



LIMRIK

For, by and about the people of Antrim.

Vol. 12 #1
December 2002

Happy Holidays to all!



A NATIONAL FIRST THREE ANTRIM SIBLINGS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE

By Isabel B. Nichols

At the recent biennial election on November 5, three representatives to the general court were elected from this area who have a unique distinction. Larry Elliott and Kim Dionne, in District 42, and Bennington's Lori O'Brien, in District 43, are brother and sisters. The National Conference of State Legislators has recently confirmed that they are the only set of three siblings ever to serve at the same time in this capacity, not only in New Hampshire, but in the country!

The three youngest children of Charlie and Shirley (Chandler) Elliott of Antrim, they were brought up here and attended Conval Schools, although Lori finished her high school career at Keene High.

Larry was first elected to the Legislature from Antrim in 1988 serving two consecutive terms, and was later elected to represent Hillsboro where he now lives. With the recent redistricting, he will again represent Antrim for his fourth term in the House. His twin sister, Lori, will be serving for the first time, representing our neighboring district which includes Bennington and Frankestown.

Kim, who is the youngest of the three, has already served one term. She lives in Clinton Village, and her children attend Antrim schools.

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ANTRIM PLAYERS

"A REAL NEW ENGLAND CHRISTMAS"
DEC 20, 21 & 22

An all-welcome community Christmas event will take place in Town Hall on December 20, 21, and 22 at 8 PM. Admission is free but tickets must be obtained either at the door or by reservation at 588-3403.

Ray Swency and the Antrim Players are preparing this celebration. Some 70 singers, dancers and instrumentalists, adults and children, will take part.

The show is in the nature of a Revue, set in a ski lodge. Its title, "A Real New England Christmas" is taken from Izi Nichols' frequently-performed song, which will be sung with her at the piano. Another song on the program by a local composer, Ray Sweeney himself, is called "The Price: A Hymn to Peace" with words by Tim Clark. It will be done as a vocal duet with instrumental accompaniment.

Rene Blinn's widely-known Northern Lights Dance Company will dance to the music of the Pachelbel Canon.

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LIBRARY EXPANSION

By Ron Haggett, Library Trustee

As a result of the 2002 Town Meeting decision to demolish the Aiken house, the Tuttle Library trustees decided to redesign the expansion plans developed with Tennant & Wallace architects of Manchester and the building committee to include the Aiken site and to build a single story 4700 square foot addition. This addition will run south of the existing building connecting to it through the south wall of the current first floor stack room.

The former Aiken site will be incorporated into the Library expansion project and will provide for the footprint of the addition, parking off Aiken Street and landscaping in keeping with the "Main Street project". Site development is also being coordinated with the Aiken Street Barn project to provide access from the barn to the library. It is our goal that the total effect of this project will be to create a "community campus", anchoring the south end of

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TREE LIGHTING

SUNDAY DEC 8

Come to the 12th Annual Antrim Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 8 at the Bandstand in Memorial Park. Join the GBS Chorus in singing Christmas carols, have some hot cocoa and cookies, and even sit on Santa's lap and get a candy cane. Festivities begin at 4 PM. The Girl Scouts will decorate the tree and Santa will arrive at 4:30 PM. And, don't forget to drive by Touchwood Square to see the other Town Christmas Tree. For questions or inclement weather advisory, please call 588-3121. This event is sponsored by the Antrim Friends of Recreation.



BEWARE ANTRIM SCAMS

By Chief of Police Brian A. Brown

Life in the fast lane is reaching Antrim and we need to be very careful. Careful to whom we give our social security number, our bank account numbers and our credit card numbers.

The Antrim Police have handled two identity thefts from this community which were done without the thief ever stepping foot in our town; actually, one theft was done from Florida. There are all types of new scams which you need to be careful about. There are phone scams, promising that you have won a vacation or a TV, and all you have to do is to forward a check to cover the tax or the shipping or give them your bank number and they will withdraw the money from your account electronically. There is also a scam where they will tell you that they are investigating a scam and need your personal information, such as bank

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Christmas

It comes when there's minimum sun,
Gives Light where there's otherwise none.

It's a jolly old gent

And an evergreen scent

And a Birthday, all rolled into one.



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Please make checks payable to the ANTRIM LIMRIK. We hope people will keep up with the expiration dates of their subscriptions to the *LIMRIK*. On the mailing label is the following information:

Subs. Exps. 'date'

ADVERTISING FEES

Full Page	\$125 per issue
Half Page (Back Page)	\$75 per issue
Half Page (Inside page)	\$65 per issue
Business Card size ad	\$30 per issue or \$100 for 4 issues

Advertising copy is due by the 10th of the month prior to *LIMRIK* publication—May 10, August 10, November 10 or February 10. Final decisions about acceptable content for ads will be made by the Managing Editor and the Business Manager.

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 February 8, either to a staff member or to the Tuttle Library.

CREDITS

The *limerick* on page 1 is by Dick Winslow, Managing Editor. The cartoon on page 1 is the creation of Russ Russell, Art Director.

LOIS HARRIMAN

WHO HANDLES LIMRIK ADS?

Lois Harriman, one of the *LIMRIK*'s founders, has since day one been our ads person. She has either solicited or accepted advertisements, handled billings and designed ads layout for each issue. Illness has now forced her to resign. A letter from Lois says, "It is with great regret I am sending in my resignation after twelve years on the *Limrik* staff. Thank you for the opportunity to have served."

[Thank us? Good heavens, Lois, it is we who thank you! We've always thought of you as the backbone of the publication, and its conscience. Its energy, its policies, its style have been surely shaped by you. Bless your heart. —Editor]

ENTER SOPHIA MILANO

Our ads, at least for this issue, and hopefully for future issues, will be handled by Sophia Milano at 588-6142. Sophia, with husband Shaun and infant daughter Ana Sophia, moved to Antrim last January. She is a CPA who worked for twelve years for the IRS; Shaun works with Allegro Microsystems designing and marketing computer sensors for cars. They came to Antrim from Loudon, NH, having purchased the John Robertson home on Route 31. A christmas tree business ("Choose 'N Cut Your Own") came with the property and the Milanos are continuing its operation. (*See their ad in this issue.*) Welcome to Antrim and to the *Limrik*. ♣

Library Expansion *continued*

Main Street with access to parking and the new main library entrance from Aiken Street.

The project impact on the 1907 library building will be limited to renovations designed to bring the building into compliance with current safety codes. These will include an exterior staircase to the second floor, an elevator, a handicapped bathroom and structural strengthening of the second floor as required. The main room on the first floor will be cleared of book stacks and restored as close to its original state as practical, creating an expanded adult reading and research room as well as space for the library's audio visual collections. Additionally, the added benefit of the new design will be a minimal disruption of library services during the construction phase of the project and the ability to move into the new space before beginning the renovation of the existing building.

Key to the successful design and completion of this project is the work done by our architects, Tennant & Wallace, AIA, PA of Manchester, NH. This firm, founded in 1991, has engaged in over 20 library projects, the latest of which are those in Pembroke, Fitzwilliam and Greenfield.

The preliminary cost of the project is estimated at 1.3 million dollars and will be finalized for presentation to the 2003 town meeting as a bond issue. The trustees, working with Tennant & Wallace, will seek the services of a proven construction management firm to finalize the design, costs, develop construction specifications, and manage the project to completion.

In order to reduce the tax impact of the project as much as possible, the Trustees are beginning a fund raising campaign to ask the community for their financial support. Project presentations have been made to several organizations thus far, more are planned, and the culmination of our information campaign will be a "Patron Appreciation Day" to be held at the library on Saturday, December 7. This will be followed by a general solicitation to the town at year end. ♣

THE ANTRIM CENTER STONE CHURCH

By Janet MacLachlan

The stone church at Antrim Center on Clinton Road—Route 31—stands empty now. No choirs sing hymns, no sermons are preached and no parishioners attend weekly church services. But it wasn't always like that.

Built in 1899, it was a religious center for the many people who lived in homes and on farms around it. Previously, they had attended the beautiful Presbyterian Church built in 1826 on the land now owned by the Chambers family on Clinton Road at the foot of Meetinghouse Hill, just past the Grange Hall. That church grew to have a membership of 263 but by 1880 the population growth of Antrim was moving down to the south village where more of the townspeople were locating, nearer the mills.

Church members who had moved "down-town" wished to have their church nearer and didn't like the long buggy ride up the hill to the Center. A request was made to the Presbytery to allow a church to be built in the south village but the petition was denied on the basis that the population of Antrim was not large enough for two churches of the same denomination. This caused much bitterness between the two factions as neither side was willing to give in to the other about where the church should be located. In 1893 the Presbyterian Church at Antrim Center was blown up, apparently by churchgoers resentful at being prohibited from building a second Presbyterian church near the more populous south part of Antrim.

It was at this time that a Congregational Fellowship voted to continue a ministry at the Center. So as the Presbyterian body moved to the south village on the second Sunday of Feb-

ruary 1893, the Antrim Center folk began meeting for worship on the very next Sunday in the vestry near their former church with services being held continuously from that time. Then they built the Stone Church. The lot on which it stands was given by Mr. James N. Gove, money was raised, a minister was secured and the church was built. The service of dedication was held on May 17, 1899, and it was given the name The First Congregational Church of Antrim. The church bell was a gift of Mr. Eben Bass of Bass Farm (now the home of Herb Nilsin) and was cast by the Paul Revere Company of Boston. It was Mr. Bass's request that the bell be rung at midnight on the eve of July 4 each year and so it has been. Fieldstone was used on the lower exterior of the building as there were stones enough in the vicinity.

