



INFANT WINS RAFFLE!

Imagine being not quite one year old and winning the Firefighters Auxiliary Christmas raffle for the Biggest Stocking in Antrim. The 6-foot stocking that Stephanie Wood won was filled with \$850 worth of goods and services. These were donated by local businesses and earned over \$450 for the Firefighters Auxiliary.

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CONVAL SCHOOL BOARD

Ray Côté

School District meetings are upon us again. Meeting Part 1, also called the deliberative session, was held Saturday, January 31 at the Conval High School gym. Voters gathered to hear, discuss (and amend) various Warrant articles. The revised Warrant has been published in local papers and will be available at the Town Library.

This is the second year the Conval school district is operating under Senate Bill 2 rules which requires two separate meetings—the 'deliberative' session (held January 31) and the voting session to be held on March 10.

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INTERVIEW WITH ARTHUR "SMOKEY" MERRILL

Lyman Gilmore

This is an excerpt from the first interview in the Antrim Historical Society's "Oral History Project" the purpose of which is to create a tape recording archive of Antrim's past through the recollections of older residents.

"I was born May 18, 1924, in Nashua, NH. My mother, I can't tell you much because she died before I was two years old. She kept boarders here. Before she was married she worked in Boston at S.S. Peirce as a secretary. She was born in Maine. My father hauled lumber from the sawmills, the steam mills, to the freight cars. He had a three horse hitch, so he run big wagons in the summertime, and a big tandem sled in the wintertime. He drawed some tremendous loads of lumber to the railroad station across the river over in Bennington."

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TOWN MEETING

Phil Dwight, for the Board of Selectmen

Once again Town Meeting is upon us. On March 10 we will be electing Town Officials, voting on proposed Zoning Amendments and also on the Conval Budget and other warrant articles (this issue is covered in another article). Polls at Town Hall will be open from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. On March 12 we will meet in the Great Brook Gymnasium at 7:00 pm, at the traditional Town Meeting, to take up the Town Warrant of some fourteen articles.

As for the voting for Town Officials, the list is fairly long, but there is only one contest—that for the three year terms on the Planning Board. The three individuals running for the two positions are G. Spencer Garrett, Hugh Giffin, and Edwin Rowehl.

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REPORT FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Representative Gordon Allen

The big news (as predicted in my last Limrik column!) is the NH Supreme Court's "Claremont II" ruling on December 17, 1997 declaring that our current system of using local property taxes to pay for public education is unconstitutional. In making its decision, the Court gave the Legislature only one year to come up with a new tax system for our schools. Barring any special session, this means the Legislature has to find a new way to pay for an "adequate" education by June 1998. Otherwise, for the 1999 tax year, no one would be legally required to pay the educational portion of their property taxes. This is a strong incentive for quick action.

The Court's ruling springs directly from their landmark 1993 "Claremont I" ruling which declared public education to be a fundamental responsibility of state government. Based on this, the Court ruled in Claremont II that even though the state has legally delegated the actual operation of schools to local school districts, the school property taxes used to pay for them are state taxes and therefore must be uniform in rate throughout the state. In other words, it made no difference that they were collected locally, they were still state Voting this year for Antrim will be at the Town Hall between 8:00 am and 7:00 pm on March 10.

This year, the annual gross operating budget (Warrant item #5) for the school district is \$24,846,879. The majority of the increase over last year's budget is taken up by previous obligations including the first payment of the new bond for the elementary schools, increases in special education, and the bus contract. According to the rules of Senate Bill 2, the district must also calculate a Default Budget based on last year's budget plus existing contractual obligations. This amount, which also appears on the Warrant, is \$24,510,131. The difference between these two values is \$336,748. Included in this difference are increased cost of supplies, equipment, and electricity/fuel. It also includes two full-time and one half-time curriculum coordinators in the area of Science, Math, and Social Studies to improve these three subjects throughout the school district. The Conval district has done comparatively well on both the national and state standardized tests, but we can expect even more from our students and teachers. These coordinators will help us focus on these key educational areas.

We will also be voting on a new two-year teacher's contract. The contract provides for a slightly longer school year (one more day next year and an additional day the year after), a slightly longer Kindergarten day (20 minutes), and a maximum dollar cap on health insurance premiums.

On March 10, we will also need to vote on 13 additional Warrant articles. If you have questions about any articles, please call either Phil Dwight (588-8000) or myself (588-3139).

SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are an Antrim town resident heading off to college next year, you are eligible for a college scholar-ship. Contact the Conval High School Guidance office for information about scholarship applications specifically for Antrim residents. Scholarships for both first year and continuing college students are available.



NEWS DEADLINE



Contributors to the LIMRIK should provide copy to reporters by the 8th of the month preceding each issue. Issues are published in December, March, June, and September. For the next issue, copy should be delivered by May 8, either to a staff member or to the Tuttle Library.

The Zoning questions revolve around a change in the regulations governing Home Based Businesses. In effect the regulations would not permit Retail Stores in any area of Town except in the "Village Business District" or the "Highway Business District". As this was adopted despite some expressed concerns at the Public Hearing on the subject, you should study the pros and cons before voting.

As for the Town Warrant, there are fourteen articles to be discussed and on which votes will be taken. Many are "routine" but there are others that may be considered controversial. The routine articles include allocation to reserves, new equipment for the Fire, Police, and Highway Departments; money for repair of Gregg Lake Dam; funds to make the upstairs of Town Hall handicapped accessible and heated for year round use and finally a budget allocation which would result in an increase of some \$17,000 (or 2%) over last year in the amount needed to be raised by taxes.

Other articles include two by petition which are "Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen". These are: 1.) a request for additional funds to have the Library open additional hours and an additional day; 2.) "reserve" the piece of Town owned land behind the "Aiken" building, including the land on which the two rear additions now stand, for the future expansion of the Library.

The last article puts forth the Recommendation of the Aiken Feasibility Committee to proceed with a Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$350,000 to renovate the Aiken Building as a Family and Community Resource Center. This recommendation received majority, but not unanimous, support of the Committee and of the Selectmen. Elsewhere in this issue is an article about the proposal and when the Town Report is available you will find additional information in there. This is obviously an important issue and could have a major future impact on the Town in various ways.

We urge you to obtain as much information as you can about these Warrants before Town Meeting and then listen carefully to the reasons to vote for or against each. And, once again, we urge everyone to come to Town Meeting on March 12; listen to the discussions, become informed and VOTE.

taxes because their purpose was to pay for the state constitutional mandate for public education. The Court then ruled that our current school property taxes are unconstitutional simply because they vary greatly from town to town and do not have a uniform rate throughout the state as required by the NH Constitution.

The Court did not specify what taxes should be used to replace local school taxes, but gave the following very specific instructions on any use of property taxes in the future to pay for schools:

"To the extent that the property tax is used in the future to fund the provision of an adequate education, the tax must be administered in a manner that is equal in valuation and uniform in rate throughout the State."

As you can imagine, this issue is dominating all others during this legislative session. The ruling is good news for the handful of Legislators like myself who agree wholeheartedly with the Court, and who have long been proposing legislation to fix our unfair school tax system. I am pleased to report that the newest version of the flat statewide property tax bill I first filed in 1992 (and again in refined versions in 1994 and 1996), has been accepted by the Rules Committee for consideration again this session as a solution to the Claremont II ruling.

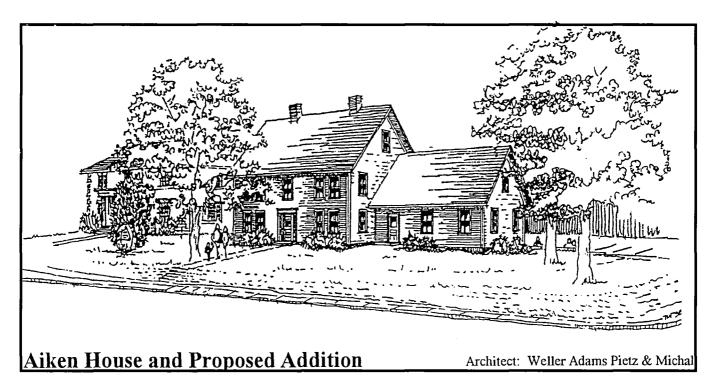
Unfortunately, as I write this in mid-February, the response by the Legislative leadership to the Claremont decision so far has been neither encouraging nor even mature. First, they rejected the reasonable request by Governor Shaheen to establish a joint committee of the House, Senate, and Governor to look at alternatives and come up with a solution all could support. Second, they then jumped on the bandwagon to support a Constitutional amendment so we wouldn't have to do anything to fix our school property taxes. Third, the Republican leadership then not only failed to put forward any solutions of their own, but have been critical of Republican Frank Sapareto from Derry because he agreed to be the prime sponsor of the flat statewide tax to make it truly a bi-partisan solution. To be polite, this is hardly a statesmanlike response to a very serious issue. I can only hope the Legislature and leadership will soon get over their childish anger and denial of the Court's decision, face the real problems of fairness it addresses, and get down to the serious business of crafting a solution.

After her good start, the Governor quickly "dropped the ball" by proposing her "ABC Plan". This plan is not only clearly unconstitutional, but is not a workable solution to the problem. Her plan requires raising at least \$120 million in new state taxes to cap the school property tax rates paid by property-poor districts, while at the same time allowing the property-rich towns (most with many second homes) to continue to pay their very low rates. While this narrows the disparities in the rates, the ABC Plan still leaves a 15:1 difference between what the most property-rich town pays and the capped rate for the 136 property-poor towns. This ignores the Court's very specific instructions on uniform rates. Because of this, I believe no amount of clever legal arguments by the Attorney General will convince the Court that the ABC Plan is constitutional—the rates are simply not uniform as required of every other state tax.

It is also unfortunate that the first proposal offered didn't follow the spirit or letter of the Claremont II ruling, especially because it "opens the door" for other unconstitutional plans. In other states this has led to a costly and painfully-long process where the Court has to reject many unconstitutional plans until it finally gets one that follows its instructions.

At this point, I have no idea how this is going to turn out. Nevertheless, unlike past years, it looks like the Legislature can't just ignore the problem and go home. My best guess is that the leadership will not get serious until the very last minute, will test the Court to see how much they can get away with, and will avoid taking any position for as long as possible to see if they can transfer the responsibility for making the needed changes to someone else—such as to the Governor, Court, the Democrats, or even the teacher's unions. In this case, I hope my best guess above is wrong.

I will be doing all I can over the next several months to get my colleagues on the Finance Committee to face the issues squarely, establish a moratorium on political games, and find a solution that's best for both our children and taxpayers. The solutions the Court requires are technically quite simple if the legislature can just muster the political goodwill and common sense necessary to make them a reality. There is no need for a Constitutional amendment to avoid the Court ruling to make our taxes fair, and such an amendment would be a disaster for Antrim. The solution the legislature adopts will have a great impact on Antrim's taxes and schools for many years to come, and I'm hoping we will finally do the right thing and solve the problem.



THE GRAPEVINE FEDERAL FUNDS APPLICATION

Antrim residents will have the opportunity at Town Meeting to determine whether the town will apply for federal funds to renovate the Aiken House into a family and community resource center. If the town votes in favor of the project, The Grapevine would assist the Board of Selectmen in preparing an application for \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The application would be submitted in July, and notification of an award would come in October. If the town is awarded the grant, construction could

begin early in 1999, with an estimated timetable of 6 months.

A public meeting will be held at the Little Town Hall Thursday March 5 at 7:00 pm. Representatives from the Feasibility Study Committee will be present to answer questions and address comments about the project.

The vote at Town Meeting follows an 8-month study of the feasibility of the project. The study resulted in a comprehensive report which is available at the Town Offices. A two-page summary report follows.

