#### Joseph W. Tonweber

Modified version from Foley's Funeral Home Beloved husband and father, Joseph W. "Grandpa Joe" Tonweber, 76, passed away at his home in Richmond on

Jan. 7, 2017.



Joe was born in Allentown, PA, Sept. 24, 1940, son of Josef and Gertrude (Mollers) Tonweber and grew up in Allentown. He later attended the University of Cincinnati where he received his master's degree.

Joseph proudly served

in the U.S. Army from July 1967 until July of 1969, earning the rank of captain. Following his active duty service, he continued his service to his country by serving for several years in the Army Reserves, retiring with the rank of colonel.

He was a civil engineer working with the Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, NY, for 29 years. He raised his family in Kendall, NY, and enjoyed his later years in the woodlands of Richmond.

Upon moving to Richmond, Joe continued to work in his field of civil engineering, joining the engineering department of the City of Keene Public Works in 1998, later becoming the superintendent of its water and sewer department, until his retirement in 2009.

He enjoyed his family, friends, pets, gardening, tractors, trains, trucks, a bowl of ice cream, a great joke, a challenging game of cards and warm nights at home by the fire. He always lived life with a smile.

He was also an active member of the Richmond Community Church, serving on a variety of leadership teams.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 25 years, Patricia Tonweber of Richmond; his children, Christina Zdanowski-Pattison and her husband Chuck Pattison, Leandra Tonweber, Paul Hathaway, and his wife Sheila, Pamela Hathaway, and Tricia MacAdam and her husband John; and his grandchildren; Devin Zdanowski, Ian MacAdam, Colleen MacAdam, Molly MacAdam, Todd Pattison, Ryan Pattison, Ben Pattison, and wife Carrie, and Chad Pattison and wife Tanya. He was predeceased by a granddaughter Jordan Hathaway; and his first wife Anna (Smith) Tonweber.

A memorial and celebration of life service was held on Monday, Jan. 16, 2017, at noon in the Richmond Community Church, Richmond, NH.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mr. Tonweber's memory to the Richmond Community Church, 11 Fitzwilliam Road, Richmond 03470, or to the Richmond Fire and Rescue Co., 105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond 03470.

The Foley Funeral Home of Keene has assisted the family with the arrangements. For online condolences to the family, please visit www.foleyfuneralhome.com

#### Calendar Dates 2017 Richmond Town Clerk's Office

Feb. 3, 2017 Last Day of Filing Period for Town Offices (3-5 PM Only)

Feb. 20, 2017 CLOSED - President's Day

#### **Town Election**

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Veterans Memorial Hall. Polling hours are from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm. The Monadnock Regional School District Election will also be conducted at this time.

If you are not yet a registered Richmond voter, you still have time. You may complete the voter registration forms at my office during my regular office hours up through March 2. You may register to vote at the Supervisors of the Checklist final session before the Town Election. This will be on March 4 from 11:00 – 11:30 am at the Veterans Memorial Hall. And finally, it is possible to register to vote on Election Day. Please

feel free to contact the Town Clerk's office for more information about registering to vote.

Absentee ballots can be obtained through the Town Clerk's office. In order to receive an absentee ballot, the request must be in writing and signed by the voter. Request forms are available at the Town Clerk's office and on the Town website. For more details about who qualifies to receive an absentee ballot and how to return the ballot, please contact the Town Clerk's office.

Your emails to richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com, phone calls (239-6202), and visits are always welcome!

#### **Renew Your Dog License Online**

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Dog tags are available at the Town Clerk's office. If you licensed your dog in Richmond last year, you can now request the 2017 dog tag online. Go to the town website at <a href="https://www.richmond.nh.gov">www.richmond.nh.gov</a> and go to the Town Clerk's page found under the Town Department tab.