The Center Congregational Church flourished between 1910 and 1940, being the social center of the surrounding community. It was famous for its church suppers and the harvest suppers in the fall were especially looked forward to: entertainment and an auction always followed at the Grange Hall afterwards. Services were held at the church until the early 1970s when declining church attendance took its toll. The smaller congregation was not enough to support a minister and the upkeep of the building.

CAROL AND JIM RYMES

It was some time after this that Carol and Jim Rymes, who had adjoining land and were aware of the church's condition, approached the members and offered to form a charitable trust through which they would make repairs and keep the building in usable condition. A new roof was put on and the bell tower rebuilt. The stained glass windows have been recaulked and the stairs rebuilt. There are plans

for a new well and a septic system, too. In the meantime, people have returned to have their weddings there and funerals. There is no set fee but a donation is made toward the upkeep of the church. This old Stone Church holds memories for many people who are still living in town. Jim and Carol Rymes wish to maintain the old church as an historic institution where future religious ceremonies may continue to be performed. Stop by some day when you are driving up Clinton Road and take a walk around the building. Imagine the life that once thrived there and the many families that found fellowship and comfort. ♣

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

It has been a busy Fall for the Board of Selectmen. The revaluation process is coming to a close, the Aiken House has come down, and there have been discussions with Conval School District over use of the Town Gym. There is also a new department head at the A.R.T.S. (Antrim Recycling Transfer Station).

By this time, any property owner who had scheduled a meeting with the assessors, has been informed of any changes.

In order for the Aiken House demolition to happen, there were a number of requirements that had to be met. This was a lengthy process, and we thank all people involved, especially David Essex and Jeff Parsons, our building inspector.

With the new construction at the Antrim Elementary School, there were some issues involving use of the Town Gym. These have hopefully been resolved by now, so that both the townspeople and the school district can look forward to years of continued shared use of this facility.

Clark Craig has been hired as the new A.R.T.S. Department head. Clark has been a member of the Solid Waste Committee and also an employee at the A.R.T.S. for the past year. We have also negotiated a five-year contract with Waste Management to haul household waste.

We have just begun working on budgets for 2003. All increases will be kept to a minimum. This is the first year with the Employee Pay for Performance Review System and so far the response has been positive.

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank all Town Employees and residents for their continued support and help throughout the year.

— Mike Genest
For the Selectmen



ANTRIM WOODS PROJECT

By Peter Moore

Contrary to some reports the 58-acre parcel of land off West Street, proposed for the Antrim Woods, is not a "done deal" yet. While the citizens of Antrim very generously appropriated a portion of the needed funds for the purchase of the land at town meeting this past March, and several grants and a few donations/pledges have been received, we still have a ways to go before acquisition can be made and the land protected.

The overall monetary goal to purchase and close on the Antrim Woods, which will result in a town forest open to all for recreation, outdoor education, and open-space protection, is \$156,000, and we are encouraged to report that we are half way there. But the land owner, who had kindly agreed to sell the parcel at what might be called a "bargain sale" (the land is still actively listed for sale at \$225,000), is very anxious to move on it.

The hurdles that stand in the way of protecting this close-to-downtown "central park" forever are two-fold. Recently a grant from the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program, a.k.a. LCHIP, was applied for, to the tune of \$60,000. In addition to this sizable portion, we will need to raise another \$18,000 from local residents and area businesses to complete the project. The LCHIP awards will be given out in February of next year, only three months out, and our goal is to raise the "local portion" by March or April at the latest. Indeed a fairly ambitious goal, but one we are confident the community appreciates, will benefit greatly from and will get behind.

The Antrim Woods Planning Group is moving into action to get our local fundraising efforts into gear. You will likely see more evidence around town in the next 30 days, to include donation cans at local venues, a direct-mail "pledge" drive, a business appeal, a 50/50 raffle, additional grant opportunities, and a "money tree" silhouette posted in a visible public place to inform all of the fundraising progress. We are also excited to announce that Brian Murphy and friends will orchestrate (and perform) an Antrim Woods Benefit Concert on Saturday January 11 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. This will be a "free" celebration of the many musical talents we have "homegrown", and the opportunity to come together as a community to accomplish something very worthwhile; saving of this special place, forever.

On behalf of the Antrim Conservation Commission, the Antrim Woods Planning Group, and those who will come after we're all gone, I hope you will consider making a pledge, and donating whatever amount you can afford. In advance, many thanks for your consideration.

For more information, maps and pictures of the Antrim Woods, visit our website at www.antrimwoods.org. All donations are tax deductible and may be sent to: Antrim Woods Project, c/o Antrim Conservation Commission, PO Box 517, Antrim, NH 03440. ♣

"LIFE IS LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES"

By Dr. Tom Dowling
Great Brook Vet Clinic

Whenever I hear those words the first image that comes to my mind is not always the famous line from Tom Hanks' movie, "Forrest Gump". More often than not, the picture that clicks in this veterinarian's head is the image of dogs, especially at holiday time, helping themselves to the mouth-watering temptations so readily available to them.

Everybody loves chocolate, so most of us like to give and receive it as gifts. Many folks make or bake plenty of their own.

Regardless of whether you are exchanging or preparing chocolate goodies, you can bet old Bowser will be right there to get dibs whenever the opportunity presents itself. And you can be sure he'll gobble down all that he can get his slimy mouth on.

Usually what follows in this scenario is the sudden gasp uttered by owners of Bowser when they realize what has just happened. Then a vague recollection comes into their mind that chocolate is poisonous to dogs! Next, panic sets in and a few choice expletives blurt out. The next sound heard is my phone ringing with an exasperated owner on the other end.

My first words of encouragement often begin with "Relax. No need to get upset." Then I go on to explain that the active chemical compound in chocolate (theobromine) can be potentially harmful if consumed in great quantity. But, you must consider the type of chocolate consumed (I like Lindt truffles) and the size of the body consuming it.

For example, let's say that the chocolate thief is a fifty pound Husky dog and gets into a yummy box of milk chocolate. To get enough theobromine to make Bowser sick, he'd have to eat three pounds worth of goodies. If the goodies were dark chocolate instead, there's more theobromine in them, so he only needs to eat one pound to cause real problems. But, if Mom is making cookies or candy with bricks of baker's chocolate, then only one third of a pound can make Bowser a candidate for the stomach pump.

Signs of chocolate intoxication can be as mild as an upset tummy with vomiting and diarrhea and as rough as severe convulsions or seizures, again depending on the amount of

theobromine ingested. If it is known that Bowser had his treats within the last 30 minutes, it is possible to empty out his stomach by getting him to swallow 2 tablespoons of hydrogen peroxide, thereby making him vomit up the evidence. Otherwise, call the vet!

Should paper or foil wrappers get swallowed with a few morsels of chocolate, don't despair. This too shall pass!

Happy Holidays! ♣

A.R.T.S.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

By Dotti Penny

Now that the election is over and you no longer meet candidates at the Antrim Recycling Transfer Station (A.R.T.S.), what is there to look forward to when you go there on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday? Actually there are many changes there these days which we will try to keep you informed about through signs, flyers, word of mouth and articles. Some changes are visible and some are not.

Most visible is the change in management. Bill Lang retired in November after years of keeping the station running clean and smooth. Clark Craig is now the manager and has plans to increase the recycling and decrease the amount of waste going into the compactor.

Also obvious is a new baler purchased by the town with the help of a New Hampshire The Beautiful grant. It will help to make some of our recycled materials more marketable.

Be sure you don't miss the paper trailer—it has been very successful! Recycling any paper you can tear makes a huge difference in the amount of material that is reused.

You won't see the new contract that was skillfully negotiated with Waste Management by Selectman Mike Genest in October.

Plans the A.R.T.S. Committee is looking into for the future (like better disposal of electronics, more items recycled and more efficient use of the A.R.T.S. area) will not be visible immediately.

You also won't see the difference recycling makes in the cost of disposing of materials, but it's there. So please remember to recycle—because it is mandatory in Antrim, because it helps to save us money and because it is good for the earth.

Last but not least, you can always look forward to the possibility of finding a treasure in the Swap Shop. Last summer I found a doll house kit. Now all I have to do is find the time to put it together.

What treasures have you found at A.R.T.S.? And how have they changed your life? If you have a good A.R.T.S. story you would like to share, please write it out, give it to Clark Craig at the station and we might use it in our next article! ♣

READERS RESPOND

In the September *LIMRIK*, Lyman Gilmore had an essay about the locus and condition of "the spirit of Antrim." "Is there a there there?" he asked, and went on to document both civic engagement in community affairs as well as signs of weakness. The following articles, "Step by Step Makes Place", "One Hundred Years—All New People", and "Walking For A Community" are responses to Lyman's essay. — Editor

ONE HUNDRED YEARS—ALL NEW PEOPLE

By Peter Moore

"One hundred years—all new people." My friend Rick Swan sports a tee shirt that asserts this rather poignant phrase. At first glance it made me chuckle with a nervous realization—certainly reinforcing my own mortality, as well as that of family, friends, and acquaintances who dwell around me and give me a sense of permanence and place.