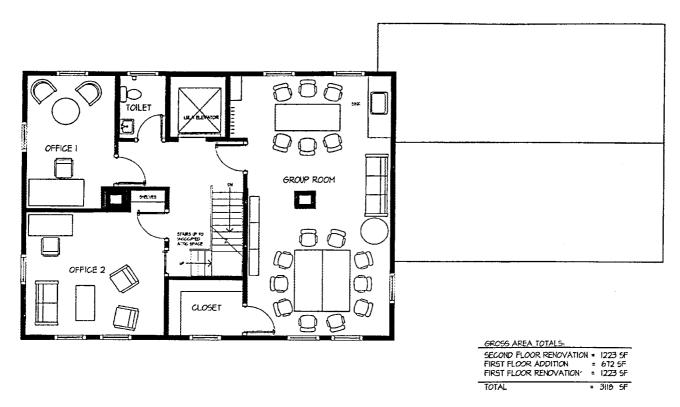
FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT

The study was conducted to determine whether or not it is feasible to renovate all or part of the Aiken House, using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, into a Family & Community Resource Center for The Grapevine and other town groups. The Board of Selectmen appointed one Selectman and representatives from the Aiken House Committee, Antrim Historical Society, The Grapevine, and Tuttle Library to serve as the Feasibility Study Committee. The committee met twelve times and discussed the Aiken House, The Grapevine, and issues related to potential expansion of the Tuttle Library. Information from other town groups and individuals was also obtained and incorporated into the study.

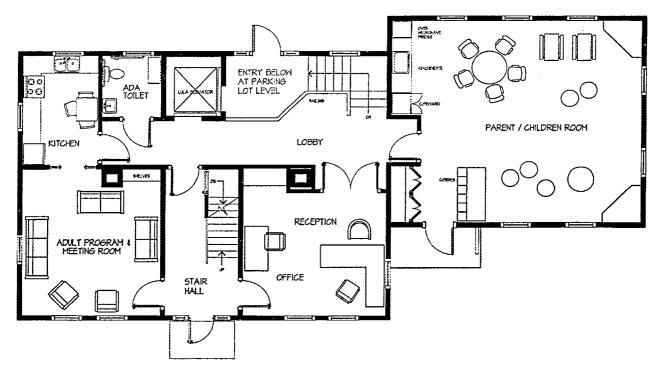
In its present condition, the Aiken House does not meet the needs of the community groups wanting to use it. Structural inspections revealed that the original portion of the Aiken House is structurally sound and can be adapted as proposed. The rear additions show structural deficiencies, are in poor condition and are not worth renovating. The Grapevine made minor improvements to the building's first floor and has been using it since September 1997. Despite these improvements, the building is expensive to heat and uninviting. Staff, volunteers, parents and children using the center have already outgrown the usable space.

The grapevine is a community organization providing opportunities for families and individuals from Antrim and nearby towns to participate in parent-child activities, learn more about parenting and family health, and improve personal skills in areas such as budget planning, good communication, and conflict resolution. Parents and children learn together, from professionals and from each other. The Grapevine also provides information about and referral to human service agencies

FLOOR PLANS OF AIKEN HOUSE PROPOSED RENOVATION AND ADDITION



Aiken House / Second Floor Plan



Aiken House / First Floor Plan

Architect: Weller Adams Pietz & Michal

and resources in the community. Social service agencies are available at the center, making it easier for local residents to access their services. CDBG funds can be used to develop a public facility offering such services and opportunities.

The proposed Family and Community Resource Center would be open to the public and serve residents of diverse backgrounds, ages and interests. Once established, approximately 850 residents of Antrim and nearby towns would call or come in to the center one or more times each year, according to projections made as part of the study. CDBG funds are used to benefit primarily, but not exclusively, people of modest means, senior citizens and individuals faced with certain hardships. Approximately one half of Antrim residents are "CDBG eligible". As proposed, 75 percent of those using the center would be CDBG eligible, and 25 percent would come from the remainder of the community.

The Aiken House can be redeveloped to house The Grapevine and the other interested community organizations. The Antrim Conservation Commission, Antrim Historical Society, Antrim Players, Hot To Trot 4-H, and Swift Water Girl Scouts have expressed interest in parttime use of a suitable facility. Preliminary architectural designs have been completed. To convert the Aiken House into an attractive, efficient and durable public facility requires demolishing the rear additions, refurbishing the original (front) portion of the Aiken House inside and out, and adding a new classroom-like section off the south wall, toward Aiken Street. Construction costs would be approximately \$300,000. The completed facility would meet all applicable building, fire and safety codes. Up to \$30,000 would be spent on architectural work including final design, working drawings, written specifications, and construction supervision. Up to \$20,000 would be spent on administering the grant.

Proposed is that the town lease the facility to The Grapevine for a period of twenty years, with the understanding that The Grapevine would be responsible, in lieu of rent, for all operating costs (utilities, insurance, water/sewer, maintenance, etc.) and improvements necessary during the lease period. Primarily, The Grapevine would use the facility. Sufficient space at suitable times would be available, however, for other interested town groups and use.

VOTED: The Feasibility Study Committee voted on The Grapevine as an organization, and on the Aiken House as a site for a Family and Community Resource Center.

Is The Grapevine a feasible organization? 8 Yes 0 No Committee members unanimously agree that The Grapevine has significant community support, worthwhile programs, and will not be financially dependent on the town.

Is The Aiken House feasible for a Family & Community Resource Center? 5 Yes 3 No

The majority (5) of committee members believes that the Aiken House and site can feasibly be redeveloped as proposed. The minority (3) believes that the Aiken House and/or site cannot feasibly be redeveloped as proposed.

The committee established criteria against which it considered the project as proposed. Major criteria are listed below, along with members' positions and comments.

If funded and developed as proposed, the Aiken House Center would:

1. Provide adequate, suitable space for The Grapevine and other town groups. 7 Yes 1 No

One large function and program room, one meeting area with kitchen, one multi-purpose meeting and workroom, three offices, one waiting area, two bathrooms, stairway and elevator will meet groups's needs. Most spaces will be shared by more than one group and serve several functions.

2. Be affordable and reasonable to build and maintain. 7 Yes 1 No

The project would cost a great deal, but would also accomplish a great deal. Some members voiced concern about investing so much money in the property, regardless of it not being the town's money. If awarded, federal CDBG funds would cover the proposed demolition, construction, architectural and administrative costs. No town money would be required.

3. Contribute to the traditional look of Main Street. 7 Yes 1 No

The project as proposed would tremendously improve the appearance of the Aiken House. The converted building would fit in with other properties in the area.

4. Coordinate with other town buildings, avoid competition and duplication. 7 Yes 1 No

Redeveloping the Aiken House as proposed does not interfere with the Tuttle Library's expansion plans or create unnecessary meeting space.

5. Provide adequate parking for the center, library, businesses, and residents. 5 Yes 3 No

Five members think that future parking needs can be met. Three members think that parking problems would be sufficiently serious that the project is not feasible at the Aiken House.

Committee members: Bob Bernstein, Tod Bryer, Phil Dwight, Lyman Gilmore, Connie Kirwin, Martha Pinello, Ben Pratt, Carole Webber.

Copies of the Feasibility Study Committee's full report are available at Town Hall.

PROGRAMS AT THE GRAPEVINE

Kristen Olson

Currently, an average of 20 families are involved each week in our parent-child groups alone, and new families are dropping in every week. We are "making do" with our two small children's rooms, which are clean, bright and safe thanks to the work of volunteers and staff. But the children need and deserve a big, open room in which to stretch their muscles and engage in more active activities. The proposed renovation of the Aiken House would provide such a room, as well as other needed space.

Ongoing programs include counselling for children and families by Dr. Pat Grady from Monadnock Family Services on Mondays; a weekly representative from Souther NH Services for such things as fuel assistance and commodity foods on Fridays, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm or by appointment; and Project LIFT providing G.E.D. practice and tutoring for adults with reading problems on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon or by appointment. Added programs for March and April include:

Daytime Programs

- Parent-Child Groups every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am
- Meet Other Mothers (MOM); every Tuesday at 1:00 pm. This new MOM group offers an opportunity for moms to socialize while their children play with other children.
- March 12 from 10:00 to 11:15 am. Preparing Healthy Snacks; how to make simple, healthy snacks that your child will eat. Food will be provided. Presented by Sara Cox.
- March 26 from 10:00 to 11:15 am. When is it time to call the Doctor? Dr. Scott Jaynes, Antrim Medical Group.
- March 18 & 25, and April 1 & 8 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Child Care Basics, a 4-part training for anyone considering entering the child care field. Presented by Family Works.
- Tuesdays, April 7 & 21 or Thursdays, April 9 & 23 from 10:00 to 11:15 am. Taking Care of You: Learn how to be good to yourself while you take care of others.
- April 26 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; Monadnock Babysitters' Club Class, presented by Monadnock Community Hospital. \$30 fee, \$10 deposit. Financial aid available through MCH.

Evening Programs

 March 4 at 6:30 pm; Trash to Treasures. A hands-on experience creating beautiful things from stuff around the house. Fun for parents and kids together. Presented by Cheryl Lee Dubuque.

- March 11, 18 & 25 at 6:30 pm; CPR Course. A 3-part training including adult, child and infant CPR. Presented by Monadnock Community Hospital. Fee: \$25/ person, \$40/couple, \$10 deposit. Financial aid available through MCH.
- Challenging Child Support Group: Call The Grapevine for meeting time.

Special Weekend Event

• Earth Day April 18; Great Brook Clean-Up and Grapevine Bar-B-Que. Sponsored by Great Brook School, the Harris Center and The Grapevine.

Call the Grapevine at 588-2620 for more information, to register for programs, and to say hello to our new Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Gilmore.

THE PERILS OF PUNCTURED PETS

Dr. Tom Dowling Great Brook Veterinary Clinic

Punctured pets are not just in-pain pets. Frequently a small puncture wound can be a really big problem with serious consequences if not treated promptly and properly.

Puncture wounds are one of the more common types of injuries seen at veterinary clinics. They're deceiving because a small superficial skin nick could be just a peephole into a situation of far greater concern below the surface.

Such wounds can be due to anything from the tooth or claw of another animal, to a sharp object like a nail or fence wire, to a knife, a BB or a bullet. These injuries are threatening to the life or health of the animal if they involve deeper tissues of the body.

Often the wounding instrument hooks onto the underside of the skin, separating it from its underlying connective tissue attachments. This results in what is called "dead space". Such dead space becomes a breeding ground for bacteria. Most cat owners who allow their cats access to the outdoors are familiar with abscesses. Sometimes these drain on their own but often they don't, creating pain and tissue damage and serious skin sloughs requiring extensive and expensive grafting surgery.

Occasionally a puncture wound will penetrate a body cavity. Chest penetration is obviously a threat to life, and a penetration of the abdomen can lead to the same fate. If a puncture wound is caused by a wild or non-vaccinated domestic animal, rabies is another major concern.

Punctured pets deserve and demand attention and professional treatment. I hope I've made my point!

A major new book by Antrim's Lyman Gilmore is being published this month by Talisman House Publishers. The following interview expresses both the book and the process of writing it. (Ed.)

INTERVIEW WITH LYMAN GILMORE

Sharon L. Dowling

Why would a successful professor and psychotherapist, newly retired and recovering from cancer therapy, embark on a seven year "adventure" researching the life of a relatively unknown, neurotic poet? In a recent interview with Antrim resident Lyman Gilmore, first time author of a brand new book entitled *Don't Touch the Poet: The Life and Times of Joel Oppenbeimer*, this question, as well as others, was explored.

Lyman was a professor at New England College in Henniker when, in 1982, Joel Oppenheimer became a "writer-in-residence" there. Oppenheimer was "wonderfully colorful...as a faculty member he was loved by his students." He also had a history of alcoholism, agoraphobia, and an addiction to cigarettes which could be evidenced by his gravel toned voice and later by the lung cancer that killed him in 1988.