If you licensed your dog last year or have recently acquired a new dog, you need to license your dog with the Town of Richmond. In either case, the rabies vaccination must be current in order for you to license your dog. If you've added a puppy or dog to your family, you are required to vaccinate it for rabies within 30 days after it reaches 3 months of age or after acquiring an adult dog. Once you've vaccinated the puppy or dog, you can then license it. Please bring the rabies certificate with you when you come to the office to license your puppy or dog. If it is neutered or spayed, please bring documentation to verify that.

Following are the licensing fees: 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.

I encourage everyone who has a dog to avoid late fees and/or civil forfeiture fees by licensing your dog on time!

#### **November Update**

Jim McConnell – State Representative Cheshire 12 – Richmond and Swanzey is always a busy month at the Capitol a

January is always a busy month at the Capitol as completed Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) are being assigned bill numbers and assigned to the committees which will hear them.

This year I have submitted two resolutions and five bills.

The first of my resolutions is **House Resolution 7**, which calls on the US Senate and House of Representatives to consider a constitutional amendment prohibiting campaign contributions unless the donor is eligible to vote in that federal election. This is an idea I've thought about for some time and an approach which I believe offers the best means to take down the FOR SALE sign over Washington and fixing our very broken system of financing campaigns. I'm calling this proposal the **Real Reform Amendment** and have set up a web site www.realreformamendment.org showing the Resolution and Frequently Asked Questions to advance its passage, here and across the country.

The second resolution is **House Concurrent Resolution 3**, which rescinds all applications by the New Hampshire legislature for a federal constitutional convention and urging other states to withdraw similar requests. I am firmly convinced that any such convention cannot be limited in scope and, as such, offers a real threat to the freedoms we enjoy.

Three of my bills are pipeline related.

**House Bill 162** establishes criteria for the issuance of certificates for the siting of high pressure gas pipelines. The bill stipulates that no site shall be considered for a pipeline unless the application provides that:

- **I.** All affected residential property owners shall receive just compensation for eminent domain proceedings. *Compensation shall include:*
- (a) Payment of the full fair market value of all residential property taken by the applicant.
- (b) Reasonable relocation expenses not to exceed \$10,000.
- (c) The cost of one real estate appraisal requested by the owner.
- (d) Reasonable attorneys' fees and legal costs incurred by the owner.
- II. The applicant has established that 75 percent or more of the gas transmitted into New Hampshire as a result of such high pressure gas pipeline shall be distributed within New Hampshire.

House Bill 179 prohibits the imposition of any tariff, tax, or fee on any electric ratepayer for the purpose of partially or wholly financing the construction of a high pressure gas pipeline. This bill is a result of the Interim Study Statement released by the House Ways and

Means Committee on the very similar bill I submitted last year. As I've previously reported, their Statement determined that this legislation is needed.

House Bill 493 requires the public utilities commission to determine if certain gas pipeline capacity contracts are in the public interest.

The bill provides that...the commission shall determine whether any gas pipeline capacity contract with a term of more than one year is in the public interest. In evaluating the public interest, the commission shall specifically consider:

- **I.** Whether such capacity contract reasonably protects ratepayers from the risk of stranded or other costs from excess capacity or otherwise;
- II. Whether reasonably available alternatives providing the same or less risk would better serve the public interest; and
- **III.** Whether such capacity contract is consistent with RSA. 378:37 and other state energy policies.

**House Bill 482** requires social media companies to remove subscriber information at the subscriber's request. This bill appears to be the first of its kind as our researchers have been unable to find anything similar. I believe it addresses a significant problem.

House Bill 399 regards pesticide use and notification in places where children play. This bill restricts the use of certain lawn pesticides where children play unless alternative methods have been exhausted and requires advance notification when these pesticides are used.

This year the legislature will again address the issue of federal landholdings in the state. Last year, my bill to require the Department of Resources and Economic Development to annually calculate and report federal landholdings in the state was signed into law. Last year's legislation to update RSA 121, which governs federal land purchases, was vetoed by the Governor but will be brought up again this year in the Senate. This is important legislation as it improves procedures for federal land acquisitions in compliance with RSA121.