I agree with Lyman Gilmore that there is still a conclusive "there" here in Antrim, and a great deal of it derives from colorful and active individuals and efforts they make to sustain our community. But I would offer that there is another element, one that stands superior, that instills a sense of Antrim as a very special place to live, and one which will stand the test of time. I refer to our rural character and the land, the physical place, that defines it.

We are blessed in this township to be surrounded by significant scenic beauty and natural resources. And I contend that it is this landscape that is a huge part of what makes this place so special, giving all of us a grounding, a sense of place, a "there-there", whatever you want to call it. Native residents and transplants alike are attracted to this place by the subtle alchemy which our rolling hills, rich forests, lively waterways, working lands, and teeming wetlands instill in all of us.

Each time one walks the pastoral slopes and summits of the heights above our snug valleys; Gibson, Riley, Bald, Robb, Willard, Windsor, Goodhue, Patten, Nahor, Holt and Meeting House Hill, a piece of them and the outlook they afford becomes a part of you. Or travel the old roads, once more busy than now, discovering the cellars and stone walls of homes, farms and mills that were, and now serve to stimulate your imagination and your very soul; Brimstone Corner, Old Hancock, Hattie Brown, Salmon Brook, Liberty Farm, and Lovern's Mills.

Or how about those special places, set aside and protected for the significant habitats and wildlife they host, allowing us to experience and appreciate a place more primeval and wild; Lily Pond, McCabe Forest, Willard-dePierre Audubon Sanctuary, Rye Pond, Lovern's Mills White Cedar Forest, Meadow Marsh, and Campbell Pond. And the profound waters of Gregg Lake, Franklin Pierce, Great Brook, and the Contoocook, which cut their pastoral valleys and further define the landscape and our place in it.

Pressure from growth and a changing world has scathed Antrim little yet, but our town, our civic engagement, our social commitment, even our precious landscape are not immune to it. The things that make our rural character special are now, more than ever, in the balance. With stewardship of what we have, engagement in where we are going, and a bit of luck, Antrim can and will have a "there" here for a long time to come. "One hundred years—all new people," perhaps, but the true spirit of Antrim can be forever if we care for it. ♣

STEP BY STEP MAKES PLACE

By Schatze Moore

Love brought me to New Hampshire 23 years ago and affordable housing brought me to Antrim 20 years ago. My daughter is what has kept me in Antrim.

Beginning in Germany where I was born, I spent the first 15 years of my life on US Army bases. It isn't likely I would find anything familiar if I were ever to go back to visit any one of those bases. I had a street address and a neighborhood but there was nothing much to distinguish one living area from another. None of the families I knew would now be found there.

I have lots of wonderful memories from the different places where I lived, but for me, my family was "home". I liked the nomadic life I lived as a child; as an adult I knew I didn't want to do that anymore. I knew I wanted my child to grow up in one place.

Having lived all over, I understand nothing stays the same and all places do change. I have loved Antrim for being a small town, quieter and less trafficked. I have loved Antrim for being abundant in field, forest and wildlife. I have loved Antrim for its diversity of people, some meager in their circumstances, some with greater bounty, but all with spirit to carry on.

I brought my infant daughter home to Antrim, its streets are the streets where I pushed her along in her stroller, the streets where she learned to ride a bike and walk to school. Antrim is the "there" where I learned to belong and, with one measly "yes" at a time, I have built my place in this town. More importantly, though, I hope to have shown my daughter how to create a "there" for herself no matter where she happens to be. ♣

WALKING FOR A COMMUNITY

By Joyce Davison

It was a cold and rainy Sunday but the crowd gathered at the old entrance to the Monadnock Community Hospital with smiles, balloons and umbrellas. Among them were folks determined to fulfill the responsibility that people who had given donations to Breast Cancer Research expected. This was a "community" within the larger community of area towns whose residents, many of them with special thoughts of family members and friends who fight cancer or who have lost the fight, have come together to WALK.

There are many such events held throughout the state but this one was established in memory of a young woman named Paula, who died leaving a young daughter and husband and yes—who lived in Antrim. Her mother, sister and daughter are active and valuable members of the Antrim community, so it was no surprise for me to wave and yell hello to her brother-in-law and members of her church as well. I'm sure I saw her daughter, Lindsay, with school friends, riding her bike under the watchful eye of Paula's sister, Brenda, also on a bike, as I started back over the five mile loop for the second time on Old Street Road.

As I sloshed along, I thought of others who were and are member of our Antrim community. Sally, a classmate of mine at Antrim High School, who continues her battle after a rough summer on a new chemotherapy; Patty and Joann who are now considered survivors; and Priscilla, who fought every step of the disease and lost three years ago. And then there is my mom who lived 11 years with breast cancer, and is the reason why I walk the route twice. There are community people that I happen to know about and I know there are more.

Yes, it was wet and cold, but no one was complaining. We were part of a community that worked together and cared. There was an essay in the last *LIMRIK* about the feeling of togetherness and simple kindness that is essential to a community, questioning whether Antrim has or has lost this feeling. There is no doubt in my mind that it is here. Take a walk. Say hi to the young adults who are waiting for the school bus, wave to the folks heading for work, smell the wood smoke from your neighbor's stove. You will find a community that cares. ♣

"It's not Ivory, it's ARTEK"

AN INTERVIEW WITH SELECTMAN BILL PROKOP

By Lyman Gilmore

The National Bull Riders Association isn't usually associated with the town of Antrim, but soon there may be a connection. More on that later.

My conversation with Bill Prokop took place in a beautifully restored 1895 red brick building on Water Street that had been part of the Goodell Company and was called the "Cucumber Shop." It was where the huge logs of exotic woods from South America were cut up to make knife handles, and it was called the Cucumber Shop because the men working there grew cucumbers out back to eat with their lunch.

Fine wood continues to be crafted in the building, but now it is polished cherry used by ARTEK for the plaques on which fine art objects are mounted. Bill Prokop is the owner of Riley Mountain Products of which Artek is a division. I asked Bill what brought him to town.

I got to Antrim ten years ago. Initially, my first exposure to Antrim was when my oldest son was in the last graduating class from Hawthorne College. He loved Hawthorne and was heartbroken when it closed. We lived in Connecticut, and his being here four years brought us up to visit him and see the area. We spent a few summer vacations in Washington on one of the lakes there. In 1991 I went to look for a home that would be a summer place or a second home. I wanted a "Gentleman's Farm," something I could work on and fix up and be in the country. Primarily, I was living in Connecticut; I didn't want to be commuting eight hours up into Maine or something of that kind, and the Antrim area seemed to be a good one so I came up to look around.

I'll never forget, it was a good business experience as well in that I wrote to all the realtors I could find in the Yellow Pages, and the banks that were in this area at the time—there were more than there are now—and said I was looking for a piece of property and explained what I wanted, did they have one up for sale? For awhile I didn't get a single response, not one. Finally one did respond, and that was Laurie Duggan of Duggan's Realty. Laurie and his wife Lee called me and said we have a couple pieces we'd like to show you, and the first place they showed me was the house I bought, the John Dunlop House, on Turner Hill Road in Antrim, right on the corner just above the Paganos and the Edwards's and near the Bernsteins. It was April 1st, 1992, and the day we bought it was a day just like today, perfect one minute, and the next it snowed. It was supposed to be springtime, and

we were covered with snow. It was a fix-up place, and we did that for many years.

Around 1993-94 we started to think maybe it was time to move our paper cutter and shredder business out of Connecticut. Our employees had been with us for many years, and many of them were getting ready to retire. Our plant was in Oxford, Connecticut, between Danbury and Waterbury. The cost of doing business, particularly manufacturing, was getting to be very, very expensive. We produced paper cutters and paper shredders. When I was at our Antrim house on Turner Hill Road my neighbor was Georgia Thomas who was the Treasurer for the State of New Hampshire. She told me I should look into the programs the state has for bringing a business here. We had looked in different places—New Jersey, New York, the Carolinas—trying to decide where we should move the business. I went to visit Selectman Phil Dwight, and at that time, about 1995, there were absolutely no buildings in Antrim attractive for a manufacturing business. There was the Goodell Building, but this was prior to the cleanup, and the taxes in Antrim were extremely high. Phil suggested that I contact the Monadnock Business Venture people in Peterborough. I did, and met with Larry Ross, who was the head of the MVB, and also with Jack Dugan from the Keene Industrial Development. At the time, Larry had shown me the National Cash Register building in Peterborough that was coming up for sale, but we didn't want to buy. Six months went by and we—myself and my sons—got a call that NCR had come up with a program and MBV would be able to get that building very inexpensively. They were going to be able to divide it and put several companies in, and they wanted to know if we would be interested in part of it. We decided, "Yes," so we moved our Connecticut business there in the beginning of 1996.

I would like to tell you that my acquiring Artek was a great marketing plan, but it wasn't. Every day driving home I would pass this little Antrim company called Artek. Part of our paper cutter and shredder business was going to the art market, and so I was curious about the "Art" in Artek. What is this Artek? I stopped in once, but they had just moved to Jaffrey. I tracked them down there, just to see what they did. I started talking to them about buying some of their products because one of our problems was that when we sold a shredder or paper cutter to an art store, it lasted for twenty years. So, you didn't have your constant repeat sales. We were looking for items that we could give to our sales reps and say, okay, you can go in and have other things to sell and possibly get some repeat business. We did some research. At that time, art stores were being clobbered by "superstores," so they were looking for new things to get involved with. They particularly

wanted museum-type items because they were all looking—and how times change—at the "Museum Store" company which was a franchise of almost a hundred stores and was operating in shopping centers and selling sculptures and different pieces and taking business from the art stores.