Despite completely different family, ethnic and economic backgrounds both men discovered they had shared time and space in the 1950s in Greenwich Village—Lyman, a former English major writing, as he calls them "awful poems and plays...envisioning himself as a writer and a bohemian...living that life"; and Joel, actually being the bohemian poet, playwright, essayist and successful author, afraid to leave those few blocks of Greenwich Village where he felt comfortable. Oppenheimer was famous for drinking too much every night in the same bar, the Lion's Head, that Lyman was also sitting at during those years.

In Henniker, Joel was desperately trying to quit smoking. Lyman, as a psychotherapist, was asked to try hypnosis to effect a cure. While Joel was deeply moved by the experience, and even said it reminded him of the trancelike state he would be in before writing his poetry, he did not stop smoking. He did, however, call on Lyman for support in the ensuing years as he battled both his fears and his cancer. For those of you who think the hypnosis thing was a waste of time, by the way, a poet friend of Joel's named David Budbill observed the entire procedure and discovered that tobacco had lost all of its attraction for him! He kept Lyman posted on his non-smoking status often after that.

After Joel died and Lyman found himself battling a cancer in the same treatment rooms that Oppenheimer had been in a year before, he felt there were "too many coincidences" and that he had to write an article about his fascinating friend and colleague. Lyman not only liked and respected the man, but he also loved his poetry. Consequently, after his article was published, and people encouraged him to take it further, and try a book

on the subject, Lyman began his "adventure" in 1991.

The next six years Lyman traveled around the country interviewing Oppenheimer's ex-wives, children, former colleagues, bartenders, doctors and students. This, Lyman admits, was the "easiest part of the process" and the most fun. And while he wrote continuously, transcribing the tapes he made and developing a chapter at a time, it wasn't until the last year that "the hardest part of the project began—the trying to get it right. Going through draft after draft and rewrite." He had one of the best copy editors in New York City because she happens to be friends with the publisher of Lyman's book. Lyman describes her as "merciless—the manuscript was returned with a red mark in every line of every paragraph in each of the 250 pages of the book!"

Interestingly, Lyman now says he never fully committed to writing a book when he started his "adventure". It wasn't until after he had done a great number of interviews and he realized that Joel's close friends and family were beginning to count on it being published that he knew he "had to take his adventure seriously." Consequently, it wasn't until this last year that he realized the truth about the importance of keeping a schedule—writing for three or four hours every morning with the door shut.

As all worthwhile adventures are, Lyman's seven year odyssey was a learning experience. He tapped into his "adolescent desire to be a writer" and discovered that he is one; he learned that while his friend was a champion of the people, and a brilliant writer, he had a dark side as well, and more than enough skeletons to fill a closet; and he knows now how important poetry and the arts are to him on a daily basis, as a part of everyday life. The book is a reaffirmation of our common humanity, despite our obvious difference.

While Lyman is pleased with the result of his hard work, he did go through periods of "hating it". And there are some things he would have done differently, shortening the process to a one or two year project and "getting serious with the schedule" sooner. Other advice for budding authors includes the old maxim of "just start writing...write it all down—don't wait for inspiration. Keep a journal. You can always throw it away later, but you can't retrieve those ideas if you don't write them down when they come."

Another New England poet wrote of "choosing the road less traveled—and that made all the difference." Joel Oppenheimer certainly took that road and it appears that Lyman Gilmore may be well on his way into another adventure. While busily promoting his new book, he is currently researching another nationally known poet. Point me to the nearest book signing, please!

(Note: Lyman Gilmore will give a reading from his book on Sunday, March 29, from 2–4 pm at the Tuttle Library. Refreshments will be served.)



TUTTLE LIBRARY News

Thank you to all of you who have generously donated books, videos, CDs and other items and services. Your gifts substantially increase our total acquisitions each year and are indicative of your support of the Library.

PROGRAMS. We have several exciting programs planned for Spring.

- March 22 at 2:00 pm. A slide show tour of Italy with our very own Library Assistant Kim Pfeil.
- March 29 from 2–4:00 pm. Author, Lyman Gilmore, will read from his newly published book *Don't Touch* the Poet: The Life and Times of Joel Oppenheimer. Lyman will also sign your copy of his book.
- March (TBA) Contest to celebrate Women's History Month
- April (TBA) Lynne Nadeau (former Library Assistant) will present a second poetry reading in celebration of National Poetry Month.
- May (TBA) Jeroo Eduljee, a staff member of Landmark College in Putney, VT, will present a lecture/ discussion on learning disabilities.

TAX TIME! Jim Kelly is again offering tax-preparation services free of charge at the library. He will be resuming this service mid-March. Call the Library at 588-6786 for more information and dates. This program is sponsored by AARP. Note that Federal Tax Forms are available at the Library.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME. Thanks to volunteer Mary Payne, our preschool storytime continues every other Friday at 9:30 am.

TARTAN DAY. Celebrate or check out your Scottish heritage at the Library on Monday April 6. Did you know that genealogy is the number-one hobby in the world today? Just last year genealogy surpassed stamp-collecting. The Library offers limited genealogical assistance.

LOCAL AUTHORS AND ARTISTS. LiveOak has donated their newest CD to the library, *Lanterns of Fire:* Love and the Mystic in Renaissance Spain.

Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson's most recent CD, "Slammin' on the West Side" is available at the library, and more of his albums have been ordered.

Lyman Gilmore (Library Trustee) has a new book coming out in March entitled *Don't Touch the Poet: The Life and Times of Joel Oppenheimer*. Published by Talisman House Publisher of Jersey City, NJ, this is a biography of the poet Joel Oppenheimer, who was a colleague of Lyman's at New England College. Lyman will read from his new book and sign copies on Sunday March 29 from 2–4:00 pm. To date, Lyman's book has received good reviews in "*Library Journal*" and in the "*Boston Sunday Globe*". In the Globe review, Hank Nichols states that "Lyman Gilmore…has written a fine literary biography of Oppenheimer…Joel's biography does what all

good biographies do...I think that Joel would have liked 'Don't Touch the Poet,' and I think you will too."

NEW BOOKS

MYSTERIES: Jane and the Wandering Eye Stephanie Barron; The 10 Pound Penalty Dick Francis; A Certain Justice P.D. James; Foggy Mountain Breakdown Sharyn McCrumb; The Cat Who Sang for the Birds Lillian J. Braun; Killing Time Cynthia Harrod-Eagles; Hit Man Lawrence Block; Cuba Libre Elmore Leonard; Once Too Often Dorothy Simpson; Thrones, Dominations Dorothy Sayers and Jill P. Walsh.

FICTION: Wobegon Boy Garrison Keillor; All I Need is You Johanna Lindsey; Cobra Event Richard Preston; The Street Lawyer John Grisham; Paradise Toni Morrison; Sharp Edges Jayne Ann Krentz; Comanche Moon Larry McMurtry; The Upstart Catherine Cookson; Black and Blue Anna Quindlen; Sea Swept Nora Roberts; Then Came Heaven LaVyrle Spencer.

NON-FICTION: Wait Till Next Year Doris K. Goodwin; Angels Along the Way Della Reese; Citizen Soldiers Stephen Ambrose; Death of Innocents Firstman; A Civil Action Harr; Black Mutiny Owens; America's Painted Ladies Pomada.

CDs: The Best Opera Album in the World...ever!; Cole Porter: A Musical Toast; The Concert for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame; Evita (motion picture soundtrack); James Galway: Mozart; Mercury Blues 'n Rhythm Story, 1945–1955: East Coast Blues; Braveheart (soundtrack); John Denver's Greatest Hits; Highlands by Chris Norman and the Camerata Bariloche. NOTE: Books, Magazines, Audiotapes and CDs can be checked out for 2 weeks and are renewable.

VIDEOS: And the Band Played On; Nunsense; Les Miserables; Wild America; Sleepers; Portrait of a Lady; Brother Cadfael series: A Morbid Taste for Bones, The Raven in the Foregate, and The Rose Rent; Anne of the Thousand Days; Cat Ballou; 84, Charing Cross Road; from the PBS series collection: Elizabeth R, and The Flame Trees of Thika; The Ghost and the Darkness; Harvey; Jungle 2 Jungle; The Lost World: Jurassic Park; A Man for all Seasons; Men in Black; Northwest Passage; from the Disney collection: Kidnapped, The Parent Trap, and Sleeping Beauty.

Remember that there is no fee for checking out videos (although the overdue fine is 25¢ per day) and you can keep them for 1 week.

The Tuttle Library is your library. If you're new to town, come in and introduce yourself, register for a library card and check out our collection, programs and services. We have an answer machine on our phone, the message gives our hours of operation and you can leave your message to renew or reserve a book. Call 588-6786.

TOWN HISTORY REVISITED

THE BOSTON POST GOLD-HEADED CANE

Isabel B. Nichols

For millennia the sages have pondered the secret of man's longevity, coming up with diverse hypotheses that include genes, consumption of yogurt and the grand-daddy of them all—a feeling of usefulness. Before the modern inventions of compulsory retirement and assisted living facilities the older generation continued to stay at home in an extended family situation where the men could assist in farm chores and the women become active day care workers. A century ago it was the oldster who assumed the responsibility of town government: hence the term "town fathers", meaning Board of Selectmen. In small towns such as ours being "over the hill" didn't always mean being put out to pasture; it meant having reached a comfortable age where past experience could be put to use. (Today we call them consultants.)

In 1909, in a burst of reverence toward the older generation, the *Boston Post* made an effort to increase its readership outside of the city by advertising a giveaway to 1500 towns in New Hampshire and other border states. The newspaper would give a gold-headed cane to the oldest person in each town, the cane to be passed along to the succeeding eldest on the death of the first recipient, *ad infinitum*. Seven hundred towns took advantage of the offer; Antrim was one of them.

The *Antrim Reporter*, August 18, 1909: "The Selectmen of Antrim have received a nice gold-headed cane with this inscription:

THE BOSTON POST for the oldest person in town; to be transmitted.

It was taken by Selectman O. H. Robb today to Mr. Hurlin who is 95 years old."

A few days later, said the *Reporter*, the Reverend William Hurlin preached a sermon in the Methodist Church; his text was from Galatians 6:9: "and let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

"This reverend gentleman," continues the *Reporter*, "maintains a clear, loud and remarkably distinct voice, and is not only an interesting speaker but instructive as well. His ability to prepare and deliver a sermon that is full of fervor and replete with apt illustration still remains with him; this is remarkable indeed."

Most remarkable; it seems significant that Mr. Hurlin should be the first recipient of the cane. He certainly carried the badge of longevity with honor, and was an inspiration to other townspeople of his generation to live life fully as long as possible.

William Hurlin was born in London, England in 1814 and came to America in 1849. He was a Baptist minister and held several pastorates in New Hampshire and Maine,

but chose to retire in Antrim where he had served the local Baptists between 1866-1873. It was during this term that the present church was erected. His retirement years were spent working for state and national Baptist causes, writing historical sketches, and preaching in local churches of all denominations as needed. Several of his 12 children lived out their lives in Antrim, and his descendants made their marks in the community in manufacturing businesses that flourished in the late 1800s and through most of the 20th century.

The Reverend Hurlin died in June, 1910, less than a year after receiving the gold-headed cane; his last sermon was preached to the Methodists in March of that year, and he left this world an example of how to age gracefully but with purpose.

And the cane continued to be passed along to successive oldest persons. Note that the original charge did not refer to "oldest citizen": from 1909 to 1920 that would have excluded any women who might have fit into the age category.

In the 1920s Lyman Tenney held the Post cane for several years. At the age of 97 he died as a result of falling downstairs while he was getting ready to go to Town Meeting, another example of living life to the fullest. He was born in Marlboro, New Hampshire in 1833, and came to Antrim in 1896 after having spent his adult years as a farmer. At the age of 94 he was the oldest actor in the town's sesquicentennial pageant, "Men of Antrim". A picture in the souvenir postcard set of the celebration shows Lyman in the garb of an early 1700s settler, complete with musket.

A report of his death in the *Antrim Reporter* of March 25, 1931 says: "Mr. Tenney observed his 97th birthday August 21 last, and had been in his usual good health, having been on our streets as usual, and had shoveled quite a bit of snow this winter. With his usual interest in town affairs, he was getting ready to attend Town Meeting, and in going to his room he received the fall."