Federal land acquisitions have proven problematic for many towns in New Hampshire as the federal government has failed to provide the payments in lieu of taxes towns and municipalities have been promised, resulting in increased local taxes to cover the shortfall.

While this is generally thought of as an issue only in the northern part of the state, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has released plans which, over the next 15

years, will lead to acquisitions throughout the Connecticut River Valley. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has, for example, identified the area around Sprague Brook as part of its conservation focus area which means that approximately 90% of identified land would be either purchased or under easement to the US Fish and Wildlife Service thus impacting Richmond.

The County Delegation's Executive Committee, on which I sit, has begun meeting to consider the County's Budget.

Maplewood's expansion planning is proceeding and it appears likely that final costs will be available in late spring to enable the Delegation to complete its work on the project.

I can be reached at 903-3878, which is my cell phone. 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. My personal email is mcc@mindspring.com. Please use my personal email as 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.

## Things and Thoughts from the District –

Neil Moriarty

PLEASE COME TO THE DELIBERATIVE SESSION ON FEBRUARY 4, 10:00 am, AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

You could have reduced taxes by \$1 million last year. There is no telling what the budget could be raised to on February 4th.

#### Update on the \$510,000 Teacher's Insurance Pool

A couple of months ago the School Board gave the teachers a portion of the \$510,000. So, the amount in debate is now \$390,000. As I said before, this should have been resolved as part of the teacher contract. The Teacher's Insurance Pool is at arbitration; the arbitrator is not expected to give their response until mid February 2017. His (or her) decision will be non-binding.

Briefly Here is the 2017 Warrant, with comments. Your Budget Committee does NOT support the Teacher's contract!

The Free lunch/breakfast warrant article was deleted. Article One Operation Budget. Your Budget Commit-

tee has set the operation budget at \$31,423.301 with a Default budget at \$32,746,272. The Default budget will be used if the article is defeated by the voters. I believe the operation budget is a fair compromise.

Article Two Phase III of Mount Caesar. \$1,400,000 includes demolition of the wooden buildings at the East end. As I said last month, we are being asked to fund a project that is three-years long, and includes a demolition project, without state funding, which used to cover 57% of the cost.

Article Three Health and Safety includes removal of asbestos tiles, which can be covered legally, but I get tired of arguing this. Ms. Fortson stated that they had tried covering them. My response to that is, that they did not cover them well. Any person, with some handyman experience, can cover a floor with Luan. Then tiles would last as long as the building (I guess I'm still arguing about this!) The amount is \$193,000.

**Article Four ACES 93** (Its real current name) before-and-after-school program \$75,000.

**Article Five** adds \$50,000 to the Special Education Expendable Trust – given a surplus at the end of the school year. Although it is a tax, it will only be funded if other items do not cost as much as forecast.

**Article Six Teachers Contract** adds \$420,462 to the current tax bill. As I said above, the Teacher's Insurance Pool issue should have been resolved here. Additionally, why are we being asked to fund Insurance for retired teachers?

**Article Nine – Please Vote YES**. This is a petition article I put together to eliminate a discriminatory School Board policy.

See separate Article Nine below.

Thanks for reading my article. If you have thoughts, ideas, or questions, contact me at 239-4031; 782 Old Homestead Hwy, Richmond; or cmoriarty@ne.rr.com. Jim Carnie can help with district items at 239-4948.

#### **Petition Warrant Article**

Neil Moriarty

I put this petition article together and obtained the required 25 signatures. Thanks to all that signed it. It will be **Article Nine** on the School Warrant:

Where as, the current School Board policy BCA item #10 reads: "When the Board has made a final decision, members of the Board should take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration; and

refrain from private actions which undermine or compromise official Board action."

Will the voters of Monadnock Regional School District (MRSD) vote to have the MRSD school board delete BCA item #10 – to provide freedom of speech as provided by the Bill of Rights – Amendment One, in our United States Constitution? Majority vote required.

