

The Limrik

A Quarterly Journal

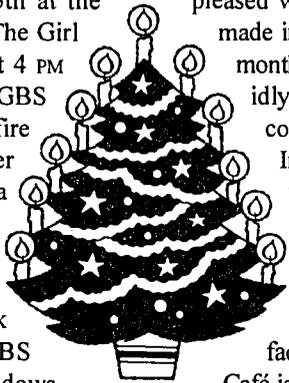
For, by and about the people of Antrim.

Vol. 14 #1
December 2004

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING...

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2004

The 14th Annual Tree Lighting will take place on Sunday, December 5th at the Bandstand in Memorial Park. The Girl Scouts will decorate the tree at 4 PM followed by caroling, led by the GBS Chorus. Santa will arrive by fire truck and will lead a parade over to the town hall where hot cocoa and cookies will be served. Bring flashlights or lanterns. Don't forget to drive by the tree in Touchwood Square and look at the murals, made by the GBS Students, in the Town Hall windows. In case of inclement weather please call the Rec Center at 588-3121. Sponsored by the Antrim Friends of Recreation.



... and CRAFTS FOR GIVING

Also this year, before the tree lighting, there will be a **Crafts for Giving** workshop at the Antrim Town Hall between 12 NOON and 3:30 PM. This program will lead partici-

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SELECTMEN

By Mike Genest, Chair

As the year draws to a close, we are very pleased with the progress that has been made in our Town over the last twelve months. Main Street is improving rapidly thanks to the efforts of our TIF committee and several new owners. Improvements have been made on the former Rogers Store Building, the Antrim Marketplace (formerly Wayno's) has a new look and a great new grocery store with some old friendly faces inside, The New Beginnings Café is a welcome addition to the early morning breakfast crowd, Rick & Diane's is always busy, the Maplehurst Inn has reopened under new management, and we are pleased that The Antrim Girls Shelter was awarded the CDBG grant for a major expansion of their facility. Tuttle Library renovations will begin shortly and we know there are several other business expansion plans pending for the downtown.

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WEBSITE

www.AntrimNH.org

By Jeana White

Does the Library open at 10:00 or 2:00 on Thursdays? Is ARTS recycling #3 plastic? How does my 18-year-old register to vote?

Have questions? You'll soon have a one-stop resource for answers. In December, Antrim will have a municipal website, full of contact information, office hours, maps, photos and more.

"We are excited to be able to provide Antrim with this website," said TIF District Administrator David Essex. "The site development has been financed 100% using TIF (Tax Increment Finance District) funds designated for marketing. Not only have we created a robust site that is an excellent marketing tool to attract new businesses, but Antrim residents and visitors now have a site full of up-to-date information."

The new website is being developed in partnership with Virtual Town Hall, a Portland, ME, company specializing in creating and hosting small municipal websites.

"We looked at a lot of options before signing on with VTH," said Bill Prokop, Town

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MORE SIDEWALKS, PLUS MAIN STREET REHABILITATION

By Dick Winslow

Federal transportation money is helping to fund the Antrim Main Street Rehabilitation Project. An engineering design for this, being done by Underwood Engineers of Concord, should be finished by January, and ground broken next spring.

Along with significant drainage work, here are some things we can look forward to:

- A new sidewalk on the west side of Main Street all the way from Prospect Street to the juncture of Route 31 and North Main Street. This sidewalk will probably be made of asphalt although, budget permitting, cement might be used.
- On the east side of Main Street, new granite curbing from Aiken Street to the T-Bird Market; and from the Baptist Church the short distance to Barbara Shea's house.. Also, for that short distance, there will be a new asphalt sidewalk.
- Between the Library and the Bank, decorative street lamps.
- A widened sidewalk in front of the Library, this to be made possible by regrading the terrace between the sidewalk and the street.

All this is being overseen by the Antrim Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Board, of which David Essex is administrator. Board members are Rick Davis, Rick Edmunds, Bob Edwards, and Bill Prokop. ☿



Best wishes to all. Russ

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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:

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ADVERTISING FEES

Half Page (Back Page)	\$75 per issue
Half Page (Inside Page)	\$65 per issue
Business Card size	\$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 Advertising Manager.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E-mail your letters to the *Limrik* in care of Lyman Gilmore. The address is: l_gilmore@conknet.com

CREDITS

The cartoon on page 1 was created by Russ Russell, Art Director.

NEWS DEADLINE

News deadline is the 10th of the month preceding each issue. Issues are published in December, March, June, and September. For the next issue, copy needs to be delivered by February 10, either to a staff member or to the Tuttle Library. If possible please e-mail your article to:

Connie Kirwin at: cfk@conknet.com
Lyman Gilmore at: l_gilmore@conknet.com
Tuttle Library at: tuttlelib@comcast.net

www.AntrimNH.org continued

Administrator. "After looking at the start-up costs, hosting costs and the personnel hours involved in maintaining the site, we felt VTH offered the most cost-effective and user-friendly solution."

"Virtual Town Hall has developed sites for many of our neighbors. Hillsborough, Deering, Greenfield, and Rindge officials were all pleased with the level of service and support they received from VTH, and the price was excellent," said Prokop.

In preparation for building the site, Deputy Town Clerk Donna Hanson and Library Director Kathy Chisholm attended strategy and training sessions with VTH. Working with project coordinator Jeana White, the web team presented their site design, content and navigation proposal to the TIF committee. The next eight weeks were spent gathering information, interviewing department personnel and uploading text and images to the site.

"All of the department heads have been really supportive of the web project," said Hanson. "We were warned by Virtual Town Hall that the hardest part of developing the site would be getting information from all the departments and committees. Not in Antrim! Everyone has been great."

The new site will include a complete list of contacts for all town departments and committees, as well as hours of operation. All committee meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the site. Each town department will have designated pages designed to answer questions on services, licenses, permits, ordinances and activities.

A community calendar will contain meeting dates, parks and recreation activities, and town and non-profit-sponsored community events. In the spring a separate Parks and Rec calendar will be added to keep track of team sports.

"We are also working on a section for visitors and new residents," said Prokop. "These pages will have pictures of the town, a community profile, maps, school and church information, and links to area non-profits and businesses."

Another feature of the new site will be an email subscription service. Residents will be able to subscribe to various communications. Those interested in receiving the agenda for the Selectmen's meeting can sign up to receive an email notification as soon as the agenda is posted. Meeting and event cancellations can be handled the same way, saving time and phone calls for many.

According to Prokop, an integral part of the site's success will be the continued feedback that is received from residents. A feedback form will be posted on the site to gather ideas and comments.

"With this site we have the ability to make constant improvements," said Prokop. "We're anxious to hear what people have to say. We really want to create a complete on-line resource for Antrim." ☞

The Selectmen continued

Construction of our sidewalk improvement program will begin in the spring. This program will improve parking, safety, drainage, and of course the appearance of our downtown. By the middle of next year we will have a first class Main Street downtown area, and safer sidewalks on Main Street, West Street, Summer Street, and part of School Street.

SUMMER STREET BRIDGE

Our biggest disappointment as a Board this year was that we were not able to complete the Summer Street Bridge project before winter set in. We should have done a few things differently, but we didn't and hindsight is cheap. We have learned a lot from this project

☞ continued next page

The Selectmen continued

and we do apologize for the inconvenience that was caused by the delays. However, we will be ready to begin construction in the spring and the project will include a complete revamp of Summer Street. This will include a new water line, new drainage and catch basins, a new bridge, dam repair, new sidewalks and curbing, and total resurfacing. This of course will be tied into the sidewalk project that will be going on in the rest of the downtown area.

EFFECTS OF GROWTH

Like many of you, we are concerned about the growth and building that we have been experiencing in the last few years. Our Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, our Building Inspector, and all of our department heads are feeling the impact of this growth. We are trying to work with all boards, committees, and departments to develop plans that will help us in managing this growth. As you all know by now our tax rate came down this year by 28% to a rate of \$18.93 per thousand of assessed value. This in part, is due to the growth in our base of property values, which have come from new construction and additions and the update of all property values to current market value. All Town departments have really managed their budgets well over the last few years and our spending has been at a very acceptable rate. We are hopeful that our tax rate can remain at a low level and that some progress will be made at the state level in addressing the School Taxes that we all have to pay.