So, in the discussions I had with the Artek people, one thing had led to another, and they were really interested in selling the business. So, while we were planning our move from Connecticut, we negotiated the purchase of the assets from Artek. That way, when we moved we could utilize their people, and merge jobs—an individual wasn't working eight hours a day doing a particular assembly, they could be doing some other things. And that's what happened. We agreed on an asset purchase in December of '95, and in '96 we started moving our original company up from Connecticut. We began operating in Peterborough in February of '96, putting the two companies together and producing things in the same building, but with two separate companies.

ARTEK TO ANTRIM

Then we moved the Artek business to Antrim. The paper cutter business and the art business were changing dramatically because of one simple thing, and that was called office superstores. They were just changing the whole industry from a pricing point of view and from a marketing point of view, and they were buying all the little independent stationers around the country. So we made a decision at that point to concentrate on our shredder business, mainly with business machine deals and government purchases like the fact that we sold every shredder that goes on the Nautilus submarine fleet.

As far as the technical and artistic aspects of the Artek business were concerned, basically there was a good group of people who were already with the business. And like any business, they are the heart and soul of the business. They knew what had to be done. Also, I was very fortunate that I got to know Sid Winton who started Artek in Antrim in the late 1970s in his barn on Bridle Path Road. After I purchased the assets I made it a point to get in touch with Sid because he had really started everything and had a great rapport in the museum industry. He was very helpful with the technical aspects, in addition to helping with our employees. It's like anything else, once you have the basic formulas, as long as you don't go around trying to make many changes—I think that's one of the keys, you can't change a lot of the things—what you do, do well, and then just fine-tune. So, I was not a technical person, that's not my background, but we had good employees who knew what to do.

— continued on page 8

TOWN HISTORY REVISITED

GETTING AROUND IN THE 1770S

By Isabel Nichols

When John Duncan brought his family from Londonderry to Antrim in 1773 there were no roads on this side of the Contoocook River. Although they were the seventh family to settle here since Philip Riley came in 1744, the earlier families made do with paths and single tracks for riding horseback. Nevertheless, Honorable (as he later became) John chose to bring his wife and five children to their new home in an oxcart which was driven by his uncle John Bell.

The accompanying picture was taken in 1927 of a reenactment of the Duncan family's arrival, a memorable event because theirs was the first cart in Antrim. According to the official program of the sesqui-centennial pageant, Nina Rokes Harding is portraying one of the Duncan girls and the late Hank Cutter is seen as 8-year-old William Duncan walking along beside the cart.

John had built his cabin where Peter Moore lives today ("one of the most desirable places in town", says historian W.R. Cochrane), and he became an important figure in the early growth of Antrim. It was he who journeyed to Exeter in March of 1777 to present the New Hampshire State Legislature with a petition to incorporate the Town of Antrim. This was approved, and the first Town Meeting was held two months later, in the Duncan home.

TV historian Fritz Wetherbee recently remarked that all early New Hampshire towns were built near the water. The Contoocook River became Antrim's method of transportation to neighboring towns; boats and canoes were used to take corn to the gristmill and wood to the sawmill. In severe winters the river would freeze and become a highway for foot and sled travel.

One cold winter's day Samuel and Agnes Gregg of Peterborough walked twelve miles on the ice to visit the James Aiken family in Antrim. They were disappointed to find that James and Molly had gone visiting in New Boston, leaving 12-year-old Jane in charge of the house. After refreshments of tea and shortcake, the Greggs journeyed back over the frozen Contoocook to Peterborough. That night a powerful rain came and broke up the river; if the Aikens had been at home for a long visit with their friends, the Greggs would undoubtedly have had to stay in Antrim until spring!

On dry land families could visit distant neighbors, or attend church services, by "riding pillion". The pillion was a pillow attached to the saddle on which the wife would ride horseback behind her husband, and each of them could hold a small child. The choices for older children seemed to be: either walk along beside the horse, or stay home—unless, of course, the family was affluent enough to have two horses. (The Aikens had none.)

A curious note in the sesqui-centennial program says: "The pillion was the early mode of travel and lasted until roads were established, and bridges built. Mounting the maids after church was an official act."

Antrim's population grew rapidly following the Duncan family's arrival, with clusters of homesteads in North Branch, Meeting House Hill and South Village, as well as isolated farms in between. In 1777, the year of incorporation, it was decided at that first Town Meeting that the time had come to go all out for building roads, and \$40 was appropriated for that purpose. The first road was laid out "To be four Roads Wide it Being the Leading Road of the Town."

The route of the Leading Road began at the Contoocook River, where a bridge had been built the year before, and followed what is now Depot Street to Main Street, passing by the

Aiken farm. At the junction near the Baptist Church the road followed Route 31 quite closely as far as Mescilbrooks Farm, where it turned northerly on what is now Whiton Road. Wending northwesterly, it came to the site of the Bass Farm, and turned a sharp right and continued to the north up and over Meeting House Hill. Coming down on the west side of the hill, the road joined our Route 31 again and proceeded in a straight line to North Branch, which was a thriving village at that time. Here the road turned east and then northeast to the Hillsboro town line, somewhere west of today's Route 9.

Building side roads from the Leading Road to various centers of activity became a major town project for the next twenty-five years. By 1802 the now flourishing community was well connected by many roads that could easily accommodate an oxcart, or any other type of wagon. Sadly, a lot of these roads have reverted to little more than the trails and tracks of the 1770s.

In 1877 historian Cochrane wrote: "For 25 years subsequent to incorporation, these roads were little more than clearings through the forests, and no attempt was made to evade hills. But for the past 75 years great effort has been made to improve our roads. The labors of generations have made them what they are; and those in the hardest localities have been made excellent".

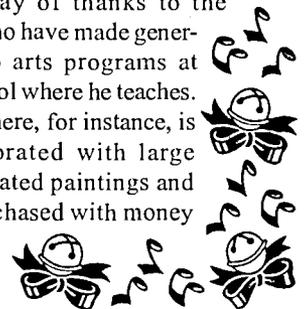
In 2002 we can thank Bob Varnum and his crew for carrying on the good work. ♣

Antrim Players *continued*

Amongst the vocal soloists, Becky Davison Paquette will sing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and be part of a girls trio doing "Winter Wonderland" à la Andrews Sisters. Children soloists will do "I'm Gettin' Nuttin' For Christmas" and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus". Perennial favorites also will include "White Christmas" and "Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer".

A chorus will sing Mozart's "Peace Canon" with words being signed in American Sign Language.

Ray Sweeney was motivated to create this event by way of thanks to the Antrim Players who have made generous donations to arts programs at Conval High School where he teaches. His music room there, for instance, is beautifully decorated with large replicas of celebrated paintings and photographs, purchased with money from the Players.



CORPORATE SPECIALTY ITEMS

Our Artek catalog shows the line of items we inherited when we bought the business, still the line offered to the retailer, but that's not our major business today. Our business now has changed a great deal to corporate specialty items. Here, I can show you an example. This is new custom item we are fine tuning a little bit.

Bill takes from his desk an attractive pen holder consisting of an eight inch oval plaque made of rich, polished cherry wood on which are mounted a shiny metal pen holder and a lifelike model of a reclining dog, about four inches high.

We will be providing this to our customer, Peterborough Basket. We had to duplicate it exactly; we use freelance people—designers and artists—to copy the original item, and then make the molds.

Until recently we have not considered selling retail; our market is corporate gifts and unique items. But this Christmas, beginning next week, we will have items on display and for sale at Brian Beihl's BOXES-ON-BOARD in the old Goodell factory at the south end of Main Street.

When I say corporate gifts and unique items I mean special orders. Follow me and I'll show you.

Bill leads through a door to a large workshop containing rows of floor to ceiling shelves on which are neatly stored dozens of replicas of antique ivory artifacts. There are intricately carved scrimshaw corset busks or stays, whale teeth with 19th century nautical designs, delicate scrimshaw "ditty boxes" made by whaling men to hold their personal items like a brush and comb, western powder horns created to look exactly like an old bull's horn carved with scenes of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and exquisite reproductions of ancient art objects the originals of which are found in great museums like Boston's Museum of Fine Art, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Peabody-Essex Museum.

Bill explained that Sid Winton's original Artek company used a unique polymer plastic mixture that could be crafted to resemble exactly in shape, color, and weight nearly any art sculpture. For example, a museum would have a statue of an ancient cat found in Egyptian royal tombs reproduced by an Artek artist who would then make a mold from which many exact replicas of the statue could be created to be sold in the museum stores. Bill led to another, smaller room where the polymer is mixed and the molds filled, explaining that the plastic dries quickly after which the object is removed from the mold and brought to a corner of the large room where craftspeople sand, polish, and color the item to match the original art work.