#### **Richmond Library News**

Wendy O'Brien

#### **Saturday Coffee Hour**

Elaine Moriarty and Sandee Auvil are hosting our First Saturday Coffee Hour on Saturday, February 4, from 10:30-11:30. Join us for hot drinks, yummy goodies, and good conversation.

#### **Valentines Card Making Party**

In conjunction with our coffee hour, on Saturday, February 4, bring the kids to make valentine cards. We will have a crafting table available throughout the day with materials to make valentines for all the special people in your life. Thanks to Katie Eliopoulos for the great craft ideas!

#### **Reading with Sherriff**

Our reading-with-dogs program is back! Join Sherriff and his handler Jerry Mills on Saturday, February 18 at 11:00 am. Sherriff offers his 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.

#### **Hawaii Vacation Day Party**

Feeling housebound? Wishing for warm weather? Join us on Wednesday, February 22 at 10:00 am for our Hawaiian Vacation Day Party at the Library. We will have activities for kids of all ages, with lots of indoor games (limbo anyone?), snacks, and a craft table.

#### Wednesdays with Wendy

Bring your little ones and come join us for stories, snacks and a craft at 10:00 am on Wednesdays. We will have Valentine's Day and other fun stories celebrating all the great holidays in February.

#### **Knitting Circle**

Calling all knitters (and those who would like to learn!) to our new knitting circle on **Wednesday mornings at** 

**10:00 am**. We have a lively group of new and experienced knitters led by Lucy Duchaney. Other handcrafters are also welcome!

#### **RCUMC News**

Greetings to all from the Richmond Community United Methodist Church. It was with a sad heart that we held a Memorial Service for Joe Tonweber on January 16. But, even though there was sadness and grieving, it was truly a celebration of Joe's life! He was very involved in the church and community and will be missed by all!

We pray for his wife Pat and family that they be comforted as they continue on without Joe.

Plans for February include "Souper Bowl" on Sunday, the 5th. We ask that those coming to church that day (and any day) bring some healthy canned soup for our Food Pantry at the Town Hall, which is available to others who are less fortunate.

February 12 is Boy Scout Sunday. We are hoping to have some Boy Scouts attend to present the colors and participate in the service. Since Valentine's Day is the following Tuesday, February 14, we will celebrate it on the 12th with gifts to our Valentines!

There's always something good happening at Richmond Community UMC. Come and worship with us any Sunday at 9 am. Sunday School is available for the young. We are conveniently located at 11 Fitzwilliam Rd. (Rt. 119), just east of the junction of Routes 32 and 119. Come and be blessed! Join us on Facebook!

### Dog found

The Brunk Family

Our dog Jackson was found Saturday morning after being lost for 5 days. He was found on route 32 by Becky Haskins. Thank you so much to her and all who looked for him. We appreciate your help and support.

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#### "AIR NOW"

#### John Boccalini

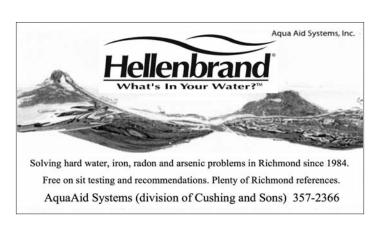
The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services maintains a website, "Air Now," that provides you with real-time air quality information that you can use to protect your health. The site gives us location-specific reports on the current air quality, as well as air quality forecasts on ozone and fine particle pollution. The info for our area can be found at their website. (https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.loc al\_city&zipcode=03470&submit=Go). There are also AirNow apps available for Apple and Android devices.

#### **EPA News**

EPA Analysis shows that there have been decreased toxic chemical releases in New Hampshire of 26% in 2015 over the previous year and a 91% decrease of toxicair emissions since 2005. Comparatively there was a 9.4% reduction in the six New England states over the one year period of 2014-2015 and a 70.9% reduction over the last 10 years exceeding the national air trend of a 50% reduction.