Our **Recreation Land Search Committee** has been working on locating a piece of property that could be used for playing fields. They are looking at a piece of Town-owned property on Route 9 and Park Place as a possible location. They will be holding a Public Informational Hearing on this or any other pieces that they finalize on prior to Town Meeting.

Our **Ambulance Service** will start billing your insurance company for their service in January. This billing will not cost any Antrim resident out of pocket money in 2005. We are doing this to insure that we can continue to provide the top-notch service that we have always been able to provide. In billing the insurance companies we will be taking the cost off the shoulders of our taxpayers. It is our goal to bring the cost of our Ambulance Service down to zero for the Town. We have also started a new **Open Spaces Committee**; its first meeting is on

December 7th, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. This committee's main purpose is to look at the long-term conservation and development needs of Antrim and to layout a long-term plan for the Town. We are looking forward to working with all of these committees.

NEW TOWN WEBSITE

Last, but certainly not least, we want to thank the TIF Committee for sponsoring the development and launch of www.antrim.org the Town's new website, which we know will help us all communicate better. We also wish to thank all of you who took the time to complete the survey that we have been handing out since Election Day. Your comments, concerns, and suggestions will be a guide to us in planning the future needs of our Town.

As a Board, we thank you again for all your support and we wish you all a very happy holiday season. ☿

TOWN SURVEY RESPONSES

By Bill Prokop, Town Administrator

As many of you know, the Town distributed a survey to voters as they left the Town Hall on Election Day. So far, we have received 98 back, a wonderful return, and we thank all who took the time to give us their thoughts and opinions. The results are summarized below and we urge anyone interested to stop by the Town Hall to review a more detailed compilation of the results as well as the surveys themselves. Anyone who did not complete a survey and wishes to may also pick up a form at the Town Hall. We are interested in as much feedback from the citizens of Antrim as we can get.

How long have you lived in Town, why did you move here, where did you move from? The length of time lived in Antrim ranged from 1 month to 88 years. The overwhelming reason people said they moved here was for the beauty and quiet of a small rural town. Other reasons mentioned were the affordable housing market, the proximity to jobs and family, and the presence of a good school system. Forty-eight (48) came from other New Hampshire communities, five (5) from Massachusetts, seven (7) from New York, and twelve (12) from other states.

What do you like most about living in Antrim? Again the overwhelming answer was the rural, small town feel of our Town, followed closely by the great, friendly people. Schools were again mentioned, but our favorite response was "Everything."

Do you have children, are they in the ConVal system? Three quarters of the re-

WE NEED THE ANTRIM MARKETPLACE:

THE ANTRIM MARKETPLACE NEEDS US

By Lyman Gilmore

I know I'm not alone in being greatly relieved and pleased that Wayno is back in the grocery business. It is wonderful to have terrific meat and produce and everything else we need to eat happily and well right on our doorstep and not have to traipse out of town. We should be especially grateful that the store's new owner, Juliet Ermitano, has invested so much money beautifying her portion of Main Street.

But there seems to be a problem. Talking with Wayno the other day, I discovered that although people stop by and tell him what a beautiful job Juliet and he have done redesigning and renovating the store, they aren't buying many groceries. In fact the store is losing money.

I've done an informal survey, calling about a dozen families in town and asking them if they are shopping at the market. Most said that they—like me—got in the habit of going out of town for supplies, and you know how tough it is to change habits. But they—like me—intend to break that habit and come back to the store. I sure hope so.

We certainly need the Antrim Marketplace. But Juliet and Wayno need us as well, if they are going to stay in business. I shudder to think about losing our store again. ☿

spondents have children, although only 25 reported children in the ConVal system, with several mentioning home schooling and others that their children have already graduated.

What Town Services are most important to you? Highway Maintenance 65, Safety Services 57, Planning & Zoning 42, Recycling 39, Recreation 33, Water & Sewer 24, Administration 18. The majority responded that the service Antrim provides is good to excellent compared to other towns.

What new or improved services would you like to see? We received a wide variety of responses to this question, including expanded Town Office and ARTS Center hours, continued downtown improvements, more recreation opportunities, more Library resources, suggestions for highway and safety improvements, etc. We greatly appreciate all the responses and are carefully reviewing them to see what is possible given our budget constraints.

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BILLING INSURANCE COMPANIES ANTRIM AMBULANCE SERVICE

Effective January 1st, Antrim's ambulance service will no longer depend on a town budget and free-will donations. Rather, the ambulance service will bill each patient's insurance carrier. Any co-payments or payment of balances after insurance will be dealt with not by the individual but by the town.

Question: what about residents who have no insurance? Answer: in most cases, the charges will simply be abated. A bill will be issued, but a town committee will review the patient's ability to pay.

Antrim has contracted with Comstar Inc. to handle billings and other communications with insurance companies. Comstar has been working with New England ambulances since 1984 and is currently servicing 170 municipal clients including Peterborough, Keene and Wilton. It also works with the Monadnock Community Hospital to which a majority of Antrim patients are transported.

Town administrator Bill Prokop gives three reasons for this change from town subsidy to payments by individual insurance carriers:

1. To compensate for rising operational costs
2. To generate revenue for our ambulance without increasing taxes.
3. To meet increased demands from a growing community.

All the above benefits not only Antrim but also Bennington and Stoddard, towns which have depended on our ambulance. Bennington has been paying Antrim \$10,000 per year; this will be lowered to \$8,400. Stoddard's amount will drop from \$8,000 to \$5,100.

It should be understood that Antrim's annual budget will still include a line item for the Ambulance, but income from insurance payments will offset this so that, in effect, there will be no cost to the town. At present, the line item is \$36,000.

The Antrim Ambulance responded to 336 calls between December 1, '03 and September 30, '04. Ninety five of these calls were to Bennington and 58 to Stoddard, the remainder to Antrim. (Of Bennington's 95 calls, 26 were to the Crotched Mountain ski area where people routinely break femurs, tibias, fibulas, skulls and other useful appendages.)

The Ambulance staff is made up entirely of volunteers led by Deputy Chief Pat Lovering.

—D.W.

FOR THE LUTHERAN GIRLS SHELTER \$700,000 BLOCK GRANT

That beautiful 1850 house across from Edmunds' store is about to receive a million dollar plus upgrade, both structural and for enlargement. As it has in recent years, it serves as a Girls Shelter sponsored by the Lutheran Community Services of NH. The town of Antrim has recently received a \$700,000 Community Development Block Grant on behalf of this historic building. The grant will be matched by \$427,047 in loans from the Bank of NH., from Lutheran Service of New England and from private donors to pay for the renovation.

Town Administrator Bill Prokop expresses pride not only that the Block Grant came to Antrim but also that out of \$1,400,000 available state-wide, Antrim was awarded half.

The grant description, released by the NH Community Development Finance Authority, states that the renovation "will centralize sleeping quarters and add needed training space, bathroom and laundry facilities...."

Older Antrim residents may have fond memories of a former inhabitant of this house, Dr. Guy Tibbets, town doctor from 1920-1939. He was a kindly man, devoted to his profession and his patients. Also, he was surely the only Antrim resident ever to be honored by a British king in Buckingham Palace. Dr. Tibbets, with our troops in WW I, had been imprisoned by the Germans and responded with such distinction that King George V rewarded him with a medal.

—D.W.

DIGITAL RADIOS TOWN HALL AS "COMMAND CENTER"

Antrim's Town Hall will soon be equipped with two digital radios for emergency management and police work. The radios, connected to a new antenna on the Town Hall roof, are being purchased with Homeland Security grant money for which the town applied last year and recently received. Total cost is about \$12,200 of which the grant covers some \$11,600.

This new equipment can turn Town Hall into a "Command Center" in the event of an emergency, picking up signals both from other town and from the state. Because a backup generator, also heavily funded by Homeland Security, is being installed in the Town Hall, the radios can operate even when electricity is down.