When he was 95 he resigned his position as caretaker of the Maplewood Cemetery, a further indication that in former times a man who could survive pneumonia and other illnesses could work as long as he wanted to.

One of the most recent holders of the Boston Post Cane was Eva Holmes Cutter who lived in her home on Maple Avenue until within a month of her death at the age of 103. She was born in 1885 and married Morris Cutter in 1903. He was well-known in town as the proprietor of Cutter's Meat Market on Main Street, which was across from the Tuttle Library and has been replaced by a parking lot. Mrs. Cutter spent her married life caring for her home, husband, three children and occasionally her grand-children. One of her lifelong interests was gardening, and well into her nineties Eva was observed by her neighbors working in her garden and, yes, mowing her lawn!

TOWN HISTORY REVISITED continued

According to a family member she felt that no one else could do it quite the way she wanted it done.

Toward the end of her long full life she was moved by Yankee responsibility to return the gold-headed cane to the Town for safekeeping. She was assured that the cane was hers to keep for as long as she lived, but she held firm to her decision.

"When I go," she said, "it might get put aside and forgotten about." So the cane came back to the Town Hall until her demise in 1988.

Recently the town fathers (young though they may be) gave the cane and the responsibility that goes with it to the Antrim Historical Society. The organization is anxious to locate the oldest citizen so that it may be presented to him or her with due honor. Any information about senior citizens who are legal residents of Antrim should be directed to Carole Webber, "Keeper of the Cane", 133 West Street, Antrim, NH 13440 or phone her at 588-2332.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES SUPPORT TWO WARRANT ARTICLES

The Library Trustees plan to begin a much needed building program as soon as possible. When the town acquired the Aiken property next to the library, public land became available for future library expansion. Preliminary architectural plans for an addition to the library have been completed, but the plans cannot be developed further unless part of the Aiken property is available to the library. The Trustees ask for your YES vote on this article.

Article #15. To see if the town will vote to set aside a 72 foot x 144 foot portion of the Aiken property and designate it for future expansion of the Tuttle Library. This portion of the Aiken property consists of a rectangle extending 72 feet eastward fram the rear of the original Aiken House to the abutting property line, and 144 feet southerly from the current Tuttle Library/Aiken property boundary ta Aiken Street. The twa rear additions to the original Aiken House (approximately 48' x 20.5') currently stand on this portion of the Aiken property.

Also, the Library Trustees wish to respond to patron request for more open hours. They propose that the library be open 7 additional hours, adding 1 evening hour on Monday, 2 evening hours on Tuesday, and 4 hours on Wednesday, thus being open for 6 consecutive days. The Trustees ask you to support this article.

Article #11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,138.04 ta be added to the 1998 Tuttle Library budget far additional hours of operation. This will include Wednesday afternaan and an additional evening for a total of 29 hours open to the public each week.

These articles are recommended by the Board of Trustees of the Tuttle Library and supported by petitions of over 25 resident signatures. The warrants will be voted on at the Town Meeting March 12.

FOLK TALES

TARRING ROADS

Fred Roberts

In the 1930s the "Great Depression" lay heavy on the land and work was scarce. Antrim was no better or worse than many other places. Thus in the summer months those towns that had a federal highway such as US202 that ran through Antrim would get federal funding through the state to help in tarring the highway.

The tarring was usually done in early summer, just after school got out for the summer. Since man-power did most of the work, the process was slow so a young boy could savor each detail from his front lawn. A truck would come along with a load of sand and two men with shovels. The men shoveled small piles of sand at about ten foot spacing on both sides of the road and this process took several days to complete.

Then the big day arrived. It was time to put down the tar. First the tar truck came along with its load of hot liquid tar. This was spread on the road surface through nozzles at the rear of the truck. If it were a cool morning steam would rise from the surface. Next, gangs of men would come with shovels and spread sand across the tarred surface from the piles along the road side.

After the sand was spread, a truck came along with a drag behind it that mixed the sand and tar as it went along. Several passes were made to be sure the sand and tar were well mixed. Then another truck came along with a road rake that swept any large stones away. Finally another truck with a roller behind it put the finishing touches on the day's work by compacting the tar-sand mix into a smooth surface.

This process of tarring was labor intensive, but at the time it served a purpose of providing work when work was scarce and thus gave some families an income that they would not otherwise have.

NORTHERN LIGHTS DANCE

Northern Lights Dance Theatre, directed by Antrim's Renee Blinn, will hold its annual Spring Dance Concert at the Colonial Theatre in Keene on Saturday May 9.

The first performance, at 4:00 pm, will involve the entire school (85 children) and will feature an original dance production of THE UGLY DUCKLING, and other short works by the Touring Company.

The 7:30 pm performance will feature the Touring Company (22 teenage dancers) performing short works, and the premier of "Descent"—a futuristic science fiction dance theatre work based on the Ugly Duckling theme.

Tickets are general seating, \$10 adults and \$6 for ages 12 and under; and may be purchased beginning in April through Northern Lights (588-8055) or at the Colonial Theatre Box Office (VISA and MasterCard accepted).



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Schatze Moore

Antrim has been selected, through a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Trust and the John F. and Dorothy H. McCabe Environmental Fund in conjunction with the Institute for Community Environmental Management (ICEM) at Antioch New England Graduate School to participate in what is called a "Community Profile".

On Friday evening, May 15, and all day Saturday, May 16, there will be a profile event in Antrim. Simply speaking, a Community Profile is an event which, over the course of a day and a half (Friday evening followed by a full-day Saturday), involves a broad cross-section of community residents coming together to evaluate their present community, build a common vision for the future, and ultimately to plan action projects to make that vision come true. Everyone is encouraged to attend; the more the merrier and the better our "profile" will be.

Delia Clark, the profile advisor from Antioch New England is a professional planner and has orchestrated 15 other Community Profiles under the auspices of "Upper Valley 2001 and Beyond". Since 1994 profile efforts have benefited communities such as Hanover, New London, Charleston, Newport and Norwich, VT, just to name a few.

A steering committee of about 15–20 people in town has been formed to plan, publicize, and pull-off this very exciting event. We are looking for more energetic and enthusiastic participants who would like to join the fun. Please call Peter or Schatze Moore at 588-2331, Linda Tenney at 588-2020, Dave or Jan Wilson at 588-6365, Cindy Proctor at 588-6795, or Mark or Barbara Reynolds at 588-6859 to sign-on or just to get more information about this event.

"The focus is..." in Delia Clark's words, "...an effort to celebrate the community, to bring together people whose voices are not always heard, but are important and vital to the long term growth and success of this town."

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Friday evening, May 15 for a pot-luck supper and orientation gathering, and Saturday, May 16, for a full day community celebration, forward thinking and future potential. Your participation and input are very important and we think you'll enjoy the process. This is one "Town Meeting" you won't want to miss!

INFANT WINS RAFFLE continued

The current raffle is a Mother's Day Basket decorated by Amy Stone and Hope Phillips. Tickets are available from members and the drawing will be on April 30.

During the recent winter months the Auxiliary have been called to provide, deliver and serve food at an accident on Route 9, a house fire, and for the Great Ice Storm power outage. We spend an average of \$50–75 each time and some people may not realize that we may provide food to mutual aid from surrounding towns as well as to our own firefighters.

All the funds that we raise go toward building our inventory of food staples and toward the purchase of large containers to carry hot and cold foods. Two pieces of equipment that would help our preparation efforts are a regular or large size microwave oven (not necessarily new) and a two burner hot plate. If you have any information about either, please call Pam at 588-2906.

ANTRIM GRANGE

Our members will be involved throughout the year in activities celebrating the state Grange's 125th anniversary. One such event was the Concord Christmas parade in which Antrim member Beth Merrill drove her horse and carriage and transported the Concord mayor who served as grand marshal.

A commemorative cookbook has been published by the State Grange and can be purchased for \$8.00 by calling 588-6615.

April 24 will be a day of celebration in honor of the 125th anniversary and National Grange Week with a lawn party at the state capitol, followed by a Grange church service and ending with a banquet.

Recently, it was announced that our own Master, Carryl Davis, has been selected to serve on the National Grange Youth Team for the year. He has been to Washington, DC for an orientation conference, and is now waiting for his travel assignments. Carryl's duties will include representing the National Grange at various youth events and conferences around the country, conducting workshops, and planning the youth activities for the National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina in November. Within a short time of receiving this honor, Davis learned that his grandfather and namesake, Carryl Heath, had been elected and installed Master of the Florida State Grange. The Heath and Davis families are great examples of how membership in the Grange can be a rewarding experience for family members of all ages.

R. Charles Van Horn has opened his accounting practice at 26 Main Street, Antrim? Mr. Van Horn is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and specializes in tax and accounting services for individuals and small businesses. He has also acquired the financial business of Gregory Goff of Antrim. Van Horn has many years of accounting and financial management experience, including 12 years as Vice President of Finance and Treasurer at Monadnock Paper Mills. He has been a tax and financial adviser in Peterborough and Hancock. He holds a BBA from Western Michigan University and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and NH Society of CPAs. He and his wife Nancy live in Hancock. For more information please contact Charles at 588-3222, or FAX him at 588-3648 or write to PO Box 57, Antrim.

Rick Davis of RICK & DIANE'S RESTAURANT AND **PIZZERIA** lived in Antrim during his High School years? He attended old Antrim High School and then Conval before moving to Peterborough. He and Diane envisioned a place where there could be comfortable dining with a game room close by. He has achieved this in the old Cornerstone Restaurant just down from the Town Hall. The Pizzeria and game room are located in one area (there's even a juke box) with an adjacent dining area that seats 50. It is a healthy smoke free establishment. All soups and entrees are homemade and home delivery is available from the lunch menu. Rick's son-in-law, Jason Garner, is chef in charge of the dining room. He attended Culinary School and also worked at Grover's Corner in Peterborough. I asked Rick how his background in carpentry connected with food. "Being able to create". This looks like a great place for Mom and Dad to enjoy a pizza while the kids have a game of pool or play one of the table games. And, may I add "When you enter, the aroma is mouth-watering". Phone: 588-3388. Hours: Dining Room 11:00 am-2:00 pm and 5:00-9:00 pm. Pizzeria 11:00 am-9:00 pm. Closed Mondays.

ROOFTOP CHIMNEY SWEEPS is owned and operated by *John P. Leonard*? If you burn wood, you know there are some "must dos" to assure safe chimneys. John will inspect and clean your chimney (if necessary); he can repair small masonry problems and install chimney caps; he can re-line new or existing chimneys also. John will also install woodstoves and recently started to install gas stoves. Having been a member of the Antrim Fire Department since 1985, he realizes the importance of these services. You can reach him at 588-4592 or at 1-300-929-9954.

STEVEN JONES, a/k/a S. R. JONES, does excavation work from complete house sites to driveway and septic repairs? Do you need sand, gravel or loam? Whatever your outside ground work may include, give him a call at 588-6601 and leave a message. Steve will return your call promptly.

James Everett has relocated his SUNRISE DECORATOR'S business from Virginia to New Hampshire? He specializes in home improvement and emergency repairs. He does tile work, wallpapering, painting (interior and exterior), locks, windows and doors. Let his 20 years of experience serve you. Call James at 464-9393 (Voice Mail), for emergencies, call 588-3505.

Jim LaMothe will be opening his nursery at 114 Concord Street around Memorial Day? He will be offering annuals and perennials to start the year. As time goes on he hopes to offer shrubs and a full line of nursery supplies. Jim is hoping to make this a one stop nursery where you can get everything you need to have and maintain a garden at reasonable prices. Watch for his sign after mid-May.

Also moving to 114 Concord Street will be MIMI'S TYME? Previously located in Deering, *Sandi Reed* will be displaying items by NH Crafters, herbal vinegars and fresh cut and potted herbs in season. This shop will open April 1 and anyone interested in putting crafts in her shop can reach her at 464-3272.