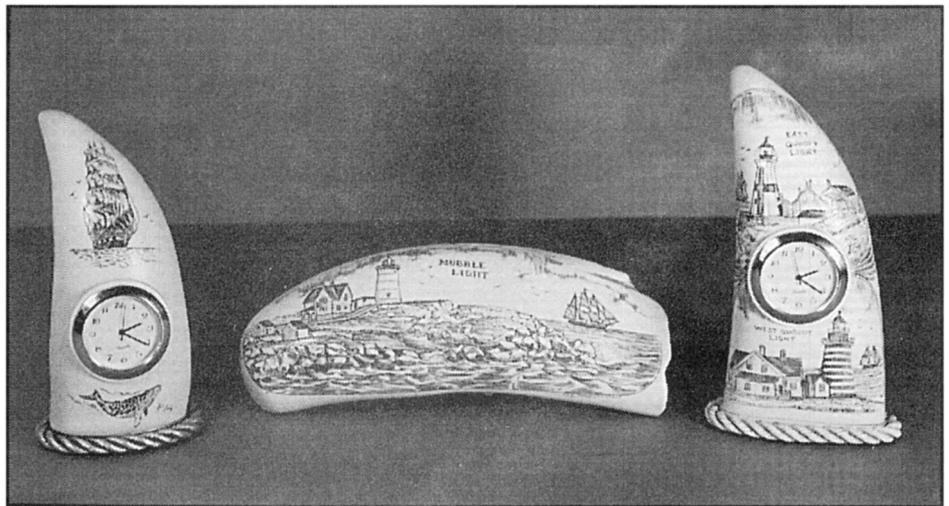
But the business has changed. Museums are still Artek customers, but much less so as their museum stores have begun selling inexpensive, mass produced items such as coffee mugs and tee-shirts. Now Bill's biggest market is corporate sales, large companies that want high quality art items to give as gifts to customers and employees, or to sell to retail stores. We left the workshop and returned to Bill's office. He said that his son Scott is running the Dahle shredder company in Peterborough, but the companies are completely separate.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

My background was this. When I got out of Bryant College in Rhode Island, and did graduate work at the University of Bridgeport, I wanted to get into personnel work. My first job was in purchasing at Seymour Products. Then a personnel job came along with what was then called the Eagle Pencil Company in

work in the French operation and then return to corporate headquarters and the International Division.

Well, I went to England. First of all, the dollar, the franc and the mark all went crazy, so the French acquisition fell apart. I had gone to England to be a consolidator or helper of a new man they were hiring as Managing Director for the British operation. The guy he was replacing was retiring after FIFTY YEARS in the job, and he didn't want to retire! (*Shaking his head in disbelief.*) The new guy came in and unfortunately knew everything his first day; he didn't last very long, about ninety days. Then they started looking around for a new Managing Director, and for whatever reason, one day they said, "Well, while you're here, why don't you become Managing Director?" Berol was a fairly large company, with plants in Columbia, Venezuela, Mexico, England, Canada, and four or five in the US. They had



Danbury, Connecticut. I spent eighteen years with them. I started as a personnel clerk and went on to a succession of other jobs with the company: personnel administrator, personnel manager for the Danbury plant, US labor negotiator, personnel director for a group of their companies, and operations manager for the Utah plant. After that I was sent to the Pennsylvania operation where I ran a marketing and distribution company that made paper-wrap pencils, the kind you sharpen by pulling a string embedded in the paper wrapping. By then the company had changed its name from Eagle Pencil to the Berol Company. From there I came back to corporate headquarters in Danbury in charge of research and development and corporate acquisitions. Then we decided that since I liked international business I would go to England and work in our English company for two years. We were negotiating to buy a company in France, and when those negotiations would be finished I would

never had a non-national as a Managing Director, but they offered me the job, and I took it.

During my third year as managing Director for European operations, they asked me to come back to the US to become Vice President and General Manager for US operations. I did that, but unfortunately a few years later, my boss, who was a super human being, was diagnosed with cancer and within a year or two was dead. It was like the heart was cut out of the company, and at that time I was in my late thirties, and I decided that I wanted to have my own business.

When I had been in England I had met the Dahle family who had been a supplier and a consultant to the Berol Company. They made pencil sharpeners and other cutting office products. So one day I picked up the phone and called Mr. Dahle and said, "Remember, we had a discussion one time over a beer and you said, if you ever decide to leave Berol call me and we will start our own company in the US. I

Bill Prokop *continued*

think I'm ready to do that." He said "Fine!" That was in 1976. We had a verbal discussion and a handshake, and that relationship lasted for twenty-two years. We took an idea and built a respectable company that is still in Peterborough today, run by my son.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

My first involvement with public affairs in Antrim came with the great tower debate. All of a sudden two or three years ago, my partner and I were approached at home by the American Tower Company who wanted to put a cellular tower up on our property. They said they were looking in our area and talking to our neighbors, blah, blah, blah. I told them the only place I would even consider having a tower is someplace where you couldn't see it. I proposed a spot between our house and Route 202 where there are no houses and it would be out of sight. Well, next thing we were told that they're going to put it on our next door neighbor's property and I realized that if I looked out my window the tower would be virtually in my back yard. Because of public hearings, a group of people who were very much concerned about towers coming into Antrim got together with the Planning Board: Fred Anderson, Dave Penny, Bob Bernstein, Mike Oldershaw, Pamela Taylor, Peter Moore, and myself. We started doing our homework on the tower and were basically making a pitch that we were not against cellular towers, but we were against them if they were going to muddy up the scenery. When the company went to the public hearing and brought out their pictures of what this was going to look like, I swear to God you'd think that the tower was on the roof of my house because they had my house and right behind it they had this huge tower! I'll never forget Wayno getting up and saying, "You know, what bothers me about this tower is I have a cup of coffee every morning and I look out my kitchen window, and now I'm going to look out and see this tower in the distance, and that bothers me. But Jesus Christ, if I was Bill, I'd be real _____ off!" It was just so funny the way he came across. The company's own pictures were worth a thousand words. Anyway, we made sure that we had all our "i's" dotted and our "t's" crossed, and we were successful. If they had come in with a shorter tower or agreed to put it somewhere else, they probably would have gotten it in. But they just went the wrong way. So there is no tower, and we wrote a very effective ordinance, protecting the town, that was adopted at Town Meeting.

From that tower issue I was asked to go on the Planning Board as an alternate and then, when there was an opening, became a member.

As far as my becoming a Selectman, I had never been in politics before. But I'd always been involved in organizations like the National Art Materials Trade Association and the Professional Picture Framers Association, I was on the Board of Directors of the local hospital in Danbury, and was head of our sons' hockey league and President of the Parent Teacher Association, things like that. But politics, no.

While I was on the Planning Board Phil Dwight asked me to serve on the TIF advisory committee with Dave Essex and others, and I got involved with what downtown Antrim needed. Then Eric Tenney stopped in a couple times and asked if I would help the selectmen with personnel policies, and I said I'd be happy to do that. Phil announced that he was leaving again (*chuckle*), and he asked me if my partner Missy would be interested in running for a selectman position. She would be very good because she had been a town attorney in Connecticut, but she was too busy with the Monadnock Chorus and had to refuse. Then he asked me if I would run and I said I would consider it. So I ran and got elected.

I enjoy being a selectman, and I like that Dave Penny and Mike Genest and I get along well as a group and really operate as a team, it takes a lot more time than either I thought or other people think. I do believe we have made some major accomplishments.

As for the National Bull Riders Association, Bill says that they were so impressed with Artek's Lewis and Clark powder horn replicas they are thinking of ordering a bull riding specialty item for themselves. Bill and crew are ready.

If you want to see or purchase ARTEK artifacts, visit Boxes-On-Board at the south end of Main Street (Rt. 202) ♣

VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWALS

Marita Hammond, Antrim's Town Clerk, reports that the NH Department of Motor Vehicles has requested town clerks to examine and verify all registrations presented for renewal or transfer. Marita writes: "Please be prepared to present your registration, or a clear copy, at the time you renew or transfer. No exceptions will be made. Your patience and cooperation is appreciated. Thank you." ♣

FOLK TALES

QUIET!

By Fred Roberts

How many people have had the chance to "hear" absolute quiet? We all have experienced what we think is quiet but in reality it is just a lowering of background noise—such as road noise in a car, TV sound or planes overhead.

When I was in Nigeria, I was helping a womans' group set out tomato plants, the produce of which was taken to the local market in Bukuru. Not having enough plants, one of the men who owned a car said he would go to a local farmer who had extra plants that we could purchase. The farm was just over a ridge that was too steep to drive over. The men decided to cross over the ridge on foot, thus saving a couple of miles of gasoline which was expensive.

So leaving the car in my care, the men disappeared over the ridge. There was a large tree that provided shade which was welcome since the temperature was in the low 90s and I sat down and waited. Soon I realized that there was something missing. There was no sound! No man-made sound, no animal sound, no sound of any kind. There was absolute QUIET. Being a product of a country—the US—where noise was not only normal but expected, the absence of noise was something that I was slow to comprehend.

About a half hour later, I heard the tinkling of a bicycle bell and the quiet spell was lost. However brief the experience, I will never forget the strange absence of noise.