The top ten chemicals released to the environment onand off-site during 2014 in New Hampshire were:

<b>CHEMI</b>	CAL	<b>Pounds</b>	Released
Sulfuric	acid	156,186	
Hydroch	loric acid	65,762	
Zinc con	npounds	46,263	
Barium o	compounds	31,545	
Nickel		26,215	
Ammoni	a	20,629	
Methano	1	20,340	
Styrene		18,320	
Toluene		16,138	
Chromiu	m	7,719	



The ten facilities that reported the largest quantity of on- and off-site environmental releases in New Hampshire under TRI for 2015 were:

Facility Pounds	Released
Merrimack Station, Bow	176,276
Schiller Station, Portsmouth	88,597
Hutchinson Sealing System, Newfields	40,538
Hitchiner Manufacturing Co. Inc., Milford	15,394
G.E. Co., Hooksett	14,363
Freudenberg Nok Sealing Tech	12,871
Elektrisola INC., Boscawen	12,753
Essential Power Newington LLC Newington	n 10,928
Public Service Co of N.H., Newington	9,073
Eastern Boats Inc., Milton	8,870

The Complete report for New Hampshire can be obtained at this EPA webpage.

file://localhost/(https//:www.epa.gov:newsreleases:epaanalysis-shows-decreased-toxic-chemical-releasesnew-hampshire-2015)

One last note. Vermont has shown an increase of 14.8% of chemical releases from 2014 to 2015. However, since 2005 they have shown a reduction of 15.6%. The Moore Co. Fulflex of Vermont, located in Brattleboro, VT, was ranked 5th worst facility in 2014, releasing 18,720 pounds of toxic chemicals. In February of 2011, Fulflex of Vermont was inspected by the EPA and subsequently paid a fine of \$198,500 for a number of violations. The violations resulted in the release of particulate matter above the permitted limit, and made compliance monitoring difficult for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the EPA.

As the crow flies, Fuller is approximately 17 miles Northwest of Richmond 4 Corners.

#### **QUOTABLE QUOTE**

Terri O'Rorke

 $Love\ is\ composed\ of\ a\ single\ soul\ inhabiting\ two\ bodies.$ 

—Aristotle

# Happy Valentine's Day, Richmond!

#### **My Favorite Animal**

From the mailbox of Lew Whittum

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken."

She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal.

I told my dad what happened and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much.

I do, too. Especially chicken, pork, and beef.

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office.

I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was.

I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken.

She sent me back to the principal's office.

He laughed, and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am.

Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous military person I admired most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders."

Guess where I am now...



Vol. V, No. 1

Published When the Spirit Moves

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education." - Thomas Jefferson

#### Town Meeting March 8, 1977 7:30 PM, Veterans Hall Polls Open 2:30 PM

This is a year when we can look forward to a very substantial increase in our taxes. Most of this comes from the School Tax which, at best, is well over half our total tax. This year we are educating 63 children. The County Tax, which nearly doubled last year, will hold about the same this year, and increase substantially, next year when work on the Court House is expected to begin. Within our control are the items on our own Warrant. They divide into luxuries, things it would be nice to have, and necessities, those things which the Town really needs. For one of the necessities, by spending money now, we will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars in the future. As to the non-money articles, Richmond is growing, and regulations are being mandated by the State and by the Federal Government. Let us not be stampeded too fast out of our rural informality, with its strong dependence on volunteers of good will, into a mini-bureaucracy.

#### The Richmond Country Club

#### Article 27 Recreation Complex \$2000

Article 27 Recreation Complex \$2000

Last year we voted to have heavy machinery take out the stumps and prepare the ground. The Town spent \$2104 to accomplish this. Beyond that it was planned to create the recreation area principally with volunteer labor and contributed money and materials, particularly from those comparative few who will be using it. This year the Selectmen are asking for \$2000 more tax money for the Recreation Committee to spend for various purposes. Why do the Selectmen arbitrarily change the clear sense of the 1976 Town Meeting which was to continue the develop-Meeting which was to continue the develop-ment of this without cost to the Town?