THROUGH MY KITCHEN WINDOW

PAIGES ONCE LIVED HERE

By Joyce Davison

It certainly looks like Thanksgiving and the coming of winter out there this morning. Lots of hungry birds and the nuthatches really swear at me as I fill up the feeders and throw some of the black oil seeds around for ground-feeding cardinals, juncos and sparrows. The peanut butter feeder, made by my son Peter several years ago from a birch log, continues to work out just fine with the holes filled and ready. It is such fun to watch our feathered friends from the woods.

My little house—near the firehouse on Rte 31—seems to tuck itself in and put on a winter face as the leaves fall and the brook is clearly visible. I was so pleased during the summer to receive a letter from Connie Paige Kippax, an Antrim person I remember when I was a child. It read of her pleasure in reading the *Limrik* and my writing about my house—which she remembers well as the home of her own grandmother. I remember this kind little lady too, with her gray hair in a tight little bun, who would sit and talk with my brother and me if we stopped by, particularly at Halloween when she would offer the best tasting cookies on a neat white plate. Connie offered to share with me a biography of her grandmother Paige, not a formal accounting, but one she enjoyed writing while tracing her own family history. When I received it I was overjoyed and quickly shared it with my children, my sister and brother, and I thought it would be fun to share a little of it with the readers of the *Limrik*.

Edna Grace Wilson Paige was born in Bennington, our neighboring town, in 1865, from parents Orville Almus Wilson and Elizabeth Julittia Dickey Wilson. Grace (or Gracious as Connie said she was often called) lost her mother when she was 10 years old and was then brought up by her grandparents, Rachel Caldwell and Wesley Wilson who lived in Bennington too. She graduated from the Frankestown Academy where she met her future husband, Bertollette Paige (who was called and is remembered by a shortened name, Bert) and they were married in 1884.

Now, Bert's father, Enoch Paige lived in my house at the time and worked for himself in the Enoch Paige Cradle Factory. The foundation of that factory remains, sitting just below me on the bank of the brook and

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DAVID HURLIN AN INTERVIEW

By Lyman Gilmore

David Hurlin was the last owner and president of Antrim's most important manufacturing business. The Goodell Company had existed near the intersections of Main and High Streets in what was originally called the South Village since 1875. It produced cutlery, mechanical apple parers, and other kitchen implements, and was for many years the largest employer of Antrim residents. Henry Hurlin (1856-1949), David's grandfather, started working for Goodell as an office boy in 1875, and he bought the company in 1923 when he was sixty-seven. Henry called David's father, William, out of the shoe business in Haverhill, Massachusetts, to come and join the company. William became president when Henry died in 1949 at ninety-three. David became president in 1961. For more information about the Goodell Company, see the Tuttle Library for copies of Parades and Promenades and A Stroll Through Antrim.

The Hurlins raised their four children in Antrim, three sons—Bill, Dan, and Nathan—and a daughter, Lucy, who was killed tragically by a drunk driver in 1979.

It was a scarlet and ochre October day when I met with David Hurlin at his and Priscilla's beautiful Jaffrey home on the east side of Thorndike Pond looking across the water to Mount Monadnock against the western sky. We talked in his compact office where he sat behind a small desk and I in a sturdy, black, wooden armchair on which was emblazoned the crest of the Mount Hermon School. I began the interview by acknowledging David's impressive "Antrim House Project" in which he researched and wrote descriptions of all the old houses in Antrim, their dates of construction, builders, and the names of the families that have lived in them. It was a long and laborious project, and he presented it to the Historical Society which holds it for reference at the Tuttle Library.

(This interview, which was conducted on 13 October 2004, is part of the Antrim Historical Society's Oral History Project.)

Q: This chair is from the Mount Hermon preparatory school. Did you attend school in Antrim?

Yes, I went to the Antrim School on Main Street from the first through the tenth grades. It's an apartment building now. The ninth and tenth grades were pretty much a total waste of time. It wasn't the teacher's fault, really,

I guess it was mine. It was there to be done, and I didn't do it, and my folks recognized that I was marking time, so they sent me to Mount Hermon.

That changed my whole life. I started in the eleventh grade, and I was there in the eleventh and twelfth. It was very different. I was quite shy, actually, and it took me a long time to get to know the people. But I fell into the routine of the study requirements fairly easily. My grades in Antrim weren't too great, just enough to get by. But I can't say that my grades at Mount Hermon were outstanding either. (*Chuckles*) I had a very good relationship with both of my parents, and going away was sort of a tug. But they convinced me that it needed to be done, and I'm sure they were right.

Mt. Hermon was important to me, and I served on their board for about thirteen years. That was a great experience for me. And Mt. Hermon served my boys well. All three went there, Bill, Dan, and Nathan.

After I graduated from Mt. Hermon I went into the navy and spent two years with them, 1944 to 1946. My navy experience was wonderful. I got assigned to two ships. The last one was a heavy cruiser, the USS Los Angeles, and we went to China. Actually, we were the first American ship to go into Shanghai after the war. I was a radar operator, working in the Combat Information Center, the CIC. We just missed combat. We were on our way to pick up the ship in Philadelphia when VJ Day occurred.

The navy was a wonderful experience because we were stationed in Hong Kong, and when my points came up there was a flotilla of destroyer escorts going on a goodwill tour from Hong Kong, to Singapore, to Ceylon, through the Indian Ocean, through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, through the Mediterranean, stopping at Alexandria and Naples, and across the Atlantic to Charleston, South Carolina. So I got a chance to literally see the world.

I vividly recall when we first got ashore four or five of us ganged up on a milk truck and bought fresh milk, the best tasting milk I ever, ever had. I hadn't had any real milk for a long time!

And then I came back, and from 1946 to 1950 went to Brown University where I studied economics. I've been accused of studying "movie economics." (*Chuckles*) I got out of Brown in 1950 and I got married. I had met Priscilla in the cast of the Antrim Players production of the Mikado in 1949 when I was home for summer vacation. Dick Winslow was the director. Pris and I ended

up doing scenery, and that cemented the relationship.

While I was in college I worked summers part-time at the Goodell Company in various departments. When I graduated I became full time Assistant Sales Manager.

During the war we made a lot of butcher cutlery, including probably fifty or sixty Bowie Knives which were distributed to the guys in the service. By 1950, we had three or four strings to the bow. We had a line of professional cutlery for butchers and packing houses, which, frankly, wasn't all that good. We made painters tools—wall scrapers—which were a big part of our sales. The apple-parers were still going strong. But we shortly discovered that we couldn't support a line of maybe two hundred different items, and at the same time give service and get inventory turnover, which is absolutely essential if you are going to make a return on your investment. So, we cut the line. About that time we made a connection with Chicago Cutlery which at that point in time was little more than a street grinder, sharpening knives for packing houses and grocery stores, meat markets, and that sort of business.

Here's how we got together with Chicago Cutlery. A man named Paulson started Chicago Cutlery after growing up in Meriden, Connecticut. He became interested in metallurgy, and he decided he wanted to have a specialty line. He approached two or three manufacturers, including my dad, and they made a connection. From then on we made ninety percent of the cutlery for Chicago Cutlery. They would take the blades we made and then perform several sharpening operations on them.

Well, anyway, it became necessary to cut the line. The tried and true method of distribution early in the fifties was to go through hardware jobbers, but they gradually faded out of the picture and were replaced by the distributors like Kmart. So, we were doing a lot of business with private labels, people like Stanley Tool and Sears. These were the days before Home Depot and Walmart. A couple of the old jobbers converted their operations—Ace Hardware and True Value are still going—but most of the old jobbers—the Belknaps, Decater/Hopkins—all those hundreds of good old houses all, all collapsed and disappeared in the sunset. It was a natural progression in the scheme of things.

I became president in 1960. I retired in '81. It was a little bit of a sentimental wrench to sell that business, but by 1980 Chicago Cutlery was taking better than half of our

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FROM THE ANTRIM PLAYERS **OUR GIFT**

By Izi Nichols

A bad dress rehearsal, they say, means a good show, and this proved to be the case for the musical revue, "Our Gift" which was presented recently at the Great Brook School gym. If anything could go wrong, as Murphy puts it, it did. From singers with laryngitis to broken piano strings, the entire day of rehearsal was a challenge to director Ray Sweeney. But with his magic touch he presented a smooth show that night which was received with wild enthusiasm.

