania to Dracut, MA.

Pipeline Non-Violence Civil Disobedience Training

Janice Roy

If we are called to action for a non-violent civil disobedience act, do you know what to expect? There are trained individuals ready to teach us. This class really enlightened us to the potential outcomes for any civil disobedience act. Affinity groups are formed from these classes. Knowing and trusting folks is the foundation of an affinity group. Not everyone is on the front line, we need others who have our backs.

We'd like to hold a local class in Richmond for anyone who would like to learn more about Non-violence Civil Disobedience. Call Jeff Scott at 363-4606 or Janice Roy at 239-6015 to sign up or to ask questions.



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AREA MUSIC Calendar – ONLINE

Mon. Jan. 4, – Dog Licenses Available. Richmond Town Clerk

Sat. Jan. 9, 11:45 – Free Pre-Opera Talk with Frank Behrens. Colonial Theater. Free

Sat. Jan. 9, 1 pm – Met Live in HD – The Magic Flute, Encore. Colonial Theater, Keene \$25.

Tues. Jan. 12, – last day to submit petition warrant articles (25 voter signatures required) to the School District.

Thu. Jan. 14, 7:00 pm – Public Hearing on the Warrant Articles Monadnock Regional High School

Sat. Jan. 16, 1 pm – Met Live in HD – Les Pecheurs de Peries. Colonial Theater, Keene \$25.

Sun. Jan. 17, 3 pm – John Kordalewsk Trio. Bass Hass, 19 Grove St. Peterborough. \$15-18

Mon. Jan. 18, – Richmond Town Clerk Closed

Wed. Jan. 20, – First Day of Filing Period for Town Offices. Richmond Town Clerk

Sat. Jan. 23, 8 pm – North Shore Comedy. Colonial Theater, Keene \$23

Sun. Jan. 24, 7:30 pm - Saturday Night Fever – National Broadway Tour. Colonial Theater, Keene \$51–65

Fri Jan. 29, - Last Day of Filing Period for Town Offices. 3-5 pm Only, Richmond Town Clerk. Must file in person.

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Fri Jan. 29, 6pm – Apple Hill String Quartet. Colonial Theater. \$37

Sat. Jan. 30, 1 pm - Met Live in HD – Les Pecheurs de Peries, Encore. Colonial Theater, Keene \$25.

Fitzwilliam Inn

Fall Hours: Open Wednesday – Saturday at 4pm.

Wednesday is Pub Menu and Open Mic night.

Open Sundays for Brunch 10:30am – 2pm.

We're closed January 1-20 for vacation.

End of January schedule:

Sat. Jan. 23, 7:30 – 9:30 pm – Eric McDonald and Will Woodson Traditional Scottish Folk. No Cover

Wed. Jan. 27, 6:30 pm – Four-course wine and food pairing dinner featuring fine French wines. \$55 per person including tax and gratuity.

Sat. Jan. 30 8:30–11 pm – Town Meeting Band. Indie folk, harmony-driven originals. This is a DON'T MISS band. \$6 cover.

Sunflowers Restaurant, 21B Main St. Jaffrey

Music at Brunch (B) – Sunday 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Dinner (D) – Friday beginning at 6 P.M.

No cover charge ~ Tips appreciated ~ Reservations recommended!

Ongoing:

Sun. Noon – 2 pm. Music with brunch. Waterhouse Restaurant, Depot Square, P'borough

Mon. 8 pm. Contra Dancing. Nelson Town Hall, Variety of callers and musicians. Donation: \$3. Nelson

Tues 7:30 pm. Celtic Music. Harlow's Pub, P'borough

Wed. 7 – 9 pm. Open-Mic Night at the Fitzwilliam Inn.

Wed. 3 – 6 pm. Farmers Market, P'borough Community Group, 25 Elm St. P'borough.

Wed. 9:30 pm. Open Mic Night. Harlow's Pub, P'borough

Thurs. 8 pm. Bluegrass Jam Harlow's Pub, P'borough

The Best “Miss Marple” Series is Now Complete in HD

Frank Behrens

At last, BBC has completed on DVDs the restoration of the original “Miss Marple” series. Yes, these are the ones in which Joan Hickson gives the definitive characterization of the seemingly dipsy, but razor-sharp village busybody, Jane Marple. With the arrival of Vol. 3, viewers can now enjoy these mysteries that have been not only remastered in high definition but supplied with subtitles. The latter are, however, often incomplete or paraphrases of what is actually spoken. Why?



was at least sincere but lacked that goofy façade that Hickson so beautifully managed.

Volume 1 of this enhanced BBC series contains “The Murder at the Vicarage,” “The Moving Finger,” “The Body in the Library,” and “A Murder is Announced.” In Volume 2 are “They Do It with Mirrors,” “A Pocketful of Rye,” “4:50 from Paddington,” and “The Mirror Cracked from Side to Side.” And the last volume rounds it all off with “A Caribbean Mystery,” “At Bertram’s Hotel,” “Nemesis,” and “Sleeping Murder.”

Among the many familiar stars spotted along the way are Jean Simmons, Claire Bloom, Timothy West, Tom Wilkinson, Joss Ackland, Paul Eddington, and a very young Samantha Bond.

One can see where Christie had tongue firmly in cheek. You can spot the twinkle in her eye when she names a story after a nursery rhyme, so in “A Pocket Full of Rye,” having two serious murders, is amusing to follow the hints in the song’s lyrics. The author confessed that she also had a lot of fun with “The Body in the Library,” the very title of which, like “The Murder at the Vicarage,” sounds deliberately old fashioned.

My favorite episode? “A Murder is Announced” for its complexity and “A Murder at the Vicarage” for the performances of Paul Eddington and Cheryl Campbell. My favorite character? Top honors to David Horovitch as Chief Inspector Slack, whose dislike of Miss Marple is matched only by his admiration for her astuteness.

Add to this a delightful set of bonus features at the end of each of the three BBC sets, “A Very British Murder.” Here narrator Lucy Worsely, with a charming weak “r,” discusses with dozens of old prints and photographs, mysteries – real and fictional – and personalities behind them that captured the British imagination from the mid-1880s and through the next 100 years.

Grab all 3 sets right quick. And happy viewing.

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The Richmond Rooster

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Town Business Hours

105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

Board of Selectmen:

Chris Daugherty, Carol Jameson, Kathy McWhirk

Mon. 9 AM – 7 PM (Selectmen meet at 5:30 – 7 for business

7 PM – ? for public concerns) Wed. 9 AM – 5 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON (unless otherwise posted)

Town Administrator: Heidi Wood

Assistant Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Town Clerk: Jennifer S. Thompson

Mon. 9 AM – 12 NOON, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 AM – NOON, 1 – 5 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Kerry A. Boscarino

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tues. 2 PM – 5 PM in the week taxes are due

Planning Board:

Meetings held at Veterans Hall.

4th Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 2nd Tues. if needed

Transfer Station and Recycling Facility: 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

Town Library: 239-6164. Paul Dobbs, Librarian

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 239-6007

Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466

Fire Warden: Ed Atkins, 239-6337

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

Tax Collector – 239-6106

Road Agent: Mark Beal – 903-2184

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