Article 31 Veterans Hall Septic Facilities \$2000

To provide modern plumbing and kitchen facilities with an approved disposal system. This involves remodelling this area, insulating it from the outside and from the rest of the Hall, and heating it all winter at considerable expense. There is also the substantial risk of having a power or furnace failure. As there is no one in residence this would result in the destruction of fixtures and pipes. Ma-"Carry Hull contributed an efficient, expensive tollet which should keep the girls happy. The boys can be somewhat rural a while longer. To provide modern plumbing and kitchen happy. The bo

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#### The Richmond Country Club Article 27 Recreation Complex \$2,000

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#### Article 31 Veterans Hall Septic Facilities \$2,000

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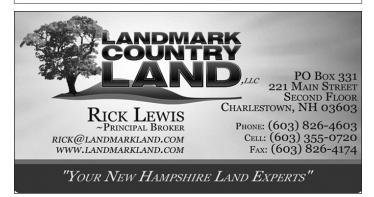
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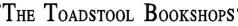












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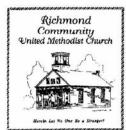
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Pastor Arnold Johnson
Sunday Worship Services
9:00 a.m.

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#### **Fitzwilliam Inn News**

Chelley Tighe

Our February Schedule:

February 4: Sugarbush Road Originals and covers 7:30 – 930. No cover.

February 14: Valentine's Day Dinner – Prix Fixe Menu. Reservations Only. Call for details.

February 18: 7:30 - 9:30. Caleb Wetherbee. Acoustic guitar. No cover.

February 25: 7:30 – 10pm. Miss Maybell and Slimpickins Ragtime and American Roots and Blues No cover!

#### **Edge Ensemble Theatre Company**

Catherine Behrens

The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company will hold its annual Dinner Theatre on Saturday, February 11. It will be a perfect date for Valentine's Day weekend! The play is *Lovers and Other Strangers* by husband-wife team Joseph Bologna and Renee Taylor – a romantic comedy telling five stories of the strange and comic liaisons between couples at various stages in their relationship. Doors open at 6 pm, with soup served at 6:30; the play beginning at 6:45; and main courses and desserts served during the two intermissions. A cash bar with beer and wine will be open.

Dinner theatre tickets are \$55 each (watch for menu selections!), and **reservations are required**.

Opening night of *Lovers and Other Strangers* – an Edge Café Dessert Theatre – is Friday, February 10, at 7:30 pm. Additional Edge Cafe Dessert Theatre performances will be held on Sunday, February 12, at 2 pm, and Thursday through Saturday, February 16-18, at 7:30 pm, with a 2 pm matinee on Sunday, Feb.19.

Five separate romantic comedies, each with its own strange twist, tell of a planned seduction gone astray; a groom-to-be who gets cold feet on the eve of his wedding; a happily married couple comically debating whose turn it is to start a romantic encounter; an extramarital affair that leads to chaos and mayhem, laughter and tears; and a long-suffering Italian-American couple trying to save their son's marriage by admitting their own isn't perfect.

Directed by Kim Dupuis and Dan Patterson, *Lovers and Other Strangers* features a strong ensemble cast of veterans and newcomers, including Wendy Almeida, Scott Aronowitz, Tom Bernstock, Kim Dupuis, Ruby Dupuis-Morrison, Glenn Geiser-Getz, Astrid Kipka,

Damien Licata, Dan Patterson, Cynthia Rodier, Aaron Rychwa, and Tara Sabino-Potter.

All performances will be held at Heberton Hall, Keene Public Library Annex, 76 Winter St., Keene, NH. Tickets for Edge Cafe Dessert Theatre performances (including dessert and beverage) are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors over 65 and students.

To purchase tickets for the dinner theater, or to make reservations for the desert theater, call 603-352-5657, or email TheEdgeEnsemble@aol.com; send a message through our website at www.edgeemble.org, at facebook.com/The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company.