If you have started a new business or are expanding on a previous one, please send information to the Antrim LIMRIK, PO Box 30, Antrim, NH 03440.

NEWS OF THE MILITARY

On Saturday January 31, Spec. 4 Paul Dugan was sworn into the NH Army National Guard. Administering the oath was Marine Major Brian Sawich. Witnessing the oath was Sgt. First Class Ted Brown, recruiter and career counselor for the NH Army National Guard. Paul joined the 210th Engineers based in Peterborough and was enlisted as a 51R010 (interior electrician). He spent six years of active duty in the US Army as a 91AT (Medical Equipment Repairman). The son of Paul, Sr. and Esther Dugan of Antrim, Paul, Jr. and Paul, Sr. are employed at Wayno's Market and Deli. The ceremony took place in the delicatessen at Wayno's. Observing the ceremony were Paul, Sr. and Wayno and Sherry as well as customers doing their Saturday morning shopping. (You can get more at Wayno's than just groceries!) It is an honor to have Spec.4 Dugan serving his community, state, and nation in the NH National Guard.

CHURCH NEWS

Antrim Presbyterian Church 588-2209
Regular worship hour is 10:30 am
(child care provided)

Lenten Luncheons: 12:00 noon–1:00 pm Feb. 25, Mar. 4, Mar. 11, Mar. 18, Mar. 25, Apr. 1 At the Antrim Baptist Church.

Bring a bag lunch, beverage and dessert provided. Sponsored by the Antrim-Bennington Clergy Assoc.

- April 5 Palm Sunday Service and Confirmation Invite a Friend Sunday
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Communion 6:30 pm
- April 10 Good Friday Ecumenical Service at the Antrim Baptist Church sponsored by the Antrim-Bennington Clergy Assoc. 7:00 pm
- **April 12** Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am Presbyterian Church lawn
- April 12 Easter Worship Service
- May 2 Annual May Breakfast 7:00–9:30 am

Revival Shop: Hours as usual. Now accepting spring and summer items.

Antrim Baptist Church 588-6614

Regular worship hour is 10:30 am (child care provided) Sunday School at 9:15 am

Lenten Luncheons: 12:00 noon—1:00 pm Feb. 25, Mar. 4, Mar. 11, Mar. 18, Mar. 25, Apr. 1 Bring a bag lunch, beverage and dessert provided. Sponsored by the Antrim-Bennington Clergy Assoc.

- March 14 Goods and Services Auction 7:00 pm Many items from local businesses and individuals. Preview time 6:15 pm.
- **April 9** Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7:00 pm
- April 10 Good Friday Ecumenical Service sponsored by the Antrim-Bennington Clergy Assoc. 7:00 pm
- **April 12** Easter Service with special choir, "Living Garden", and drama 10:30 am

Bennington Congregational Church 588-2398

Regular Worship hour is 10:30 am Daniel K. Poling, Minister

Three significant incidents occurred in the year 1997, among others. First, the Bennington Congregational Church is publicly recorded three years older than the Town of Bennington. On Route 202 coming out of Antrim the road sign for Bennington posts the date 1842, while the Bennington Congregational Church clearly shows above the entrance doors the date of 1839. Sec-

ond, across from the Church is built a beautiful new school, expensive and lovely to see, something for which the town should be very proud, not only for the community but for the Church. Third, the minister of the Bennington Congregational Church has in 1997 completed the eleventh year of service, the third longest period of his 63 years of active Christian Ministry.

During July, August and September our guest ministers, Rev. Bryce Cleveland and Rev. Richard Hardy, joined us for worship while Dr. Poling was serving the South Weare Union Church in Weare, NH.

Our Sunday School, due to circumstances at this time, is dependent on the morning service. Children are encouraged to come with their parents and join in the worship, being instructed in Christian faith through prayer, scripture, confessions, hymns and sermons, as was done before the Sunday School movement came into existence many years ago.

Church of Christ

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Sunday Evening Bible Devotional 6:00–7:00 pm

Bible Study

Wednesdays 7:00–8:30 pm Pre-teens & Adults Sundays 9:30–10:30 am All Ages Mondays 10:00–11:00 am Women Tuesdays 7:00–8:30 pm Teens

Clothing Swap Shop is open the second and fourth Saturday and is free to all.

Bread of Life is available every Monday at 12 Noon. Delivery is available. For more information, call Larry Warren, Evangelist, at 588-3491.

St. Patrick's Church, Bennington

Holy Week Schedule: Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 4:00 and 7:30 pm

- Feb 25 Distribution of Ashes 7:30 pm
- April 9 Holy Thursday Mass 7:30 pm
- April 10 Good Friday Service 7:30 pm
- April 11 Easter Vigil 7:30 pm
- April 12 Easter Sunday Masses 8:00 and 10:30 am
- April 19 First Communion for 18 second graders
- May 17 Confirmation for 17 high school students

Youth Group on Fridays from 6:30–9:30 pm, service projects and activities being planned. Contact Linda Osienski for more information.

Religious Education for Grades K–4 on Sunday mornings and Grades 5–9 on Sunday evenings.

Women's Guild on the second Wednesday of each month at the church hall at 7:00 pm

ARTISTS AT A.E.S.

WHAT ARE ARTISTS LIKE PICASSO AND GRANT WOODS DOING AT ANTRIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

Sharon Otterson, A.E.S. Principal

Surely Antrim Elementary seems an unlikely place to find famous artists. It has been, however, home to a bevy of artists including Grant Woods and Picasso. These artists and others have been part of the Famous Artists Come to School program called F.A.C.T.S. They visit in the form of posters which are selected by our coordinators, Nancy Brown, Ginny Mierins, and Suzan Rowe. Nancy and Ginny select and share the posters with students who then use the art work as a model for extension activities. One of our most recent artists was Grant Woods, painter of the *American Gothic*. The resulting students' works are displayed at the Superintendent's Office in Peterborough.

F.A.C.T.S. is just a small part of the Arts in the School Program under the guardianship of Nancy Brown which was so successful in Temple last year that it was expanded to include Antrim and Greenfield this year. Nancy has the major responsibility of connecting us with "live" artists and art opportunities.

The theme-based Arts Program extends students' learning by consolidating the central theme with an integrated art experience. This past week a well known calligrapher and musician, R.P. Hale, arrived at A.E.S. to demonstrate the fine art of calligraphy. This opportunity came about as a response to our focus on Japan and the Olympics. Student also had the additional experience of being graced by the sounds of Mr. Hale's dulcimer as they produced Japanese script.

Occasionally the Arts Program occurs off school grounds. In December, third and fourth grade students went to Peterborough to see the Nutcracker ballet. They were awed as the performers danced inches from where they sat on the floor. Not often does one have the chance to see ballet at such close proximity.

In the spring, fourth grade students will have the pleasure of working with the tile artist Katerina Rooney at the Sharon Arts Center. They will make their own tiles and will produce a large culminating mosaic project which will be on display at A.E.S.

It's impossible to put a price tag on some things in life: a child enraptured by the sound of a dulcimer or the confidence that third graders gained as a result of Kathy Manfre's three week theater residency. Research has impressed upon us the importance that art and music have for our young children. The Conval School District has taken this research seriously and given our students a myriad of gifts which they will use for the remainder of their lives. After all, once you have been touched by an artist, the experience is yours forever.

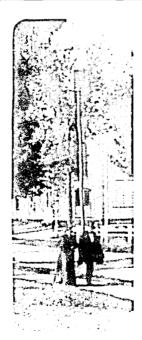
Antrim Historical Society

The Society will be remembering the Great Depression of the 1930s with a display of memorabilia and an open meeting at the Tuttle Library on Sunday afternoon, March 15 at 2:00 pm. (Snow date March 22.) The emphasis will be on the way Antrim residents coped with the crisis; if you have any special memories of those times please come to the meeting and join in the discussion. Martha Pinello will chair the program and Carole Webber is compiling articles for display. For anyone under the age of 60 this could be an interesting and informative afternoon: it wasn't all bread-lines and dark clouds, you know. Refreshments will be served, made from Depression-era recipes.

The Society's annual meeting will be a potluck supper at the home of Pat and Carole Webber at Patten Hill Farm on Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 pm. A program to follow is in the planning stages.

"A Stroll Through Antrim NH", the recently published pictorial history, was a very popular Christmas sale item. The Tuttle Library, Puckerbrush Barn Gift Shop, and the Maplehurst Inn have been selling the book without any remuneration for themselves; we appreciate their efforts of community service and encourage everyone to support them. The town is fortunate to have places of such high quality to provide for its needs.

There are still plenty of copies of the book available for sale. Call Izi Nichols at 588-6581 for more information.



A Stroll Through Antrim, New Hampshire

by the

Antrim Historical Society

\$15 • paper • 112 pages 200 photographs and maps

On sale at the Toadstool Bookshop, Antrim Library, Puckerbrush Barn, and Maplehurst Inn

To order by mail, add \$1.50 p&h, make check payable to Antrim Historical Society, and send to Izi Nichols, 10 Depot St., Antrim, NH 03440

SCOUTING NEWS

CUB SCOUTS

The Cub Scouts held their Blue and Gold Banquet on February 8 in recognition of the birthday of Scouting. Receiving the Arrow of Light were Will Payne, Derek Witherell, Jeremy Thurston, and Ralph Morton, advancing them to the regular Scout Troop. Joining the celebration was Andrew Appig who has completed the requirements for Eagle Scout. The next Pack meeting is March 15. On April 18 there will be a Chuck Wagon Derby. Anyone interested in Cub Scouting can call Ruth Zwirner at 588-2879 or Debra Whitney at 588-6761.

DAISY GIRL SCOUTS

On February 19 Antrim troops #946 and #2962 held investiture ceremonies officially welcoming 19 girls ages 5–6 into the Daisy Girl Scouts. The girls worked hard to earn their first badge or "try-it". Through play, dinner parties, telephone conversations and group discussions, the girls worked on their manners and polite social skills, earning them their manners badge, which was presented at the investiture. For many young girls this is their first Girl Scout experience, coming even before Brownies.

The goal of the Daisy Girl Scouts is to introduce many of the program goals and concepts of Girl Scouts to the younger girls in a way that they can understand and have fun with. Daisies build confidence and self esteem as well as a sense of community and sharing. Through teamwork the girls learn they can accomplish anything.

Through the combined efforts of the two troops in November, the girls donated enough canned goods to make two complete Thanksgiving dinners. The turkeys were generously donated by Wayno's Market. The baskets were in turn donated to the local churches for distribution.

In December the girls donated gloves and mittens which were also sent to the local churches in Christmas wrappings that the girls made themselves.

The most popular projects with the girls are the arts and crafts. The majority of these are done with recycled household items from used dryer sheets to coffee cans and egg cartons.

One thing you won't see a Daisy Girl Scout doing is selling Girl Scout cookies. Girl Scout regulations prohibit Daisies from fund-raising activities and collecting dues. Daisies operate on parental and local donations only.

The main goal of the Daisies is to always have fun while learning something new. For more information please contact Rhonda Armstrong at 588-2051 or Darlene Fox at 588-6541.

BROWNIES

Thanks to everyone within the community who supported our Girl Scout cookie drive this year. Both of our Brownie troops, totaling 31 girls, were able to ex-

ceed their goals. With the money we have earned we will be going on some trips such as the YMCA sleep-over and a sleigh ride. We also use the money to help us with our community projects such as Operation Santa and holiday food baskets.

The girls earn money individually as well, based on the number of boxes they sell. This money can be used towards summer camp or at the Girl Scout store.

Girl Scouts are organized by age levels. Brownies are made up of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. Junior Girl Scouts are 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and Daisies are Kindergartners. We have two Daisy troops totaling 20 girls.

We usually have our Juniors selling cookies too, but unfortunately we did not have a Junior leader this year. Anyone interested in becoming a leader can contact Robin Quinn at 588-3209. Being involved with Girl Scouts and the community is definitely a rewarding experience.