Becky Davison-Paquette has given of her remarkable vocal/comedic talent to entertain local audiences for thirty years, performing with the Turtle Players, the Antrim Players, the Conval Drama Department, and as a theatre major at Franklin Pierce College. When her husband Bryan Paquette was killed in an accident last summer, leaving her with three young children, her friends in the Antrim Players decided it was time to give something back to Becky; hence the title, "Our Gift".

Working with the staff of Great Brook School, where Becky is a teacher, an elaborate evening of fun, music and good food was planned and carried out, raising a substantial amount of money to help her and her family through the rough times. Those who came to the show, as well as those who missed it, have been extraordinarily generous with contributions.

Ray Sweeney called upon his many show biz friends to make up the cast. Maureen Hamill, a producer, came from New York City to sing; Becky once performed in a Hamill Production in Florida. Jane McLean, a former Antrim Player, came from upstate New York to sing some of Becky's favorite comedy songs. Area artists included Kathy Manfre, Ken and Pati Cloutier, the Sweeney Boys, and Dean Proctor. A large group from Ray's Conval High choruses provided large and small group numbers, as well as featuring tap dancers. The Antrim Players Children's Theatre troupe refreshed Becky's memory with some songs she had directed in "Land of Oz" and "Peter Pan".

Not only did school staff members serve as ushers and production helpers, but music teachers Margie Moran and Jahna Moncrief played a violin and piano duet. Their boss, Rick Nannicelli acted as emcee. Ray's musician friends who supplied accompaniment

were Mike Wakefield, J.D. and Tom Graham, no strangers to Antrim audiences, and Izi Nichols, who also played a piano duet with her one-time pupil, Ray Sweeney.

Members of the Players worked many hours transforming the gym into a cabaret setting, soliciting gourmet desserts for enjoyment during intermission, and persuading local merchants to contribute articles for the raffle.

It was altogether a fine example of old-fashioned community coming-together to help out one of its much-loved members. ☞

A THANK YOU FOR "OUR GIFT"

What an amazing evening of singing, dancing and fun! I am so overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. The show was fabulous! So much great talent from so many members of such an awesome community of students, teachers, administration, and dear friends. I want to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work and commitment to bring such an uplifting evening to my children, to me and my family.

Thank you Ray Sweeney, the Antrim Players Board and its members; Rick Nannicelli, the teachers, students and staff at Great Brook School; Conval High School; and all the many people who performed and worked behind the scenes to make the evening such a success. I love you all. I also want to thank all who contributed your hard earned money to help me support my family. Your generosity is so kind and I appreciate it so much. It allows me to continue to care for my family the way Bryan worked so hard to do. Thank you.

Bryan was a kind and generous man who loved his home, his family and his friends very much. We miss him constantly and do the best that we can without him. Your love and support has and continues to be a great comfort and blessing for me and my family. Knowing so many of you hold us in your thoughts and prayers daily, truly helps lighten a very heavy load. I feel very blessed to have lived in this town all my life. I think few people nowadays know what it feels like to have that kind of connection to the people and place of one community; to raise their children in the same schools and on the same trails and, in my case, in the same house where you grew up. I am so grateful that my life's path kept me here and never was I more

aware of the reason for that, until my husband died. You have all helped me begin the difficult process of conceptualizing a future without Bryan and taking those few small steps in moving forward. Knowing that you are behind us and beside us, I know we will work through our grief and find joy again.

With Much Gratefulness,
Becky Paquette and family

LAURA CLARK

You may recall the tragic accident this summer when Laura Clark met a turn-of-fate on the dark highway to Keene one night, striking a moose, a collision that threatened to leave her a quadriplegic.

After some very delicate surgeries at UMASS Medical Center in Worcester and over a month of rudimentary physical therapy and convalescence at BU Medical Center in Boston, Laura has come home to Antrim—to the support of her close family and a new challenge—no, make that a new life.

Being released from BU Medical Center a couple months earlier than expected meant that some quick planning, construction, and much hard work had to be conjured-up by Laura's dad, Jim. With a raft of volunteers, a brand new accessible addition has now been completed for the Clark home. Kathy, Laura's mom, has adopted a whole new career, working tirelessly, around-the-clock since July 30th to fulfill most of her daughter's physical needs as well sharing an emotional journey with her that few of us can imagine.

And, not surprisingly, the Antrim community has pulled together with generous spirit and gusto to help the family build new opportunities for Laura. Dave Boulé and the crew at Antrim Lumber have donated materials for the new addition that was built by volunteers. Others have also donated—Pat Battaglia a foundation "at cost," Sam Harding free labor and plumbing materials "at cost," Kevin's Electric free wiring of the entire addition, Jest Flooring free labor and materials "at cost" and wholesale pricing on furniture, and Edmund's with, what else, free paint!

With a downpayment for a new van, afforded through *Laura's Fund*, Laura is now able to travel to Concord three days a week to help herself with physical therapy She has

 continued next page

HOME AND HARVEST DAY PARADE

Although Antrim's first annual Home and Harvest Day was rain-delayed from Sept 18 to Sept 25 (except for the Breakfast, 5K Fun Race, and Pork and Bean Supper) it was a great success—including a parade full of floats and music. The committee for next year's event has already met: its next meeting will take place Jan 3rd, 7 PM, at Rick and Diane's. If you wish to join, just show up. For info, call Rick Davis at 588-3388.

Laura Clark continued

even braved a trip to the mall, surmounting another barrier. Laura's potential for progress will have to prove itself over a long period of time, but you can't convince her of that. She has already proven the experts and surgeons wrong, regaining some limited movement in arms and torso, and the development of biceps and triceps. She is able to get into the pool for therapy and has her eyes set on a therapy device that will help her stand on her own. She can even maneuver her electric wheelchair around the house unassisted.

As my wife related to me after a visit with Laura a week ago, Laura was able to give *her* a gentle hug with both arms, an act of affection and human warmth no one could have imagined only months ago—except perhaps Laura—she of a special spirit.

To contribute to the "spirit", a tax deductible contributions may still be sent to:

Laura's Fund
c/o Bank of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 79
Milford, NH 03055

— Peter Moore

Crafts Workshop continued

pants in candle decorating, window stars, bead ornaments and natural bird feeders. There is a small fee per craft to cover the cost of materials. Participants will be able to leave with a few handcrafted gifts for loved ones. This program is for all, but children younger than 7 will need an adult to help them. Please preregister by calling the recreation department at 588-3121.



TOWN HISTORY REVISITED

THE JAMESON FAMILY PART I

By Isabel B. Nichols

In movies about small towns there's always a family that dominates: the members own the bank, or a large mansion on a hill with acres of property enclosed by a cast-iron fence. Sometimes they're benevolent, sometimes malevolent (see "It's a Wonderful Life"), and often there's an imposing statue in the town square in memory of an unforgettable family character.

Antrim had the benefit of such a family in the nineteenth century, and its influence was felt well into the twentieth century, but the only visual vestige remaining today is Jameson Avenue, a short residential street running between West and Summer Streets, a block west of Main Street. Three magnificent buildings that illustrated various architectural styles of the Victorian era have gone from Main street, the victims of fire, neglect and/or progress. Two of them, on the east, or residential side, were Jameson family homes, and the third on the west, or commercial side, was the most expansive business building the town has ever had. It was known as the Jameson Block and was situated in the area of the Antrim Marketplace (Wayno's) and the now empty service station.

The name is pronounced "James Son", not "Jamison", to which it has been altered recently by non-resident realtors. The family came to New Hampshire from Northern Ireland in the large migration of Scots-Irish in the 1700s, and the first descendant to live in Antrim was Alexander who built his cabin at the top of High Street near the Hancock line in 1775. He was followed by brother Hugh who chose to build in the opposite end of town, on the 2nd New Hampshire Turnpike near Hillsboro. Neither of them had the staying power of a third brother, however; Captain Thomas, as he was known, came to Antrim in 1783 and built on what is now Whitney Road off of Route 202, near his brother Hugh's home. It is Thomas' descendants who eventually made the Jameson name one of great importance in the life of Antrim.