Editor's Note: Fred and Marguerite Roberts live in Nigeria, 1991-93, working with the Peace Corps. ♣

CHRISTMAS CARD TIME AGAIN

ANTRIM RESCUE SQUAD

The Christmas card from the townspeople to the Antrim Rescue Squad will be on display again this year on weekends following Thanksgiving at Waynos Store. Member of the Antrim Woman's Club well be sponsoring it as they have in previous years. Please stop by to sign your name and make a donation which will be used by the Rescue Squad to purchase needed equipment. It's a great way to show our appreciation of their dedicated service to the community. ♣



ABOUT TOWN

VOTING

AN APPRECIATION

By Janet MacLachlan

Working at the Antrim polls was something I had done before, so when the call came to participate again, I went into the town hall prepared to work as I had done previously. However, this past election day on November 5th was different for me. I sat at the front table, greeting voters, looking up their names in the book, and handing out a ballot. It was after doing this for some time that I realized how many more people than usual were coming into the hall. They were exercising, in record numbers, that wonderful privilege we are apt to take for granted of voting for the persons of their choice. There were men and women of all ages. Many mothers and fathers brought their young children, taking them into the voting booth with them so they could experience at first hand what voting was all about. Now it will not be such a mysterious procedure for them and, hopefully they will want to follow in their parents' footsteps and vote on election day when they come of age. I found it very moving to observe my fellow townspeople. It was democracy in action.

The weeks leading up to the election had been filled with endless campaign ads on television, multiple campaign literature stuffed in our mailboxes, and even telephone calls just at dinnertime urging us to vote for someone. There was a lot of mudslinging and most of us got pretty tired of it and couldn't wait for it to end. But in spite of the pre-election annoyance, which could have turned some people right off the idea of voting at all, there were 951 registered voters who cast their ballots on Tuesday, November 5th, 2002. As they came in to vote (in an almost continuous line at times) I thought of how fortunate we are as Americans to be able to express our choice for who will govern us. It is such a wonderful privilege. This election day was a reminder to me to be more appreciative of what we all have in this country, this state and this town. ♣

THE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

NEW OWNERS

The Hugron family—Joe Jr., Kim, Harrison, and Emily—have bought the Christmas Tree Farm on Route 202 from Madeline Dusky, and will continue its traditions. The Tree Farm will open the day after Thanksgiving with cider and hot chocolate. Santa's sleigh has a bright new coat of red paint—all set for family photographs.

Madeline Dusky wishes to thank the community for its support over the past 14 years, with hopes that the same will continue for the Hugron family. ♣

Scams *continued*



or credit card numbers so "we can catch them", when in reality you're the one being scammed!

Door-to-door solicitors are still used although with the popular use of the internet, these door-to-door scams aren't as prevalent.

We investigated one scam involving the telemarketing solicitation of the purchase of magazines whereby the company would donate the subscriptions to area schools—which they do—although you end up paying 4 to 5 times the cost of these magazines to have them do it. (The area schools have their own magazine subscription programs through the students which allow you to donate, and these are legitimate).

Phone solicitations for donations are a popular way to get people's money. First, make sure that it is something you would normally donate to, then ask them to send you the request in the mail with literature showing who or what charity or organization will benefit from your donation.

The Antrim Police are asking members of the community to be aware of to whom you are giving your personal information. If you think you are being tricked or scammed, please call 588-6613. These problems get worse around the holidays so let's be careful out there.

Sometimes old sayings are helpful when thinking about whether or not to give out information. If you are being promised or offered something that's "too good to be true"—then it isn't!

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday. ♣

NEW PASTOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Antrim's First Presbyterian Church has a new pastor—after some two years without one. She is the Rev. Peggi Kephart Boyce who comes here from a Presbyterian Church in Howe, Indiana. The Rev. Boyce was ordained at Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, in 1975. She will live at the parsonage on Waverly Street.

Miss Boyce has until now specialized in helping churches which are, for whatever reason, enduring a crisis—getting them "on track", then moving on. In such capacity, she has served churches in the deep south, in Utah, Wyoming and Alaska. She is now happy to be in Antrim where she can look forward to a long-term residency.

The unusual spelling of her first name stems from the fact that she was raised by Medical missionary parents in Mexico, where "Peggi" would be the phonetic spelling of our "Peggy". She speaks fluent Spanish and is, according to search committee chairman Keith Dubois, "a very interesting person with a keen sense of humor."

The Antrim search committee, working through the national Presbytery's placement service, was able to review some 100 resumes. It selected seven candidates to interview, then arranged to hear two finalists preach at a "neutral" church, i.e., a church other than Antrim's. The committee then chose Peggi Boyce, contingent upon congregational ratification after she preached here on November 10th. The congregation thereafter overwhelmingly supported the committee's choice.

The search committee was chaired by Keith Dubois and included Helene Newbold, Pam Matthews, Alicemae Flanders, Diane Goff, Mary Ruoff, Russ Clark, Erin Lawless, and Rachel French. ♣

HOME HEALTHCARE

THE NURSE IS IN

Free blood pressure checks plus a chance to ask the registered nurse questions about lime disease, heat stroke, cholesterol level, and other health issues. No appointment is necessary. Tuesday December 17 from 11 AM to 12 NOON at Antrim Village. ♣



CHURCH NEWS

Antrim Presbyterian Church
Rev. Peggi Kephart Boyce

Worship 10:30 AM

(child care available for 4-year-olds and under)

Dec 8 Crismon Tree Decorating

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:30 PM

Antrim Baptist Church

Pastor Charles V. Boucher
Cherryl Boucher, Associate Pastor

Worship 10:30 AM

(Nursery and junior church provided)

Dec 15 Old Fashioned Christmas 4:00 PM
Crafts, Amish potluck dinner, carol singing and candlelighting. Call 588-6614 for details.

Dec 22 Christmas Musical 10:30 AM
"Season's Greetings"

Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service 7:00 PM

Antrim Church of Christ

Pastor Bill McInch

Sunday Schedule

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 11:00 AM

Bible Study

Mondays-Ladies 10-11:00 AM

Wednesdays-General 7-8:00 PM

Thursdays-Pre-Teen & Adults

7-8:30 PM

Clothing shop and Food Pantry open the 2nd and 4th Saturday, 10:30 AM-12 NOON.

Saint Patrick Church

Rev. Richard A. Smith

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:15 PM

Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM

Mon-Fri 7:30 AM

Penance ½ hour before all

weekend masses and by request

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Family Mass
5 PM and 7 PM

Dec 25 Christmas Day Mass 9 AM



THE GRAPEVINE

By Kristen Vance, Director
and

Michelle Worthington, Program Coord

WHERE IS THE GRAPEVINE?

The Grapevine began its new fall season at two temporary locations in Antrim. While the Aiken Street Barn is undergoing renovations through the winter, you will find almost all of the Grapevines activities and services at The Church of Christ on Main Street in Antrim. The exception is our new before and after school program which is conveniently located at the First Presbyterian Church in Antrim. Monadnock Family Services counseling, Southern NH Services fuel and electric assistance, and Milford Arca Mediation can also be found at The Church of Christ.

GRAPEVINE FALL AND WINTER PROGRAMS

The Grapevines programs for parents and young children (birth to 5) follow the ConVal school calendar. Our weekly schedule is as follows:

- **Mondays** 9:30 to 11:30 **Better Beginnings Playgroup**
- **Mondays** 3:00 to 5:00 **New! Young Parents' and Childrens Playgroup**
- **Tuesdays** 9:30 to 11:30 **Better Beginnings Playgroup**
- **Wednesdays** 9:00 to 11:30 **The Learning Vine**
- **Wednesdays** 11:00 to 12:30 **Better Beginnings Baby Group**
- **Thursdays** 9:30 to 11:30 **Better Beginnings Playgroup**
- **Fridays** 9:00 to 11:30 **The Learning Vine**

YOUNG PARENTS

Young parents and their children are now getting together at The Grapevine on Monday afternoons at 3pm. This new endeavor was inspired by Kiersten Michlik of Bennington, a young mother herself, who wanted to meet other young parents while giving her child the opportunity to play with other children. The group is in the formative stages, an exciting time to join in.

Kiersten was also the catalyst for Community Strolls on Friday afternoons in the summer and fall. These family walks around town were ideal for brainstorming, and for sharing ideas about parenting and future activities for young parents. Community Strolls will begin again when Spring brings back our warm weather.

EVENING LECTURE SERIES

The Grapevine was pleased to offer a four-week educational lecture series on ADD/ADHD, Autism and Aspergers Syndrome in

September and October. In spite of the consecutive rainy Fridays, attendance and participation in the discussions were both high. On-site childcare was provided by The Grapevine and several Great Brook School students, and families enjoyed pizza every night thanks to the generosity of Rick & Diane's, Alberto's and Wayno's. Many thanks to Trish Murphy of Antrim, Drs. Pat Grady and Celia Oliver of Monadnock Family Services, and Dr. Jeff Boxer of Monadnock Regional Pediatrics for volunteering their time and expertise.

Ideas for future lectures, discussions and workshops are welcome.

GRAPEVINE OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME PROGRAM—WE'RE STILL LEARNING

If all goes as anticipated, The Grapevine Before & After School program will become The Grapevine Out-of-School-Time Program when school resumes in the New Year. We began the program in the fall by offering child care and enrichment for elementary school students before and after school only. Since then, we have learned that this does not meet the needs of many working families, who need quality care for their children on no-school days as well.

We are now awaiting the results of a survey of elementary school parents, the purpose of which is to determine whether there is a need for more comprehensive out-of-school-time care--before and after school, on snow days and teacher workshop days, and during winter and spring recesses.

Simultaneously, we are seeking a qualified person to job share the position of Program Director in order to be able to staff the expanded program. For more information about the program or the job share opportunity, please call Kristen Vance at 588-2620.