RURAL RIDES PROJECT

You can't live in Antrim if you don't have a car—not without difficulty, anyway. Most of us know at least one person who depends on others for rides to the doctor, the grocery store, or social outings. Some of our elderly no longer drive. We have families with only one reliable car. Many working people are the sole transportation provider for their family members, requiring them to take time off work when a family member needs a ride.

Staff of the Grapevine and the American Red Cross currently are working with the Rural Rides Project to support the development of a coordinated, volunteer transportation network for Antrim and Bennington. The project is community-driven, requiring community residents to participate in deciding what services to provide and how to provide them. Our goals include determining specific transportation needs in the community, bringing together a pool of volunteer drivers, and looking for ways to increase ride-sharing opportunities.

Join us on Thursday, March 26 at 12:00 noon or at 7:00 pm at the Antrim Little Town Hall to learn more about this project and how you can help. Alice Bruning, the Rural Rides Project Coordinator, will be available over the next year to provide guidance to our efforts. Call her at 924-6223 ext. 15 for more information.

POP WARNER FOOTBALL

The Monadnock Mountaineers Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading program has started accepting registrations for it's 1998 season starting August 1. Registrations are on a first come first serve basis. All children living in the Conval School District and surrounding areas between the ages of 8 and 15 may participate. Children are separated by age and weight. Practices and home games are in Peterborough. For more information please call Sue at 588-2674 or Dawn at 588-6984.



HOT TO TROT 4-H CLUB

Once again, this club participated in Kids' Night at the Farm and Forest Expo in Manchester. Our members had a craft

table to show and help visitors how to make a felt napkin ring that requires no glue.

Nine members and three adults travelled to Belmont on February 7 to participate in the state 4-H horse quiz bowl competition. Results were not available at the time of this writing. Senior members compete for four slots that make up a team which represents New Hampshire at the national competition in Kentucky later in the year.

The club will be well represented at the county 4-H activities day which will be held in Milford on March 21. Members will participate in a fashion revue, demonstration, public speaking, photography, and poster contests. County winners will be selected to compete further at the state activities day in May.

The annual Hillsborough County Horse Council Tack Sale will be March 5–8, the location still to be announced. Anyone interested in buying or selling handcrafts or used horse equipment should call Cher Griffin at 669-5768 or Joyce Cardoza at 673-2648. Also in conjunction with the sale will be a collection of aluminum cans and old clothing, shoes, pocketbooks, stuffed animals, leather wear, blankets, etc. Articles should be clean but condition is unimportant. Bag them in large plastic bags and take to the tack sale or call 4-H leader, Beth Merrill at 588-6615 for local drop-off instructions. Proceeds from these fund-raisers go to the Barn Fund for the 4-H Youth Center in New Boston. Our club is very close to raising enough money to have a stall in our name.

Other upcoming spring activities planned by the Hot To Trot 4-H club include a model horse show, dance, state hippology contest, and a Saddle Up for St. Jude trail and bike ride.

BREAST CANCER

An "Adventure Weekend" program for women of all ages and stages of breast cancer will take place March 13, 14, and 15 at Sargent Camp. The women will experience a wide variety of activities including cross-country skiing, yoga, teamwork, and the high ropes course. This is an opportunity to meet other women, to share experiences, to support and receive support, and to challenge yourself in overcoming the changes breast cancer has brought into your life.

The program was begun by Great Brook School Assistant Principal Betty Borry. It is sponsored by the American Cancer Society and Eastern Mountain Sports. For information call the ACS office at 800-640-7101.

"ELEANOR ROOSEVELT" TO VISIT ANTRIM

On Tuesday, March 10 at 1:00 pm, "Eleanor Roosevelt" will make a personal appearance at the Antrim Baptist Church with the program "Meet Eleanor Roosevelt", sponsored by the Antrim Woman's Club. Advance tickets are available at the Tuttle Library for \$5.00. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$8.00.

"Meet Eleanor Roosevelt" is a three-part historical portrait, presenting the former First Lady and United Nations delegate in the format of a lecture tour, in a personal informal style. This performance will feature Part II, Wife, Mother and First Lady. The one-woman show, directed by Josephine Lane of Brookline, MA, and performed by Elena Dodd of Westminster West, VT, is co-authored by Lane and Dodd. Following the performance Ms. Dodd will answer questions from the audience. Refreshments will be served.

"Meet Eleanor Roosevelt: Wife, Mother and First Lady," is for adult audiences, especially women. "Mrs. R." talks about the four decades of her marriage to Franklin Roosevelt. With a frank, often humorous look at some of her struggles, she recalls her years as a timid young wife and mother, "life in a goldfish bowl" as First Lady and her journey toward personal fulfillment.

Director Josephine Lane, an actress since childhood, performed in Boston and New York, premiering new plays and touring schools. Recently she has coached professional actors in Boston. Actress Elena Dodd worked with People's Theatre in Cambridge, MA, CityState and New African Company in Boston and Whetstone Theatre Company of Brattleboro, VT. She is a member of the Streetfeet Women, a Boston-based company of writers and performers.

Lane and Dodd's script is based on Eleanor Roosevelt's Autobiography, works by Joseph Lash and research at the Roosevelt estate in Hyde Park, NY. Development of the piece was supported in part by the American Association of University Women and the Polaroid Foundation.

HOME HEALTHCARE

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) will offer blood pressure checks at no cost in Antrim on Wednesday April 8 from 11:00 am–12:00 noon at Antrim Village. No appointment is necessary.

HCS will also hold an immunization clinic for children from newborn to 17 years of age on Tuesday, April 14 at the HCS Office on Community Lane, Old Route 202 in Peterborough from 3:30–5:30 pm. This clinic is available to all families, regardless of their income level. Prior immunization records need to be brought to the clinic. Call HCS at 352-2253 or 800-541-4145.



SCHOOL NEWS

Barbara Black

SERVICE LEARNING How many people does it take to build a shed? Well over a hundred when you are seventh graders learning the ropes from the bottom upfrom zoning codes to design to stress factors to construction to marketing. With the help of many community and business members students have been studying all aspects of the building process. Each seventh grade teacher is organizing the piece which best fits his/her subject area.

The task is to build a shed/playhouse. Pam Caswell, president of the Antrim Firefighters Auxiliary, explained to students that the shed would be raffled to raise funds to support the Fire Department.

In social studies, students are exploring building and zoning regulations that pertain to outbuildings in area communities. Students will be filling out building permits as part of the process adults must go through to add an outbuilding to their property.

In math, students have been designing floor plans and "For Sale" brochures. Through designing a "dream home" students have explored area, perimeter, scale, polygons, and applied basic computation skills. Architect/builder Mark Schaal will share his experiences with students and they will have a chance to visit a house currently under construction.

After investigating stress loads, spacing of studs, and materials cost, students will create designs for the shed in industrial technology. The finished plans will be presented to a panel for the final selection.

All good products need strong marketing, and language arts is a good place to learn these skills. With the help of Bill Gnade from the Keene Sentinel students explored what to look for in taking good photographs. Gnade shared slides of photographs he has taken during his career as a professional photographer. Students from Conval High School taught seventh graders how to use the dark room to develop and enlarge pictures. Visits to the Concord Monitor and the Keene Sentinel gave students a chance to discuss the responsibilities of reports, editors, and press operators.

Through words and pictures, students will chronicle their year long project. The presentation to the New Hampshire Department of Education and other Service Learning schools will be in May. Great Brook School is one of the pilot sites for Service Learning which connects schools to their communities. Service Learning is designed to implement the New Hampshire frameworks curriculum and encourage students to become involved citizens through community-based projects.

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS On April 3rd, Great Brook students will experience a day long celebration of the arts. An extensive variety of workshops will be

offered including dance, theater, folk guitar and "Live Oak" music. Jewelry and felt making as well as clay sculpture will be offered. The day will culminate with a performance by the Northern Lights Dance group.

Currently, students participate in visual arts studio activities. Fifth graders are creating tissue and paper collages as well as experimenting with cartooning and clay pottery. In March they will tie-dye T-shirts.

Sixth graders are creating 3D name paintings and creating colorful weavings. Landscape paintings and CD covers are the focus of the seventh graders' exploration. Eighth graders are creating 3D people.

All students share and critique each other's work as well as that of professional artists.

HELP WANTED! Do you love books? Are you willing to donate a few hours a week or a month? Librarian Jane Gehling is looking for help in the school library. Tasks would vary depending on time and interests. The library is open 7:15-2:00 daily and until 4:00 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. For more information, please call the school 588-6630.

COURTROOM DRAMA Are you a fan of "Judge Judy" or "The People's Court"? If so you won't want to miss the Mock Trial Competition to be held in Nashua on March 21st. Ten seventh graders from Great Brook will present a case involving a suit resulting from a rough ice hockey game. Coaches Marcia King and Keene Lawyer David Park will help the students understand courtroom procedures and law issues.

Mock trial is sponsored by the New Hampshire Bar Association. It helps students understand our legal system and gain insights into legal career opportunities.

WASHINGTON BY MOONLIGHT To visit the Lincoln Memorial at night, to climb toward the lit chamber which hold not only the seated statue of Lincoln but also the inspiring words of the Gettysburg Address, is a memory that last a lifetime. Great Brook eighth graders begin their week long visit to our capitol on April 20th with a tour of Washington memorials.

Students will also see the Supreme Court and Capitol building, the National Archives and Embassy Row. No trip to Washington is compete without visiting a few of the many museums. The U.S. Holocaust, National Air & Space, American History, and Natural History museums are on the agenda. The week concludes with a moonlit cruise of the Potomac.

THANK YOU, WOMEN As eighth graders conclude their studies of Women's History, they would like to thank the many women of Antrim who shared their lives with students. By interviewing women in their hometowns, students were able to see how dramatically life has change for women in the United States. Those who grew up during World War I and II shared how different life was for them as young women.

It's often hard to realize that "now" has not always been. By appreciating the sacrifices and struggles of those who came before, students can more fully appreciate the opportunities they now have—safeguard them and build upon them.

WITH RIGHTS COME RESPONSIBILITIES How was it possible for such a cultured nation as Germany to allow the Holocaust? Were there early danger signals which citizens missed or ignored? Is it possible for such an atrocity to happen again?

Through their study of the Holocaust, eighth graders will have an opportunity to explore what can happen when citizens do not act. They will explore the ramifications of prejudice, racism and stereotyping in society. In addition to lectures, group activities, and research, students will also have an opportunity to speak Holocaust survivor Mr. Stephen Lewy.

Through the study of historical information students will examine the responsibilities of citizenship. Democratic institutions and values are not self-sustaining. With rights of citizenship come responsibility to ensure the continuation of these rights for all. This is a great opportunity to stimulate discussion at home about what it means to be a responsible citizen.

WHO KILLED JACK RABBIT? Fifth graders had an opportunity to solve a "recreated" real -life mystery at the Science Center of New Hampshire in Holderness. Naturalist there set up the "crime" scene of the killing of Jack Rabbit (actually a snowshoe hare). Through eye witness accounts shortly after the killing, animal tracks left at the scene, and known animal behavior, students tried to solve the mystery of "Jack Rabbit's" death.

Several students came up with very plausible suspects. Students did come to the conclusion, however, that it was not a crime. Rather the death was a result of the natural process of animal survival in nature.

MARCH BLIZZARD? March is safe isn't it? Twice in January fifth graders prepared to bring their sleeping bags, pillows, and favorite books to the Great Brook gym for Prime Time '98. Twice ice and snow not only played havoc on area roads and utility wires, but also canceled this popular yearly event. Giving in to what seemed inevitable, teachers decided to skip February all together and try again in March.

1620 Thanks to all who purchased Easter candy to help fifth graders earn money for their trip to Plimoth Plantation. The money earned will greatly reduce the cost for students.

In May, students will travel back in time to the 1620's when hardy men and women established the Plimoth Colony. Museum personal dressed in period costumes take on the character of the people they represent. Students will have a chance to converse with sailors and

passengers on the Mayflower and experience how it might have been to travel in such tight quarters across the ocean to a new and strange land.