Captain Thomas received his title when he was put in command of the area militia, after having served notably as a youth in the Revolutionary War. For his day job he worked as a tailor and blacksmith, and as all early settlers had to do, as a farmer. In this he was ably assisted by his feisty young wife Mary Steele, who fashioned a cradle from a

hollow log in which to rest her baby while she helped her husband reap the rye crop. Both Thomas and Mary were political leftists, and expressed their opinions forcefully, even though she was denied the right to vote. This democratic trend became a hallmark of the family in future generations.

They raised nine children, most of whom left Antrim for broader experiences as the country expanded in the early 1800s. Son James, a master carpenter, was killed in a fall while working on the Park Street Church in Boston at the age of 34. He left in Antrim a wife, two young daughters and a seven-year-old son, Nathan Woodbury Cleaves Jameson, who will hereafter be referred to as N.W.C. This young man, at the age of 16, left Antrim for Boston "with only \$1.50 in his pocket, and all the world before him", to quote from our historian Warren Cochrane. "[He] went into a store as a clerk, and after a few years had a store of his own in that city." His commercial interest was in the manufacture and distribution of hats and furs, which proved to be a lucrative business.

Less than 20 years later, in 1851, the young entrepreneur returned to his home town where he led a long active life in full view of the citizens of Antrim. No mansion on the hill for N.W.C.: he bought the McFarland house on Main Street, located where the Ocean National bank now stands. Daniel McFarland, one of the town's first settlers "was a man of many oddities and air castles." (Again quoting from Cochrane.) "He imagined himself to be heir of great honor and wealth in Scotland, and planned his mansion accordingly; but he never finished it, and never got the title, and never got the money."

From what was left of this would-be castle N.W.C. fashioned an impressive residence, only to lose it all to fire in 1861. He immediately set about erecting an equally impressive set of buildings in a popular Victorian style on the same site. The house was an attraction on the downtown landscape for nearly 120 years, when it was deemed too dilapidated for repair, and was torn down. (See picture on page 59 of *A Stroll Through Antrim NH*.)

In addition to living a productive life as postmaster, representative, auctioneer and gentleman farmer, N.W. C. fathered a large family. His oldest son, Nathan C., was born in 1849, and following his father's footsteps went to Boston at the age of 17 to carry on the hat and fur business. He later expanded the business to include straw hats which were made and sold in New York City by the firm

of Tenney, Dupee and Jameson. "This house is said to have sold more straw hats for men and boys than any other in the world." (R. H. Tibbals: "Genealogical Record of Antrim Families", 1967.)

Nathan C. managed to balance his profitable business career in the city with a political one in New Hampshire. A devoted Democrat, he nevertheless won the respect of largely Republican Antrim, and served as representative to the general court and as state senator. In 1906 he was the state Democratic party's choice for governor, and lost the popular vote by such a narrow margin that the legislature had to decide the winner, which did not turn out to be Nathan C. Jameson. A loss for the town of Antrim.

While Son Nathan C. was involved with business and politics in a much larger field, Father N. W. C. concentrated his efforts in the town of Antrim. The Jameson Block, which he built sometime between 1858 and 1875, served the town in many ways for nearly 80 years. David Hurlin, in *A Stroll Through Antrim NH*, calls it a multi-purpose building, and indeed the variety of businesses which were housed there over the years would indicate this.

Three stories high, there was also a basement which was accessible from the back and used for living quarters as well as large vehicle storage. The first floor was made into several storefronts, the central one housing the long-standing Antrim Fruit Store which also served as the local bus stop. The second floor was made into apartments, one of which was home to the Milo Pratt family who ran the popular restaurant on the south end of the building for many years. The top floor was known as the G. A. R. Hall and was used by other groups as well. The covered piazza which ran the full length of the building was a welcome haven for Main Street Shoppers caught in a sudden rainstorm. All this is addition to housing various Jameson family enterprises. (See picture on Page 41 of *A Stroll Through Antrim NH*, 1997)

If ever a statue were erected on Main Street to glorify the Jameson Family the most likely candidate for a model would have to be Charles R., the second son of N. W. C. He might be posed sitting on a park bench between the family home and the Presbyterian Church, watching the citizens of his town going about their activities. In seasonable weather he would be wearing one of the famous family straw hats and white tennis shoes (of course there was a tennis court on the family grounds).

—continued next page

Charles was a colorful character in more than appearance. His interest in the old home town was shown by a) continual disagreement with the selectmen, b) oratorical tirades on all possible occasions, and c) long argumentative letters to the Antrim Reporter.

Don Madden, writing in *Parades and Promenades* (1977) says of the 1906 Town Meeting:

"Charles R. Jameson (was) still furious with the selectmen over what he considered to be the inequality in tax assessments, so he announced his decision to run for selectman. Needless to say, the selectmen were as annoyed with him as he was with them, and since many of the voters sided with the selectmen, he was soundly defeated. Despite all the controversy about him, he seems always to have had the best interests of Antrim at heart, and he certainly was a lively character."

In Part II of The Jameson Family two of Charles' projects will be described, one which was of lasting benefit to the town, and one which fell flatter than the sartorial straw skimmer.

To be continued... ..

✂

GLEANINGS

By Agricola

THE SUMMER STREET BRIDGE

I imagine most Antrimites don't care a hoot that the Summer Street bridge has been out since last spring's deluge washed it away. (It wasn't a bridge actually, but a culvert under the road through which Great Brook flowed after falling over the millpond dam. I always called it a bridge because bridges are more attractive than culverts, both physically and linguistically.) Anyway, the folks up here on Highland Avenue and Summer Street do care a hoot, although so far only a few have been hooting at the Selectmen for not fixing the bridge, as far as I can tell.

However, although I not only like our Selectmen and Town Administrator but trust them as well, I had gotten a tad impatient having to drive across Jameson Avenue, down West Street, and then south on Main Street just to reach the post office. What are those guys doing, I wondered. So, rather than complain out of ignorance, I thought I'd go to the horse's mouth and find out what's up with the bridge. (By the way, don't ever let Izi Nichols hear you call it "Jame-a-son Avenue, as so many of us do. Recently, she reminded me with some vigor that it's "Jame-son," just two syllables.)

The horse's mouth in this case turned out to be my friend Ben Pratt, and he set my impatient mind to rest. After the bridge washed out, the town fathers contacted state and federal officials hoping to find some funding that would cover natural destruction of a town road. Although this process took a great deal of time—as dealing with government agencies often does—they were "somewhat encouraged" by their contacts. But in the end, no funds were available, and a lot of time was lost.

Next they started planning with Underwood Engineering as well as the Antrim Sewer and Water Department, which recommended taking advantage of the construction to install a new twelve inch water main up Summer Street. There was a fair amount of lengthy debate whether to put in a single or double culvert. After the project was put out to bid, local contractor Scott Burnside was hired to do the job. But after a careful inspection of the washed out road, and a look at the boring test, Scott had serious reservations about excavations so close to the dam which is old and possibly weak. As it happened, he had been involved with a new bridge Hancock had recently constructed, and he suggested that

—continued on page 17

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Winter Hours: Fri - Sat - Sun & Holiday Mondays
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production, and it became very obvious that they wanted to do the whole manufacturing process. So, it was either sell, or go back to work. I have enjoyed being retired. I find plenty to do.

Q: I understand that your family had close ties to the Antrim Baptist Church.

Yes, our family was active in the Baptist Church in Antrim. My Great Grandfather, Reverend William Hurlin, built that church, that edifice. My grandfather was a staunch Baptist all his life. My dad was brought up in the Baptist Church, but he had philosophic differences with the church. He thought the Baptists should be able to profess any belief that they chose, but the powers that be in the church thought that in order to be a good Baptist you had to toe the line. Over a long period of time, my father and the minister—Bob Cross was the minister at the time, if I remember correctly—had any number of discussions. It just reached a point where Dad said he couldn't countenance the so-called requirements of membership. He became completely alienated and started going to the Unitarian Church in Peterborough.