THE LEARNING VINE

Community field trips are an integral part of this hands-on learning experience for pre-school-age children, and this fall the children experienced the Tenney Farm cider press up close. Chris and Christa Salamy provided an exciting learning adventure for children and parents alike, from lifting the huge apple boxes with the tractor to tasting the cider just-pressed. Wide-eyed children held the hose dispensing the "apple mush" and delighted parents each took home a free quart of fresh cider.

The other field trip planned for the fall, a visit to the Antrim Fire Department, was canceled at the very last minute due to a first-alarm fire (thankfully, it was not serious). Earlier, firefighter and Learning Vine parent Dan Heffernan had commented on the recent paucity of action at the fire department. Parents plan to re-schedule this popular field trip.

— continued on page 13



**JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT
TROOP 2620**

By Linda Blackman and Siobhan Thomas

The Scouting season just began, and our 14 troop members have come up with great ideas for projects that they want to do this year. Two service projects were voted on; a Thanksgiving Basket for a family in need and Operation Santa to be done in December.

We plan on working towards badges that require learning something new and challenging, as well as fun. Some of the girls plan on working toward their Junior Aid Badge this year. This will mean helping out at Daisy or Brownie troop meetings and working with their younger scout sisters on a project.

Just before Halloween, we had a party with Mrs. Fox's Brownie troop and did many fun activities together. We're hoping to get together again during the year. ♣

**NORTH BRANCH VILLAGE
ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

On Sunday afternoon, February 9, the Historical Society will present a program about North Branch Village. The open meeting will be held in the Little Town Hall at 2 PM.

The North Branch has a vivid history. Beginning when the first settler in that area, John Gordon, came to Antrim in 1772, mills began to spring up along the river and the village thrived until 1888 when it was virtually wiped out by a great fire. It then became a quiet residential area until the 1950s when Winslow "Skeez" Caughey established the Monadnock Research Laboratories on the Flint Farm. This project was followed by the arrival of Hawthorne College in 1962, and the North Branch was again a center of great activity.

We would be interested in hearing from anyone who has memories of living or working in the North Branch that they could share. The one-room school closed in 1946, the last of the "district" schools to do so, and we would be especially interested in hearing from anyone who attended school there.

Please contact Izi Nichols at 588-6581 if you have anything to contribute to this program. ♣

LIVING NATIVITY PAGEANT

December 8th at approximately 5:15 PM—enjoy the pageantry of the original Christmas. A procession from Peace Bridge to the Maplehurst Inn begins after the Town celebrations in Memorial Park. Refreshment will be served in Fellowship Hall at the Presbyterian Church. Call Mary Sawich at 588-2086. ♣

PROGRAMS

- Dec 7 *Patron Appreciation Day*
10:00 AM–4:00 PM
- Dec (tba) *Holiday Storytime*
- Dec–Jan **Community Art and
Photography Exhibit**
(amateurs and experts are welcome to submit works)
- 1st Friday of each month
Homeschool Support Group 2:00 PM
(questions, call Kristin Readel at 588-4106)
- Last Sunday of each month
Genealogy Discussion Group
(no Dec meeting)
- Feb 28 *Pet Read-In* 10–11:00 AM

PATRON APPRECIATION DAY

Winter is upon us, and along with the beautiful (but sometimes challenging) weather and holiday festivities, the James A. Tuttle Library will be actively engaged in all the excitement the season brings. We welcome everyone to attend our Patron Appreciation Day on Saturday December 7, between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM.

We would like to show our gratitude for the many years of strong support given by our library patrons. We thank you for all your donations of time, energy, used books, and financial gifts. Special thanks go to patrons who have served on committees, volunteered to read to our children over the years, helped with seasonal decorations, and eagerly helped with our programming. Many hours of valuable community service have been given by the students of Great Brook School, working side by side with the librarians and Trustees. Refreshments will be served as we show off our expansion plans for the future of your library.

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Anyone with a talent for art and/or photography is welcome to submit works for display in our Community Art and Photography Exhibit during December and January. Young and old, amateur and expert, artists and shutter-bugs are needed to make this exhibit successful. Drop by with your submission ASAP. No rules and regulations, no judging or harsh opinions—the people of Antrim are eager to encourage your art form.

PET READ-IN

Our Pet Read-In will be offered on the last Friday of the Conval School District winter vacation, celebrating the "pig" as pet. Elementary school-aged children are invited for storytime, crafts, and refreshments from 10–11:00 AM on Friday, February 28.

ADOPT-A-DVD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our patrons are invited to Adopt-a-DVD as a holiday gift to the Library. Many of our patrons now own DVD players and are eagerly

coming to the library, hoping to find them available. For all those who are interested, we ask that you donate money to buy your favorite movie in DVD format.

GIFTS FOR BOOKLOVERS

Don't forget, our library sun-catchers and our reading log entitled, *Books to Check Out: A Journal*, make excellent gifts for the member of your family who loves books. These gifts send the message that, reading is a pursuit we want to encourage.

HOLIDAYS

The Library will be closed on the following holidays:

- Tues Dec 24 Christmas Eve
- Wed Dec 25 Christmas
- Wed Jan 1 New Year's Day
- Mon Feb 17 President's Day

NEW BOOKS: FICTION

Sara Donati *Lake in the Clouds*; Fannie Flagg *Standing in the Rainbow*; Julie Garwood *Killjoy*; Tami Hoag *Dark Horse*; John Jakes *Charleston*; Perri O'Shaughnessy *Unfit to Practice*; Belva Plain *Her Father's House*; Anna Quindlen *Blessing*; Alice Sebold *The Lovely Bones*; Nicholas Sparks *Nights in Rodanthe*; Jessica Stirling *The Piper's Time*.

NON-FICTION

William Bennett *Why We Fight*; Rudolph Giuliani *Leadership*; Linda Greenlaw *The Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island*; Robert Putnam *Bowling Alone*; Peter Sheras *Your Child: Bully or Victim?* Rachel Simmons *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls*.

MYSTERIES

Lawrence Block *Enough Rope: Collected Stories*; Simon Brett *The Torso in the Town*; Carol Higgins Clark *Jinxed*; Deborah Crombie *And Justice There is None*; Sue Grafton *Q is for Quarry*; Martha Grimes *The Grave Maurice*; J.A. Jance *Partner in Crime*; Faye Kellerman *Stone Kiss*; Jonathan Kellerman *The Murder Book*; Margaret Maron *Slow Dollar*; Robert Parker *Shrink Rap*; Anne Perry *Death of a Stranger*; J.D. Robb *Purity in Death*; Dana Stabenow *Better to Rest*.

Happy Holidays from all of us.

- Kathy Chisholm Library Director
- Melissa Lawless Assistant Librarian
- Polly Pierce Library Assistant
- Maura Pascucci Clerk
- Kristin Readel Clerk
- Janet MacLachlan Clerk
- Sharon Dowling Trustee
- Lyman Gilmore Trustee
- Ron Haggett Trustee
- Connie Kirwin Trustee
- Len Pagano Trustee



ANTRIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Denise Holmes, School Board Member

A program piloted at Antrim Elementary School last year was reviewed at a recent Education Committee meeting. This program, Prosocial Classroom, is an example of something happening at our schools that should benefit our entire community.

One of the first activities of the day at AES is morning circle. Everyone in the classroom is greeted by name. There is an opportunity for students to share news, there is an activity in which everyone participates and at the end of this morning circle, students think about the day ahead. In this 15-20 minute start to the day, students are learning about courtesy, respect and cooperation. It sets the tone for the whole day. When everyone feels valued, the school becomes a safer place. When people can speak to each other with courtesy and respect, ideas can be shared and everyone can engage in learning without fear of being ridiculed or humiliated. This productive climate results in better learning.

Providing programs like this helps students acquire the skills to build community. The cooperation, self-worth, responsibility and respect that are developed and nurtured in this program will become lifelong assets. These skills will serve our students and our communities well as they enter into the workplace and public life. Fostering a civil climate in our schools now will certainly benefit our communities in the future. ♣

Antrim Siblings *continued*

Larry credits his Conval High teacher, Joan O'Donnell, with getting him interested in the Youth in Government program. This led to his participation in State government, and he in turn has convinced his sisters to go out and make themselves heard in the same arena.

The Elliott family has been in Antrim for a hundred years, contributing in many ways to community life. Their grandfather, the late Dewey Elliott, was well-known as a house painter, and especially as an outdoorsman. He would be proud of Larry, Lori and Kim for their taking one step further as responsible citizens. ♣

DOGS, SNOW & VEHICLES

Winter is upon us and dogs, vehicles and snow covered roads don't mix too well. For your dog's safety and the safety of everyone driving, especially town snow plows, please keep your dog on your property. Antrim *does* have a leash law! ♣

The Grapevine *continued*

Fall classroom activities included songs and games to help the children get to know each other, learning about planning and making choices to "work" in the science, art, painting, library, blocks, house and toys areas, and learning "social snacking" skills with the children practicing serving their own snacks, waiting until everyone is served to eat, and cleaning up. Outdoor learning included leaf and acorn collection and discussions, and songs and fingerplays about autumn and the environment.

BETTER BEGINNINGS FOR BABIES

Also known as "baby group," this program is an opportunity for parents and their babies to get acquainted and play with a variety of developmentally-appropriate toys. Fall discussions included wood stove safety, nutrition, and the transition to table food.

We now have openings for parents with infants and pre-toddlers--babies who are not confident walkers yet. As the children grow and become comfortable in baby group, the transition to the Better Beginnings Playgroup is an easy one.