At Plimoth Plantation fifth graders will tour Plimoth village and perhaps help in the fields, the backyard gardens, or household chores. They will dine on 17th century fare for their evening meal before returning to the 20th century long enough for a sleeping bag camp-out on the visitor center's floor.

SPRING SPRUCE UP As your community group starts to make plans for spring cleaning both inside and out, don't forget that GBS students are looking for community service projects. As part of their requirements for Student of the Month, students perform 4 hours or service to their community. In February, 97 students enjoyed sliding and skating at Norway Pond in Hancock thanks to the GBS Parent Advisory Council.

If your group needs helping hands at no cost, please call the school (588-6630).

TO FLY The theme of this year's New Hampshire Dance Institute presentation is "To Fly". Through music, story, and dance, man's fascination with flight has been chronicled. Leonardo da Vinci will be celebrated not only for his role as an artist but also as and inventor.

Students from all over southern New Hampshire have worked with professional dance instructors to bring such diverse flying machines as the air balloon and helicopter, to life. Each school performs two numbers and participates in two ensemble extravaganzas. This is a performance not to be missed.

For Great Brook students this topic is especially relevant. Fifth graders explore how simple machines are part of complex airplanes. Both sixth and seventh graders explore the role of inventors, and eighth graders have studied space and air travel.

Dress rehearsal on Friday, May 22nd at 7:30 pm, two matinee performances at 2:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday and a gala performance Saturday night at 7:30 pm. All will take place at the Brickyard Theater at Keene State College. Advance tickets go on sale March 16th. For more information, contact Sheila Proctor or Helene Newbold at 588-6630.

SAVE THIS DAY Calling all Antrim families! A community clean up is planned for Saturday, April 18th. For the past two years GBS fifth graders and community members under the guidance of Harris Center for Environmental Education naturalist Susie Denehy have cleaned up rubbish from the banks of local waterways. This year the Antrim Grapevine, the Harris Center, and Great Brook students will join together for a community-wide cleanup effort. Look for posters with more information; remember the date, April 18. Help improve our environment—and have fun too!

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Commission will be organizing a work day in the spring for trail maintenance, focusing on the new Lily Pond and Meeting House Hill trail, cleaning up any damage that was caused by the "Big Ice Storm."

We also are still going to be doing the roadside salt testing, starting next fall; the project was postponed for unforeseen circumstances. Anyone who has any thoughts or possible locations for this project can contact the Commission.

The Board is presently made up of the following members: Peter Beblowski, Linda Bryer, Martha Pinello, Pat Webber, and Rod Zwirner. New members, volunteers and any ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Earth Day is Saturday April 18 this year, let's all strive to make the environment around Antrim a place for our children to enjoy in the future.

REC CENTER

The Antrim Recreation Center is now open on Friday nights from 7:00 to 10:00 pm and on Saturday from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. There will be a basketball tournament on March 7; teams must pre-register. For a registration form, come to the Center during open hours or call Sue at 588-2574 or Mae at 588-3044.

We need volunteers to chaperone elementary students on Thursday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. If you can volunteer once a week, once a month, or even every other month, please call Sue. We are only asking for 2 hours of your time to give for the benefit of a lot of children; surely you can spare 2 hours, even once a month which is probably the equivalent of the time you spend chatting on the phone with friends. Don't let the elementary after-school program be delayed much longer or abandoned for lack of a chaperone.

CAMPBELL LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Mm Mm Good...

Antrim Elementary School is participating in the Campbell Labels for Education program. The labels that we collect are used to purchase school equipment not in the budget. Previous thing bought include four microscopes, three Big Screen Projector Microscopes and various Physical Education equipment.

Please tell your friends and family to start saving FRONT LABELS ONLY from all Campbell soups, Franco-American Products and Prego spaghetti sauces.

The labels can be deposited in a large "soup can" at the Antrim Elementary near the front door. They can also be dropped off at the Antrim Village community building and at the front registers at Wayno's.

Thank you for making this a great community-wide project, and continue to eat lots of Campbell soup. Any questions, ask Linda Bryer, Label Coordinator.



ANTRIM GARDEN CLUB

The first meeting of the season will be held on Monday May 18. Thereafter, regular meetings will be scheduled on the 4th Monday of each month through December. For information, call Doris Bryer at 588-6796.

ANTRIM WOMAN'S CLUB

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Book scholarships offered by the Club to Antrim and Bennington residents who had completed one year of study beyond secondary education, have been awarded to the following people:

Joanna Fraser-Allentown College, Allentown, PA
Pamela French-Everett-Keene State, Keene, NH
Joshua Fletcher-Bridgewater State, Bridgewater, MA
Melinda Gelardi-Hesser College, Manchester, NH
Kevin Harris-NH Technical Institute, Concord, NH
Brent Hautanen-NH Technical Institute, Concord, NH
Michelle Hautanen-Keene State, Keene, NH
Kevin Kimball-Franklin Pierce College, Concord, NH
Jonathan Manley-New York University, New York, NY
Daniel Pascucci-College of Communications at
Boston University, Boston, MA

Micah Pascucci-University of Maine, Machias, ME Robert Varnum-NH Community Technical College Nashua, NH

Matthew Zwirner-Springfield College, Springfield, MA

LIONS CLUB

The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club is pleased to report that once again the community has shown strong support for both our annual Christmas Tree Sales and Operation Santa. The funds raised from our Christmas Tree sales helps support Operation Santa and we are happy to tell you that we sold all 100 trees this year!

The Operation Santa project, co-chaired by Linda Bryer and Alycemae Flanders, was able to bring Christmas to 101 children in our community. The community demonstrated its support for this project through the tags on the Christmas Tree in the Antrim office of Granite Bank, private and group donations, and the proceeds from the Lions Club's Christmas Tree sale. We would like especially to thank Linda and Alycemae and the many volunteers who helped with shopping and wrapping gifts. Thanks to Dave Boule and Maurice Cutter for their help in selling the Christmas Trees and a big thank you to Eric and Linda Tenney who not only helped with tree sales but, once again, allowed us to sell trees at the Tenney Farm Stand in Antrim.

We, as a community, should be very proud of this successful project.

How did you get the name "Smokey"?

Well, I worked construction equipment quite a lot on the highways...mostly in Vermont. I moved the equipment there for four years, and I had a brand new tractor trailer, a diesel, there was a smokestack right up the side. There was always a little curl of blue smoke coming out when you were traveling. It got so that when I would come onto a job with a piece of equipment, they all said, "Well, here come Smokey!" Well, then, that kinda stuck. I worked mostly Vermont state, and some in New Hampshire. I worked the by-pass down here to Bennington. That started in the fall; there wasn't work other places, but there was down here on this section. So, it made it good for me, I'm right here at home. Until it got to when they had to close up; it got too cold, froze up too much. Of course I took care of the flares. There's always something that you have to do during the winter. They left me to keep the road taken care of. They left the road grader.

Did your father ever do any farming?

Father did, up until the mid-thirties. At one time we had over a hundred head of cattle here. Mostly young stock. He shipped milk some, not a lot, in those forty quart milk jugs back then. By the late thirties the milk kinda dwindled out around here. There were three or four places: the Bryer place—Donald Bryer is there now-the Perkins place up there, and the Tenny place, and ours, was the only ones that was shipping milk out of here. There was more milk that was shipped out of East Antrim than toward the Hillsborough line. You'd go right down to the railroad...in Deering. You had quite a lot of milk stops—quite a lot of milk trains come through in the mornin'. Eventually they went to Boston. They went to Nashua from here, to Elmwood Station there down in Hancock. I'd like to have seen that before it got dismantled. Howard Humphrey, Jr., "Peanut", has got more pictures and stuff of that than anybody else...

Did you work the farm at all yourself?

Oh yeah, I drove the oxen. At one time we had over a hundred head of cattle here, mostly oxen because the milk business went bad. Father went to raisin' oxen, steers, cattle. I used to drive the oxen. Father done the hosses. I didn't do much with hosses. He sold some of the cattle...mostly steers, beef stock, working animals. Father would buy, sell, trade some.

What was your father's name?

Elmer. He was born in Deering. The Merrills come from Deering, and back up from that somewhat, they come from Nashua. (Smokey has Arthur fetch the family bible. Written in neat handwriting: Elmer Warren Merrill, born October 11, 1888, in Deering, New Hampshire, and Ethel Carolina Rebecca Nylander, born March 24, 1890, in Woodland, Maine. Married October 28, 1914 in Antrim.)

Do you know where Lovern's Mills is? Lovern's Mills was a big mill in its day; they cut a lot of stuff up there. He hauled lumber from there down where Route 9 is now, but on the other side of the river—the old road is still there if you know where it is—down to North Branch Village, and down the middle of Pierce Lake, the road come down through the middle of Pierce Lake. There's a set of brick buildings on the edge of the lake, the road went right down by that and come out in Hillsborough Upper Village.

Where did you go to school?

What school I had was here in Antrim. December 1938 was the last day I went to school. I was fourteen years old. Some things are better forgotten. But some of those things you don't forget. First year of high school started. I'd been in the hospital more or less since summer; I got a perforated eardrum. I'd been in the hospital up to Keene most of the summer. When I wasn't there I was with my aunt and uncle in Peterborough. There was nobody to take care of me here at home.

I started school in the fall in September and went up to December or something. The principal we had here at that time was a tall man. Well, you take back then, things were different. The old school teachers, some of them was pretty rough characters. He had a bad habit, he'd take hold of your jaw with his thumb and finger like this and bang your head on the desk behind ya if you weren't paying attention. I had no business to been in school anyway. I had an ulcerated tooth, and he grabbed right on the ulcerated tooth. I think they heard me hollerin down to the town hall. I think it was the 14th of December, 1938. It was up the top floor, there was three landings, and stairs in the front. I jumped to the first landing, I jumped to the second landing, and hit the floor. I haven't been in that school house since. I was only fourteen; I should of gone back.

(According to Parades and Promenades, that principal was Thomas Chaffee who was "Headmaster" from 1926 until 1939. Smokey Merrill was not the only student who left school during this period. "Students with no interest in higher education were given short shrift, with very few courses offered as incentive to stay in school, so as a result there were many dropouts." p 141.)

Did they try to make you go back?

Not really, no. They had the chairman of the school board that was wilder than a Fish Hawk. Boy was she wild, you talk about somebody being tear-assed. Oh, she was mad. Once she had somethin to say, she said it. Myrtie Brooks. I worked for Myrtie some, outside farm work, but I'd do no milkin. I never could milk; my hands wouldn't milk. Myrtie used to get awful upset: "You work on a farm and you can't milk a cow!" I said, that's father's job, that aint my job. I done the other work.

🖾 ----- continued on page 22

Do you remember the Great Depression at all?

Well, that's on the tail end of it. Of course, we had enough here. I guess we was better off here in Antrim than folks were in other places. We wasn't hurting much here. Father was Road Agent. They run two separate gangs of men. Of course, most work was done by hand labor back then. I guess there was only two of three trucks in town. They'd have some of the men who didn't work in the factories and needed work, they worked for the town three days, and then another crew would work the next three days. So, instead of being on welfare, which they frowned on back then, if they could work, why they'd work two or three days a week enough to get groceries and the likes of that.

Back when you didn't go back to school, did you go to work?

We had six or seven pair of oxen, and I had my team. Of course, back then there was always a lot of cordwood to haul out of the woods. And that's what I done, mostly all winter long. I was hauling out cordwood to the side of the road where the trucks could get it. I had a small team. Father used the hosses all the time. There was a couple years we plowed and harrowed gardens in the spring. I used to harrow with the oxen somewhat, he done the plowin.

Did you train these oxen yourself?

Yes. They was just calves. I haven't got the yoke now. Chauncey over there has got the two small yokes. There was an old rubber clad buggy that was no good., but the wheels was good on it. Father made a little hay rack on the back, and we used that a lot for bringing in hay and doing a lot of other little jobs.