I sort of followed along. Actually I was an inactive member of the Baptist Church for a great number of years until fairly recently. A church member had a blowup with the people in the church about his sexual orientation, and I thought they did an awful thing to him. So I sent in my resignation.

Q: What were your thoughts or your feelings when it was clear to you that none of your three sons would follow you in the business?

Well, I was at first disappointed, and then I took a step back and looked at the individual talents and I concluded that they would probably drive it into the ground in six months. (Chuckle) They simply weren't cut out for it. Bill is an entrepreneur, a venture capitalist. Or he has been; just now he is busy selling annuities. He's been financially very successful. Dan, a professor at Sarah Lawrence College, is a successful performance artist.

Nate was the stage manager of the Joyce dance theater in New York City. His wife was a dancer with the Paul Taylor company, and Nate was stage manager for Paul Taylor for a number of years before he went to the Joyce. He is no longer at the Joyce. Now he's working for "Broadway Cares," a money raising organization aimed at AIDS prevention and cure and support for, particularly performers who are AIDS victims.

Nathan and Dan had been vacationing in a house across the road from us here, but Dan has bought an abandoned church he is converting into studio space closer to New York, which is going to be much more convenient. Nathan's reason for selling is strictly financial. He and his wife live in Mt. Vernon, New York. Dan lives in Manhattan on the Lower East Side

Q: I'd like to ask you a more personal question, and I shall understand if you prefer not to answer: How did Lucy's death affect you?

When Lucy died in 1979, it was gut wrenching. It was a terribly difficult time for both of us, particularly for Priscilla. She still hasn't gotten over it. I guess I'm a little more fatalistic—so onward and upward, one step ahead of the other. Yes, it was a difficult time.

Q: The Antrim Players has been an important part of your Antrim life. Dick Winslow has told me that he found you hilarious on stage.

Well, it has been important. Priscilla actually is the one that has the talent. I got lucky a couple of times and made Dick Winslow laugh. I did enjoy Antrim Players. Looking back at the number of roles that I played—probably twenty—I wonder that I had any time to run the business. The Mikado was my first real production back stage.

Q: Why did you leave Antrim?

Well, why did we leave Antrim? Number one, we had been coming to this place since 1949, and—I guess Lucy's death had something to do with it, although we were building the house before she died. Well, maybe that's an unfair statement. But, it seemed like this was the place we wanted to be. ☘

NEW IN ANTRIM INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING OUTLET

By Dotti and David Penny

As we walked around Antrim, Ireland we saw a tower with murals on all four sides of it. A great deal of work had been done to focus on the river that ran through the town. There were benches facing the river and a stage near it for entertainment. Not far from the center of town is a lovely lake, with a park on it where the townspeople obviously enjoy going during good weather. There are stories about sightings of ghosts. You could see the town was growing in leaps and bounds. Those are the similarities that we found between Antrim, NH and Antrim, Ireland when we traveled there in late October of this year with Pat and Carole Webber.

We were surprised at how large the town was and how different it was from the Antrim we know and love! Antrim, Ireland was settled at least 1,500 years ago and many of the scars and jewels of its history are visible as you walk around.

Main Street is filled with shops, an information center, a large shopping mall, and at the end of the street is the cobblestone entrance to the remains of Antrim Castle through the "Barbican Gate" built in 1818 with twin neo-Tudor towers. The family motto was "Through hard times to prosperity". The castle burned during a grand ball on October 28, 1922. Legend has it that the spirit of a young woman dressed in white, who was trapped in a tower and died shortly after she was rescued that night, haunts the surrounding woods and gardens. All that remains of the Castle today is a tower. Along side it is an outdoor stage for summer performances.

There were numerous public gardens in Antrim which were obviously impressive during the summer months but most of them had been put to bed for the winter. The Old Presbyterian Church in the center of town had been turned into a tattoo parlor and an insurance agency after a new church was built. The tiny childhood home of writer Alexander Irvine (and his 11 siblings) is preserved across the street from a city park where a memorial stands commemorating his book *My Lady of the Chimney Corner*.

One of the newest additions to Antrim is "Junction One"—described as Northern Ireland's first and only **International Outlet Shopping Center**. Somehow this com-

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FREE COMMUNITY SUPPERS

MONTHLY SCHEDULE • 5:30 PM

1st Thursday	Francetown—Community Church
2nd Thursday	Bennington—Pierce School
3rd Thursday	Antrim—First Presbyterian Church
4th Thursday	Hancock—Congregational Church Vestry

pared to our new "Antrim Market" seemed to make a statement about the size and character of the two towns.

Antrim sits beside Lough Neagh, which is the largest lake in the British Isles. It appeared that a great deal had been done to encourage entertainment and activities for the people of the area. In the park alone there was the Antrim Boat Club, a camping area, a picnic area, a go-cart track, a beach, and a bike trail.

The four of us found ourselves thinking about the two Antrims and what it was like for the settlers of Antrim, NH to leave Ireland. We came upon a sculpture erected by the Millennium Commission in 1999 in the park that had a poem by David Dudgeon inscribed on it. The poem seemed to put words to our feelings.

Down a wandering path I have traveled,
Where the setting sun lies upon the ground.
The tracks are hard and dry
Smoothened with the weather's wear.
My mind did move with them that had before me been,
Trodding down the ground a track for me to follow.
Leaving marks for others,
A sign for them to follow.



THE FANATIC FAN

AN INTERVIEW WITH BOB ALLISON

By Fred Roberts

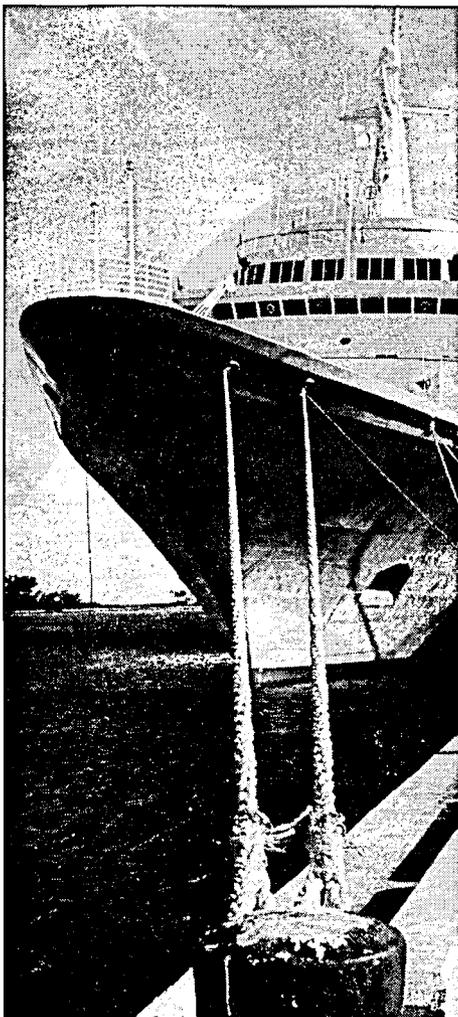
Bob Allison followed the recent Red Sox miracle run just like the rest of us, only more so. He flew to St. Louis for the final World Series game.

Bob's first visit to Fenway Park was in 1939. "A local business man, Guy Hollis, would load some of us kids into his station wagon and take us to a game now and then. My first game was a Red Sox-Yankees game. 'This Could be the Start of Something Big' went a popular song of the day. Was it ever right! Our seats were right behind home plate. Mr. Hollis must have had pull with the front office."

When Bob was in high school in the 40s, most of the boys played baseball. Amongst those on the team were Bob, George Defoe, Kenny Blood, Peanut Humphrey, Bob Dunlap and Dick Wallace. Little League started about then. Older boys and young men played in the Crooked Mountain League.