BETTER BEGINNINGS PARENT-CHILD PROGRAM

The Better Beginnings Parent-Child Program, a bridge between "baby group" and The Learning Vinc, offers a taste of independence for toddlers and parents alike. This fall we welcomed Michelle Worthington M.Ed., our new playgroup teacher, who comes to us from Cape Cod and now lives in Lyndeborough.

Children enjoy a well-supervised, creative early learning experience with Michelle and teaching partner Kristin Readell, playgroup assistant Alyssia Warren, and a fantastic group of volunteers. This fall, stories, crafts and guided play explored themes such as making new friends, colors, and seasonal changes. Parents and grandparents participate in the opening and closing circles with their children, learning new songs, fingerplays, and activity ideas for continuing the fun at home.

While the children play and learn, parents and group facilitator Sydney Wilson-Smith meet in an adjoining room to discuss the daily rigors and delights of raising children, enjoy crafts, or just put their feet up. Parent group

discussions this fall explored learning styles, communication, and stress reduction for parents through play. Crafts such as mask-making and clay sculpture coincided with discussions of individuality and self reflection. The next months will be equally exciting with visits from guest presenters on topics ranging from knitting, to schooling choices, to keeping the peace at home.

VOLUNTEERS

The Grapevine is deeply indebted to the multitude of community volunteers who faithfully arrive each day to enrich our daily programs. Volunteer range from home-schooled pre-teens to senior citizens, with duties from guest lecturing to storybook reading. If you are interested in becoming a part of The Grapevine, call us at 588-2620.

SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE

- **Heating Fuel & Electric Assistance** for eligible families, provided by Southern NH Services, Friday mornings by appointment.
- **Information & Referral:** Information about area resources for assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs.
- **Wood Bank:** Free firewood for families and individuals who use wood to heat their homes and cannot afford to buy firewood.
- **Child & Family Counseling** provided by Monadnock Family Services by appointment Monday, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday. Sliding scale fee.
- **Family Conflict Resolution** offered by Milford Area Mediation Services by appointment. Free.
- **Help for Women** experiencing domestic abuse offered by Women's Crisis Services.

Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 for more information about the above services or to register for programs. Our office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9 to 3pm, and Wednesday through Friday 9 to noon. We welcome visits.

The Grapevine is a non-profit service organization, funded by grants and charitable contributions. Your tax deductible contribution can be mailed to The Grapevine at PO Box 637, Antrim 03440. Thank you for supporting your local family and community resource center. ♣

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SATURDAY DEC 7

10 AM—4 PM

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GREAT BROOK SCHOOL NEWS

By Barbara Black

PLEASE BE PART OF ARTS DAY

For our second all-school Arts Day, on February 20, we hope that a variety of artists and community members will offer student workshops. Workshops may be in either three 1 1/2-hour, two 2-hour sessions, or one 4-hour session.

The first Arts Day was a tremendous success. Workshops included watercolor painting, clay gargoyle sculptures, stone carving, songwriting, printmaking, hair design, snow fort architecture, contra dancing, drumming, wool spinning, cake decorating, book making, bead work, theater, and martial arts. There were many, many more—the arts encompass so much of our lives.

Creativity lives within each child and by continuously reinforcing this spirit, students' abilities will be nourished.

Arts Day is a largescale event, and we are trying to get the logistics arranged as early as possible. There is money available to cover the cost of supplies and we will be offering a small stipend as well.

Please take time to think about what creative talent you possess and would like to share with our school community. If you are interested in being a part of GBS's Arts Day or have any questions, please contact Joan Bando at 588-6630.

Joan Bando
Margie Moran
Jahna Moncrieg
Arts Day Committee

FIFTH GRADE

Students in the fifth grade have been studying the environment while reading the book, *My Side of the Mountain*. In the classroom students have built and observed a terrarium, aquarium ecocolumn. They have looked at different common pollutants and observed what pollution can do to plants and water life and how that can affect the larger population as a whole. Students also visited McCabe Forest to build shelters out of dead and down materials in the forest. The forest was alive with voices of students planning, deciding, and working together to complete a project. In *My Side of the Mountain*, the main character goes to the Catskill Mountains and survives in the

wilderness alone for a year. Our students were able to feel a little bit like that main character. After dismantling the shelters and returning to school, they wrote poetry about McCabe Forest and the Gibley Farm, where *My Side of the Mountain* takes place. Here are some samples of students' poetry.

SAM'S TREE

*Dark and hollow in this tree,
Little creatures annoying as can be,
Small and warm in this,
Sam is cozy as can be.
High up the mountain*

*The flowers grow wildly
Up in the Catskills.*

By Katelyn Armstrong and Spencer Boggs

THINGS TO DO

*Making shelters, lots of fun,
Catching fish to eat at night
Climbing big hills everywhere
Adventuring in the forest
Birch trees stand tall
Exploring woods all Day.
Fish in the river
Observing animals all around
Rivers Flowing here and there
Entering the shelters all day
Smelling wintergreen in the woods
Trails winding in and out*

By Madison Rank and Shelby Paige

*Everyone working together
Finding things to use
Observing nature
Red leaves falling
Evergreen giving shade
Shelters being built
Teamwork is best.*

By Samantha White

TREE

*Huge and brown
Growing, rustling, standing
Brings shelter to Sam*

*Crisp cool spring water
The gorge is really rocky
Sam goes there to swim*

By Emily Foote and Emily Sawich

GIRL SCOUT CADETTE TROOP 2706

Greetings! Cadette Troop 2706 started its year with a planning meeting on October 17th. So far we have 7 registered Cadettes with room for more! The girls decided on a new meeting schedule, changing the time to 3:30-5 PM, and meeting on alternate Thursdays. We are still using the Legion Hall as our base of operations. All 7th-9th grade girls are invited to join us.

The Antrim Recreation Committee asked for the Cadettes' help for the Town Halloween party on October 26. If you were lucky enough to have attended that gala event, you would have seen some scary and sweet Scouts in their very clever Haunted House or offering feelie meelie experiences to the brave. A good time was had by all.

The Cadettes have also decided to apply to the Sports for Life overnight in February at Hampshire Hills in Milford. We will be waiting to hear if our troop has been accepted.

Several Interest Projects have been suggested for the Troop to work on together and the girls intend to continue their Community Service work at Pheasantwood-Harborside after the holidays. Plans to contribute a Thanksgiving Basket to a local family are again in motion. And the Cadettes will be joining younger Scouts on Sunday December 8th at 4 PM to decorate the Christmas tree at the tree lighting ceremony at the Bandstand in Memorial Park.

By the way, a slight correction to the last *LIMRIK* article by Lyman Gilmore that mentioned Troop 2706 as the *first* Cadette Troop in Antrim. Since I was the one who mistakenly passed on that piece of information to Lyman, I accept the responsibility. However, Izi Nichols was able to set me straight. Antrim once had a proud group of Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts that continued the tradition for a number of years. Ours is the first Cadette Troop in a very long time. Exactly how long a time? That is the question. We would love to hear from former Cadette or Senior Girl Scouts and Leaders, about when they were active; what types of activities they participated in, etc. Any good stories at all would be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank Michelle Foote for stepping in as Co-Leader this year. Scouting can only be offered as an opportunity to our children if adults are willing to lead.

Any questions, comments, suggestions or offers of assistance, call Sharon Dowling at 588-3459.





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ANTRIM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December

- 7 **PATRON APPRECIATION DAY** • Tuttle Library • 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
- 8 **ANTRIM TREE LIGHTING** • Memorial Park • 4:00 PM
SANTA CLAUS is coming to ANTRIM • 4:30 PM
LIVING NATIVITY PAGEANT • 5:15 PM followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall at Antrim Presbyterian Church
- 8 **DECORATING THE CRISMON TREE** • Antrim Presbyterian Church
- 15 **OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS** • 4:00 PM • Antrim Baptist Church
Crafts, Amish potluck dinner, carol singing and candlelighting
- 17 **HOME HEALTHCARE NURSE** • 11:00-12 NOON • Antrim Village
- 20, 21, 22 **"A REAL NEW ENGLAND CHRISTMAS"** • 8:00 PM
Antrim Players • Town Hall
- 22 **Christmas Musical "Season's Greetings"** • 10:30 AM
Antrim Baptist Church

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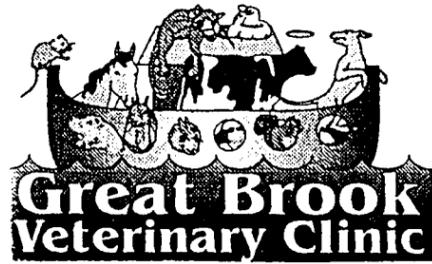
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ANTRIM COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December

24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Saint Patrick Church • 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM
Antrim Presbyterian Church • 6:30 PM
Antrim Baptist Church • 7:00 PM

25 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES
Saint Patrick Church • 9:00 AM

January

11 ANTRIM WOODS BENEFIT CONCERT • Town Hall • 7:00 PM

February

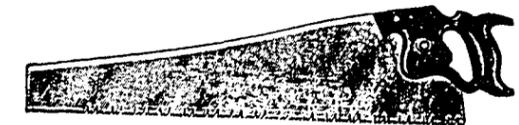
9 NORTH BRANCH VILLAGE • 2:00 PM • Little Town Hall
Program hosted by Antrim Historical Society

28 PET READ-IN • Tuttle Library • 10-11 AM



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