They weren't a big team, they was a little on the small side. Somewhere around the early 40s the town of Greenfield had a hundred year anniversary or something. One of the selectmen down there came up here cause there wasn't any other oxen around to pull the big wagon, like the wagons that went west, a big hay wagon. I went down and pulled that, and I come down that main street in Greenfield. Oh, that was murder! Pushing 'em too hard. The little team was too small for that big wagon, and of course it was loaded with furniture and half a dozen people, a big float. It was pretty hard; they could pull an awful lot more than they could hold back. The poor little buggers, they was slipping on the pavement. We took 'em over in a truck. We couldn't walk 'em clear over there and then walk 'em back. They was used to going in the truck. Just load 'em up, things is done, load 'em back in, come home.

That was about the time World War II started. Did you go into the service?

No, they wouldn't take me, perforated eardrum. I was 4F. Ever once in a while they'd call ya to come down to Manchester, down to the air base, your number's come up in the draw again. The old doctor set over in the corner, he seen me come in, and he just said, "Don't them damn fools know anything!" I was eighteen, nineteen years old, I knew enough to keep my mouth shut. Anyway. he talked to another guy there, doctor lingo, you couldn't understand it. "Don't those damn fools know anything. Christ, he wouldn't last on the rifle range five minutes!" Those cherry bombs they had back then, they almost knocked me out [because of the perforated eardrum]. Every time one of those cherry bombs went off it was just like somebody nailed me. I don't remember how I got it, I'd had a lot of sickness, it might have come from blowing my nose. I had a lot of trouble with it.

I was based out of White River for a couple years. I run bulldozer and drag line dragging the river for gravel. Then the company enlarged where they had three or four jobs going in different places, and instead of hiring someone to move the equipment from job to job, they bought their own tractor and trailer.

They hired a man to drive the tractor trailer, and he didn't know any more about driving tractor trailer than a two year old kid. He got out into soft sand with it and got himself hung up down on the job. He got so mad he took his dinner bucket out of the truck and started walking home. That was at Springfield, New Hampshire, and he started walking toward White River. I looked at him, "Hey, aren't you going to take this god damned rig home?" I says, "I ain't booked out on it." "Nope, I won't touch it!" He wouldn't get back in. I said, "By Jesus, I ain't walking back to White River." I got in and I fooled with it a few minutes, played with it in the soft sand, and finally I backed it out. I got turned around, back on the hard ground again. I said, "You gonna get your fat in here and ride home, or you gonna walk?" I said, "I don't give a damn." I drove back into White River. I got into the plant up there, actually Sharon, Vermont, I drove in...I see Mike [the boss] lookin'. I climbed out. Mike looked at me, and these were his exact words, "What the hell you drivin' around for!" I said, "Mike, I'll be god damned if I was gonna hitchhike back from Springfield." 'What's the deal?" And I told him. I says, "He got stuck in the soft sand, and he refused to do anything with it. I got in and rocked it back and forth, got myself out, turned it around, got it back on hard ground, and told him to get back in." He said, "Nosir!" "By god, he was going to hitchhike back to White River. I told him I don't give a damn what he done. I have a license to drive it, and if you want all right, but I'm headed for White River." I drove it back, and when he seen me driving in, I could see the expression on his face. He said,

"That Jim!" He just shake his head. Mike, he was a big heavy Irishman, nicest man I ever worked for, if he was talking here, you could hear him up top of the hill.

That was his last trip, he never went out with it again. I went to drivin that. The rest of the time I worked down at the river on a drag line, dragging gravel out of the river that summer. It's kind of a tricky operation. A lot of them want to get out into the middle of the river with it, the bully and the tractor. They want to bail down river. That's a smart thing to do! Everything washes out from under your rig and pretty soon you're setting on your nose down there. The gravel washes out from under you. It gets hairy. I bailed down there some, kept the stone crusher going, and then they had a job in Wells River and I went up there on the big drag line out in the middle of the river up there. Boy, that's wild! That river would be down, you'd be working in two feet of water, a half an hour later you'd be in water right down to your feet up there in the shovel. The dragline would be a steam shovel without the bucket on it, with a boom, usually with seventy-five feet of boom, your bucket on a pendulum going in and out. You had to watch that pretty close, it was a little tricky. That waren't the tricky part of it. You think you see a drunken sailor on shore leave, well the first couple of days you oughta see me. Oh, god, you sit there with that water running right underneath you, and try to work that drag line, bailing in along the shore, oh sick! Oh, man! After a couple days of it you get used to it and it's all right. A couple of the older operators, they wouldn't go out on it. I didn't get to throwing up, but I tell you, I was one sick dog.

Did your family go to church? Did you go to church?

They belonged to the Presbyterian Church, and the Center Church. [I went] somewhat, up until I was nine, ten years old I guess, things kinda fell apart. Between hard times and I lost interest. My grandmother used to see that I went when she was alive and able to go. In the summer, you had the summer schools in the churches, the Babtist Church, the Presbyterian, and the other church at Grove Street, its been two, three different ones. They kinda frowned on that church and a lot of them claimed that church was built on rum and hard cider. You've been in that church; it's a beautiful church. In my estimation that church makes the others look like...

Do you remember who owned the Platt Farm on Route 202 north?

As far as I can go back, the 1930s, Henry George, actually it belonged to his wife, Mary. Too bad, she was a nice lady, she shot herself. War time, things got real desperate. At that time women couldn't find work. She done everything that she possibly could. There was a girl, her daughter. I think she was a year older than I. She used to have to walk from over there to school.

These tightwad school board wouldn't have the bus bring her. It was something like three hundred feet; if it was two miles or more, they transported you. It was just short of the two miles, and by god they weren't going to pay for transporting her over here. In the mid thirties they closed the East Antrim schoolhouse. When they closed that, of course, she had to come over here.

You say Mary George shot herself?

She shot herself, depressed. She couldn't buy a job anywhere. They called my father and my step-brother and they went over. Nobody could get into the house; they had a big German Shepherd. Of course Henry had been gone two or three years. They called for Walter to go over, my half-brother, he had a way with dogs. He just went over and paid no more attention, just opened the door and walked in. Of course the dog was standing over her. He took the dog and went into the other room and closed the door, and everything was all right. He got shot in a hunting accident down here in the field, killed, the bullet went in just below the belt and came out the shoulder. He never knew what hit him. Hunting woodchucks, he got quite a few woodchucks that summer.

I better be getting home. Thank you.

Well, you may be a little late for dinner, but you'll be early for supper.



Don't you just love this beautiful snow?

LIMRIK STAFF

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ANTRIM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

- 4 LENTEN LUNCHEONS Antrim Baptist Church 12 noon
- 4 TRASH TO TREASURES Grapevine 6:30 pm
- 5 PUBLIC MEETING Aiken House Feasibility Committee Little Town Hall 7:00 pm
- 5-8 Hillsborough County Horse Council Tack Sale (4-H)
 - **REC CENTER Basketball Tournament**
 - HCS Blood Pressure Clinic Antrim Village 11:00 am to 12 noon
- "MEET ELEANOR ROOSEVELT" sponsored by Antrim Woman's Club Antrim Baptist Church 1:00 pm
- 10 VOTING Town Officials and Conval Budget Antrim Town Hall 8:00 am to 7:00 pm
- 11 LENTEN LUNCHEONS Antrim Baptist Church 12 noon
- 11 CPR COURSE Part 1 Grapevine 6:30 pm
- 12 PREPARING HEALTHY SNACKS Grapevine 10:00 am
- 12 TOWN MEETING Great Brook School Gym 7:00 pm
- 13-15 ADVENTURE WEEKEND Program Sargent Camp
 - 14 GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION Antrim Baptist Church 7:00 pm Preview time 6:15 pm
 - 15 ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Open Meeting and Exhibit Tuttle Library 2:00 pm
 - 18 CHILD CARE BASICS Part 1 Grapevine 10:00 am
 - 18 LENTEN LUNCHEONS Antrim Baptist Church 12 noon
 - CPR COURSE Part 2 Grapevine 6:30 pm
 - 21 COUNTY 4-H Activities Day Milford
 - 22 TOUR OF ITALY Tuttle Library 2:00 pm
 - GBS MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION Nashua
 - GBS NO SCHOOL Workshop Day
 - CHILD CARE BASICS Part 2 Grapevine 10:00 am
 - LENTEN LUNCHEONS Antrim Baptist Church 12 noon
 - 25 CPR COURSE Part 3 Grapevine 6:30 pm
 - WHEN IS IT TIME TO CALL THE DOCTOR? Grapevine 10:00 am
 - 26 RURAL RIDES PROJECT Little Town Hall 12 noon & 7:00 pm
 - MEET THE AUTHOR Lyman Gilmore Reading From His New Book Tuttle Library 2:00 pm

APRIL

- 1 CHILD CARE BASICS Part 3 Grapevine 10:00 am
- 1 LENTEN LUNCHEONS Antrim Baptist Church 12 noon
- GBS CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS
- PALM SUNDAY Service & Confirmation Presbyterian Church
- 6 TARTAN DAY Scottish Genealogy Quest Tuttle Library
- 7 & 21 TAKING CARD OF YOU Grapevine 10:00 am
 - 8 CHILD CARE BASICS Part 4 Grapevine 10:00 am
- 9 & 23 TAKING CARD OF YOU Grapevine 10:00 am
 - 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion: Presbyterian Church 6:30 pm Baptist Church - 7:00 pm

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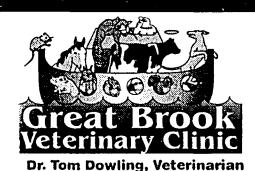
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ANTRIM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL

- 9 HOLY THURSDAY Mass St. Patrick's Church 7:30 pm
- 10 GOOD FRIDAY Ecumenical Service Baptist Church 7:00 pm
- 10 GOOD FRIDAY Service St. Patrick's Church 7:30 pm
- 11 EASTER VIGIL St. Patrick's Church 7:30 pm
- 12 EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE Presbyterian Church Lawn 6:30 am
- 12 EASTER SUNDAY Services: Presbyterian Church 10:30 am Baptist Church – 10:30 am St. Patrick's Church – 8:00 & 10:30 am
- 14 HCS Immunization Clinic for Children Peterborough 3:30-5:30 pm
- 18 CHUCK WAGON DERBY Cub Scouts
- 18 EARTH DAY Community Clean-Up Day and Grapevine Bar-B-Que
- 19 FIRST COMMUNION St. Patrick's Church
- 20-24 GBS 8th GRADE TRIP to Washington, DC
 - 24 NATIONAL GRANGE 125th Anniversary Concord
 - 26 MONADNOCK BABYSITTERS' CLUB CLASS Grapevine 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
 - 27 GBS SPRING BREAK Week
 - 30 Firefighters Auxiliary MOTHERS' DAY BASKET Raffle

MAY

- 2 Annual MAY Breakfast Presbyterian Church 7-9:00 am
- 6 ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Annual Meeting 6:00 pm Potluck Supper at the home of Pat and Carole Webber
- **6 GBS SPRING CONCERT**
- HANSEL & GRETEL 5th Grade trip to Palace Theater
- 9 JUNIOR HIGH ALL-STATE
- 9 Northern Lights Dance Theatre SPRING DANCE CONCERT Colonial Theatre – Keene 4:00 pm and 7:30 pm
- 13-14 5th Grade PLIMOTH PLANTATION Overnight Trip
 - 15 COMMUNITY PROFILE Gathering & Pot-Luck Supper
 - 16 COMMUNITY PROFILE Gathering
 - CONFIRMATION St. Patrick's Church
 - 18 Antrim GARDEN CLUB First Meeting of the Season
- 22-24 NH DANCE INSTITUTE Performances at Keene State College
 - 25 GBS NO SCHOOL Memorial Day



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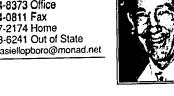
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