"We took our own kids to several Red Sox Family Nights when kids got in for half price. This was in the 60s and was very popular, but when Red Sox crowds started getting larger, Family Nights were discontinued."

continued on page 13



Shaped Up... and Shipped Out

Carol and Jim Volner had a dream of making a transatlantic voyage on the QE II. But after Jim's heart attack and surgery three years ago, they knew their first priority was for Jim to build-up his stamina and strength. With the help of the professional staff and outstanding fitness program at The Wellness Center, the Volners realized their dream and recently spent seven days touring London and six days crossing the Atlantic on the QE II.

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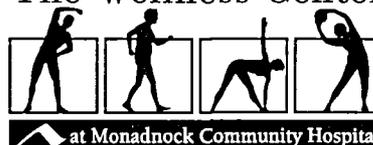
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—Carol & Jim Volner

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IN THE 50s AND 60s
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

GROWING UP IN ANTRIM

By Steve Brzozowski

Steve Brzozowski, son of Maddy and the late John Brzozowski, came to Antrim as an infant and grew up here. He graduated from the old Antrim High School in 1968 and from Syracuse University in 1972 with a major in Political Science. He presently lives in Goffstown, but works in Chelmsford, MA where he is senior buyer/planner for Rockwell Automation.

—Editor

Certain sights and sounds of the Summer holidays have stayed with me. I can still see my Dad marching in the Memorial Day parade with other World War I and World War II veterans. Dad looked both sleek and powerful but very humble in his Navy uniform as the parade moved past our house on Concord Street. The procession ended just down the road at Maplewood Cemetery. Even if we kids were not part of the parade, we would always follow the marchers into the graveyard. While we watched one bugler play 'Taps', we waited expectantly for the windy, hollow, faraway echo of another bugler, with a mute on his instrument, playing out of our sight in another part of the cemetery. Sounding almost like it came from the grave, that sad, lonely response represented so well the heartbreak and sorrow of war, the glory and honor of the just cause, the bravery of those who had served. Then, in deep summer, a different tone comes to mind. For the July 4th or Old Home Day celebrations, sometimes our big family would pile into our 1931 Model A Ford wagon. (In California the Beach Boys would call it a Woody, but in Antrim we called it the Jalopy.) That old car would putt and sputter and chug along with us kids hanging out the wide open 'windows'. The Jalopy was a joy, a family kick, a real gas (leaving a gray trail of exhaust behind) which drew adoring looks and nostalgic smiles wherever we went. But if the appearance of the Jalopy was not enough, the distinctive sound of its horn—AH OOOO GAH!!—was the icing on the cake. So summer had its wonderful sounds.

HALLOWEEN

But the fall of the year held something special for me. The smell of apples in the autumn air, the incredible colors of the maple trees, the transition to 'sweater weather', all made the Fall holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving my favorite time of year.

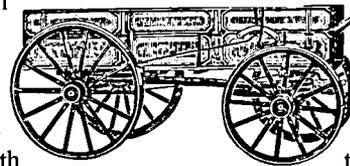
Halloween for us kids was a time for pulling the 'Halloween box' out of the attic and seeing what old clothes could become new costumes for this year. The favorite fallback for the boys, my brothers Bob and Dick and me, was to dress up as a hobo. We used the word 'bum' in those days because the phrase 'politically incorrect' was not in the Fifties lexicon. (We were also familiar with 'bum' because one of our favorite piano rolls that we pumped out on our Grandmother's player piano was the Depression-era anthem 'Hallelujah, I'm a Bum'.) Being a bum for Halloween was easy. You would dress up in old, torn pants and shirt, and top it off with a worn out, oversize suit coat. Maybe an old beat up hat would fit on your head. Then Mom would char the end of a cork with a match and apply it around your mouth to create an unshaved look. This punctuated the costume with depravity and a small degree of menace, and made being a bum for Halloween more than just walking around in old clothes.

Halloween was always celebrated October 31st, with trick or treating at night. Kids would be seen walking in the dark down Main Street, across Jameson and Highland Avenues, up North Main, all around town. The morning after Halloween, it was fun to see what had happened upstreet the night before. Maybe store windows would be soaped or written on, or ribbons of toilet paper would be blowing festively in the branches of Elm trees. I remember being very impressed one year, walking to elementary school, to see that someone had clipped a bicycle to the rope of the school flagpole and then had raised the bike to the top of the pole. I thought that was about the most ingenious and funny idea, to see a bike at the top of the flagpole! ('I pledge allegiance to the bicycle, and to the fractured sense of humor for which it stands.')

I also really got a kick out of the old small-town, farm-country prank of parking a hay wagon on the Baptist Church lawn. An old, big wheeled, wooden wagon would invariably appear there the morning after Halloween. As if by magic, it sat calm and peaceful by the Civil War statue, incongruous, off the farm, in that downtown setting. But that's why it was such a great trick: like the high flying bicycle, it was dramatically out of place. So unlike every day, not the usual sights, these scenes after Halloween were out of whack, our everyday town tipped just a little to the side. We never knew who performed these acts of humor and fun (with a

rebellious streak); we just knew it was an Antrim tradition.

As teenagers, a group of about ten of us in two cars (some of you may also recall) were 'boony' riding the back roads up near Merrill's farm and decided it was our turn to step up and provide the Halloween entertainment. We found a wagon in a field, and assigned two guys to sit in the car trunk and hold the wagon handle so we could haul it downtown and park it on the church lawn. We would laugh out loud the next day at our display of genius. The plan was for one car to ride in front as 'shotgun' for the wagon-toting car, keeping an eye out for any interference. But just as we were hauling the wagon out of the field and trying to negotiate it over a stone wall separating the hay field from the road, two headlights approached coming fast down the road towards us. The white lights were then joined by two



blue lights spinning round and round on the roof of the town police cruiser. We froze. Our 'shotgun' vehicle moved without lights down the road and off the scene. The police car stopped and Officer Bob Flanders got out, walked up to us merry pranksters and politely but firmly asked what we had in mind. We mumbled something about 'just out for some air' and waited for the verdict. He shone his flashlight inside the car to see who else was involved, told us to put the wagon back where it belonged and go home. We complied without resistance, but puzzled afterwards how he could have possibly known that something was going on, how he could arrive on the scene with such perfect timing, and whether he had somehow been tipped off to our scheme. For some of us it was the first time we had been stopped by the cops, and we were happy that the incident went undocumented and unremarked. At the same time, it was thrilling to live a little on the edge. We needed to fracture reality just a tad, tip it to the side, and celebrate our small town traditions.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving was family time, a reason to overeat, to watch football, and to get together with friends. But the most memorable sensory overloads were special times I spent with my Dad. On a designated weekend evening before Thanksgiving, Dad would bring me with him to Hillsboro to play the turkey raffles. You have to picture this scene: I'm a ten year old kid, walking into the Hillsboro Moose Club, the Legion Hall, and

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the Fire Station with my Dad on a cold November night. Even on the street, I can hear the sounds of the gaming, gambling crowd. The air is brisk so you can see your breath, and we hurry to the door. Inside, the room is dark and smoky, with the sound of the raffle wheel spinning and clattering and clacking in the background. Players line up at a low counter separating them from the wheel. Beside the big wheel on the wall are a dozen slaughtered turkeys hanging from their feet. The birds are 'dressed' country style, plucked but not drawn, with the head still there and the eyes staring down at the floor. Dad lays down a quarter and is handed a paddle with 4 numbers written on it. The wheel goes round and round, then slows and stops on a number. The lucky winner gets his choice of a turkey, a bottle of whiskey, or \$5 cash. The ice is clinking in highball glasses, the drinks are flowing freely, and I'm just soaking up this offbeat sinister scene. I feel that this was about as deep and dark and dangerous as it got in our neck of the woods. Dad knows everybody, either from work at Sylvania or growing up in town. Everybody calls him 'Ski' or 'Johnny'. I'm there with him, hanging real close. By the time we head home after making the rounds, we have won at least two turkeys and some other prizes Dad won't mention to Mom. As we trudge up the front walk in the dark, I can see Mom's silhouette in the picture window, looking out at us. I can't see her face but I can tell she's smiling. ☘

Bob owns several Red Sox T-shirts. During the recent playoffs with the Yankees, he started wearing a different one for each game. No luck: the Sox lost the first three games. But then they won the 4th game and thereafter Bob kept wearing the winning shirt—and it worked, right on through the World Series. He was also careful to keep score using the same pencil for each game. Nothing could change—same T-shirt, not washed, same pencil, not sharpened. "I'm not superstitious, BUT..."