#### **Pete Tandy**

Submitted by Jean Tandy

"Pete" Tandy grew up in the village of North Dana, MA. The town was decimated; houses ripped down board by board, moved out, sold or burned. cemeteries dug up and removed...to foreign places...The people were forced to move away to find new lives elsewhere.

He was eleven years old when the town of North Dana's remnants were finally washed away by "the flooding." The Swift River was unloosed into and throughout the entire Swift River Valley, where all the towns had been removed to provide water resources for the city of Boston.

What once was a lovely valley filled with towns and homes, bustling villagers, horses, cattle, and all the family pets and humans' love, became what is now, known through out New England, as the "Quabbin Reservoir."

I share this bit of Pete's story to explain how his poetry and stories often carry a kind of sadness, of time passing, of "once it was...but now it's passing on, and his final "but then too, once it was thus!"

#### Was A Village (author unknown)

Once it was a village
Now it is a lake
Blue-bright in the sunshine
Black in falling night
Church and weathered farmhouse
Store and village green
Wineglass elm and garden
Graveyard loved and trim
Once it was our village
Now it is your lake
An old New England village
Someone said you could take.

#### My Neighbor's Clothesline

Pete Tandy

I've come to know their names and faces, slowly, through the years, but have depended mostly on their clothesline to know about their lives.

They are my neighbors, sort of, living a couple of miles on down the hill. Even though we live on the same road we don't, as the saying goes, travel in the same circles.

No important differences between us as far as I can tell. Just different circumstances.

We go off to work in one direction, they in another; my children grown and gone before they came to start their family.

And you know how it goes on country roads. Either snow or mud most of the year, or so it seems, and the rest of the time still narrow enough to ask for your attention when you meet another car.

You have to keep one eye on the ditch and with the other gauge whether you've given up your fair share of the road to the oncoming fenders.

We recognize each others' cars at once, of course: that old Blazer with terminal salt rot takes its sustenance from the Ridgeways; the white Toyota carries the new folks who moved into the Tolman Place, and so on.

We wave to the familiar cars but the faces at the wheel are often insubstantial; a few rods down the road from meeting and I can't remember was it the mister or the missus who was driving?

Or was it someone else? Not antisocial so much as simply disengaged.

Contemporary patterns have relaxed the ties that bound the homesteads of our hill in years long past.

Scarcely a day beyond their moving in, a clothesline sprouted from the porch post by the kitchen door, reaching through the sunshine to the sugar maple forty feet away.

And, across the past two decades, the line has been my window on their lives.

That first cold autumn, nurse's uniforms gave way to maternity dresses, soon replaced by endless, freeze-dried diapers, standing down like boards beneath the line, thawing softer by the woodstove than summer sun could make them.

The clean white field of didies soon grew bright with flowers of dresses for the twins. Tiny pinafores and jumpers blossomed, sundresses and snowsuits following in season, grown larger in a wink of eye.

One day small elves, big-eyed and solemn, waiting for the school bus in their sun-drenched clothes; then (surely not so soon?) the clothesline hung with stonewashed jeans and tie-dyed shirts, the girls gone leggy all one night, it seemed.

Fads and fashions had their moment on the stage, practical cotton having to yield, utility giving way to more insistent needs. Soon the line was strewn with underthings: the "dainties" and "unmentionables" (screened from neighbor's view by sheets back in my time) flying here like flags of passage.

And with the sad progression so common to all life, the vitality of the clothesline slowly waned. The girls were off to college now, no looking back, the faithful line left often empty, seeming to welcome sporadic overloads of weekend laundry when the twins came home.

And then, at last, even those brief visits slowed as the girls' young lives found other centers, other loves. Between the clothesline and the road now stands a sign that says – "For Sale."

The way things go these days it won't be long before a stranger comes this way, willing to give some multiple of what my neighbors paid. The house won't go long empty. And I suppose the new folks will have a clothes dryer, and take away the pulleys and the cord.

My window on this world will fade to black and they will be reduced to insubstantial faces with familiar cars. The end.

#### A Simple Shelter Channels Early Forgotten History

**Bob Weekes** 

The years following the end of the American Civil War were still perilous times for a healing nation. Returning veterans found no work and no means of supporting themselves or their families. The ensuing Panics of 1873 and 1893, punctuated by railroad and bank failures and runs on bank deposits and gold reserves, made things worse. Depressed economic conditions persisted up until 1929, the start of the Great Depression when the bottom dropped out. "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime" was heard on street corners across America.

The impact of all this was a growing migration of single and unemployed men from industrial cities, where jobs no longer existed, to more rural areas. Men took to the roads, and largely the railroads, in search of jobs, a free meal and a place to spend the night.

These vagrants were called "tramps," initially because they tramped from place to place. Many were

branded "work shy" because tramps would work only when required to pay for a day's food and lodging.

But some were more industrious, actively seeking work and wages, a more prideful segment who regarded themselves as "Knights of the Road." They came to be known (one story has it) as "hoe-boys," taking their name from an agricultural implement they willingly wielded as temporary farm workers, a moniker which was later shortened to "hobos."

A third segment, labeled "bums," was the most troublesome because they stole whatever they needed as they moved through towns and farms along the way.

Taken together, this flood of transients grew to epidemic proportions in small towns ill-equipped to deal with them. Tramps were a particular source of worry to housewives who were confronted by panhandlers while their husbands were away in the fields or at work.

Regardless, states required their towns to provide some form of public assistance to the homeless. As a result, small towns like Richmond built tramp houses, which often doubled as jails. There, under the watchful eye of the sheriff, vagrants could find shelter and a meal – usually crackers, cheese, beans, and water – before being "warned out of town" the following day.

Some viewed tramp houses as a means of defense; others viewed this practice more charitably as caring for those who could not care for themselves. Either way, tramp houses were a significant part of the cultural fabric of as many as 40 towns in New Hampshire alone.

Tramp houses usually were modest structures, one or two rooms built for function, not comfort. Because they were not a source of pride as were the town's churches, meeting houses and schools, many simply disappeared after tramps themselves disappeared.

This was almost the case in Richmond before its

Heritage Commission took on the task of fundraising and restoration. Its badly decaying tramp house lay hidden by forest-turned-swamp after the state raised Route 119 by several feet many years ago, backing water onto the site. Most residents were unaware of its existence or original purpose.

Richmond's tramp house is a single 10 x 12-foot room of balloon-frame construc-

tion, covered by clapboard with a gabled roof, one door and one window. It was meticulously restored in 2015 by the Richmond Heritage Commission adhering to the Secretary of Interior's strict standards for restoring historic structures. This meant preserving all interior and exterior construction materials that could be saved and re-creating original finishes. It was a true community effort, supported almost entirely by funds raised privately and with materials and labor contributed by local residents.

As was true 100 years ago, wood and clapboards were cut from Richmond trees and milled locally. Today it is one of only two fully restored tramp houses in the state of New Hampshire.

Richmond's tramp house has since been furnished to the period with a small wood stove, a double-decker rope bed, a chair and table, complete with kerosene lamp and a can of baked beans. Sitting in its own vest pocket park, it serves as a treasured mini-museum presenting this almost forgotten chapter in Cheshire County's cultural history.

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



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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 - 12 PM, 3 - 7 PM, 5:30 - 7 PM for business 7 PM - ? for public concerns)

Tues. 9-12 (Selectmen meet first Tuesday ONLY) Wed. 9 AM - 1 PM, Thurs. 9 AM - 1 PM (unless 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. 1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM and 3rd Tues. if needed

Transfer Station and Recycling Facility: 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM - 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM - 7 PMSat. 8 AM - 5 PM

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

Tues. 3 PM - 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM - 12 NOONThurs. 3 PM - 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM - 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 239-6007

Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466

re/Rescue (Non Emergency): 259-4400

Fire Warden: Ed Atkins, 392-2027

**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