Bob's son Michael lives in St. Louis and has two season tickets for the St. Louis Cardinals. This made him eligible to buy World Series tickets, so he invited his dad to join him for the games there. "So I packed my dirty T-shirt and dull, worn pencil. Mike met me at the airport and I had on my Red Sox jacket. A TV reporter wearing a Dartmouth T-shirt wanted to interview a Red Sox fan—so he interviewed me.

"Our seats were with St. Louis fans. When Johnny Damon hit a 3rd pitch home run, of course I cheered. The St. Louis people ribbed me, but it was good natured.

"After the game, we stayed an hour and a half just watching the Red Sox players celebrate on the field. As we were leaving, they passed by holding the World Series trophy. I still don't believe it!" ☘

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PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Celeste Lunetta

COMPUTER DONATION.

The Recreation Department was thrilled to receive a Dell Desktop computer, a donation from Innovative Natural Resource Solution. This was extremely timely, as the department's laptop computer has suffered a harddrive failure in August. Innovative Natural's owner, Charles Levesque, became aware of the sad situation at soccer registration and responded immediately with his company's kind offer. The recreation department is now back up and online with a computer—a huge asset to the operation and the growing programs. Thanks very much to Charles Levesque and Innovative Natural Resource Solutions.

FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS: SOCCER

The Antrim Youth Soccer season 2004 wrapped up play in the end of October. Thus year, 158 local youth registered and participated in the program. One team joined in a regional tournament, and had a very successful time! The soccer program is made possible through the efforts of numerous volunteers, who help set up and maintain fields, coach the players, and assist in managing the teams. The program is also successful because of the cooperation of area recreation departments and towns, who cooperate, with the use of their fields for the program.

The recreation department would like to thank the folks who have volunteered, some for the fourth year in a row(!): Charles Levesque, Peter Lamb, Paula Clough, Sean Lowe, Brian Murphy, Lisa Cochran, Shelly Gardner, Kim Stearns, Janet Paige, Cathy Gombas, John Kullgren, Cindy Norton, Dominic and Michelle Ricco, Dennis Green, Michael Reynolds, Peter Gilmore, Jim Mitchell and Matt Crebbin. Also, a thanks to David Boule and Antrim Lumber for helping us transport goals!

TRIP TO BOSTON

On Columbus Day weekend, recreation organized a trip to Blue Man Group in Boston. This trip went well, with a surprise walking tour of the theater district, and a preshow lunch at the Hard Rock Café. A bus trip to Foxwoods Casino on the weekend of October 23 was also fun for all the participants. The recreation department is always trying to plan family and adult trips/events, so stay tuned to the new town webpage or stop by

the Town Hall to keep abreast of our current program offerings.

SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

The recreation department has organized a ski and snowboard club. Club members, who number 67, purchased season passes or multiple day tickets for Crotched Mountain Ski Area. Through the funds raised, we were able to provide 4 partial scholarships for local youth. The club will be planning one or two bus trips to other ski areas in the state, and while season pass opportunities are not available through the club anymore, anyone is welcome to join in a trip.

The Friends of Recreation held a Halloween Dance for youth in grades 5 & 6. This was a fun event, with many of the kids dressing in costume for an evening of music, dancing and, of course, candy.

BASKETBALL

Youth Basketball is now underway, with nearly 100 local youth participating in programs for ages 1st through 8th grade. We could use some additional help with coaching these young players ~ if anyone out there wants to dust off their gym shoes...contact Celeste at 588-3121.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

For information or to register for any of these programs, please call 588-3121, or email antrimparks&rec@tds.net.

Weekly ongoing adult programs:
Pilates ~ Thursdays- 6:45 ; Volleyball~ Thursdays 7-9; Basketball~ Sunday Nights

DECEMBER

Friday December 3rd: Family Fun Night- Free open gym and holiday crafts at Antrim Town Gym, 6-8:30 pm

Sunday December 5th: Crafts for giving: Natural Birdfeeders, Candle decorating, bead ornaments and window stars. Noon-4 PM. Tree Lighting, Visit with Santa 4 PM Town Hall

Monday December 6th: Trip to Christmas Tree Shops in Nashua NH. 8:30-12:30. \$5.00 per person.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Recreation Office Closed for holidays- December 24 through January 2.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY:

- Starting in January: details to be announced, early morning indoor walking club at Antrim Elementary School from 7-8 am. Club will last through March. Call for more information.

- Starting January 4th: every Tuesday till April from 9:30-11:30, Toddler Playground

at Town Hall (upstairs). Open space with mats for clambering, running and tumbling, music for children birth through 3 years old. (Please respect our age guidelines...this program is for children UNDER 4 years old. Thanks in advance...) Call to find out more.

Friday January 7: Family Fun Night at Town Gym: Free family activities, games and crafts, 6-8:30.

Friday January 28th: Field trip to Crotched Mountain Ski Area. 9 am-3 PM. \$25 includes lift ticket, group lesson, rentals and lunch! Kids in grades 4, 5 and 6 are an unbelievable \$15.00! Bus transportation between Antrim and ski area may be scheduled for an additional fee.

Friday February 4: Family Fun Night at Town Gym: Free family activities, games and crafts, 6-8:30.

Saturday February 19: Fire and Ice Winter Festival: Ice fishing, chili cook off, winter nature walk, snow sculpture contests, ice hockey etc. Volunteers are needed for this annual event. Please call 588-3121.

Wednesday February 23: Ski Trip to Cannon Mountain: Stay tuned...details to be announced!

For information about any recreation programs, please call 588-3121 or email antrimparks&rec@tds.net. ☿

My Kitchen Window continued

you can see it plainly as you drive by. Until I read this biography, I didn't know what the foundation had been for.

Grace and Bert had six children, Isabelle, Marion, Mary, Alice, Enoch and Austin. Only Alice and Austin lived to adulthood and as I read this I could better understand her welcoming warmth to visits of neighborhood children. Austin is Connie's Dad and Alice (Newhall) became a very close friend of my paternal aunt, Kate Brooks.

Alice and Austin were raised in my little house as Enoch (Bert's Dad mentioned above) had moved down to "the village" and built the yellow Victorian house that stands across from the Baptist Church, which of course is still there, still yellow, and continues to be occupied by young families. Many of you will remember Arlene (Paige) and Sam White moving from Clinton Village to occupy that same yellow house.

During the time that Grace and Bert were living here, Great Brook was called Meadow Brook and of course the brook continues to run into what I knew as a kid as "Mertie's Meadow", owned by Mertie Brooks (Mescilbrooks Farm) a cousin of my Dad

 continued next page

My Kitchen Window continued

and now owned by my neighbors, Bill and Marcianne Harris. To get back...Austin and Alice grew up here and at the age of 71, their dad, Bert died of "blood poisoning" in 1936 (my Dad was a bearer at Bert's funeral) leaving Grace alone as Austin had married Helen Rokes and Alice had married Henry Newhall. Connie speaks of visiting her grandmother often with her parents, Austin and Helen, and of family gatherings here. Wonderful memories.

After the death of Bert, the family tried to have Grace move in with other relatives but she declined, wanting to stay here in the house on the bank of the brook. I can fully appreciate that. I also know now (thanks to Connie) that the white hydrangea, the lily of the valley and the lilacs are original to when Grace was here. The apple tree she speaks of is long gone but I am thinking of planting one in the spring.

Grace weathered the hurricane of 1938 but lost the big barn, the summer kitchen and

the privy during the night. This wonderful old lady had only wood heat, getting up to feed the stove during cold nights. She used an ice box until there was no one who still delivered ice. At the age of 93 she would be out shoveling snow from around her mail box so as not to trouble Everett Davis the mail man. Grace died peacefully in her sleep on January 11, 1964, and is buried with her husband Bert and the four children that she lost. The lot is on the back side of the hill in Maplewood Cemetery and I am going there to have a visit.

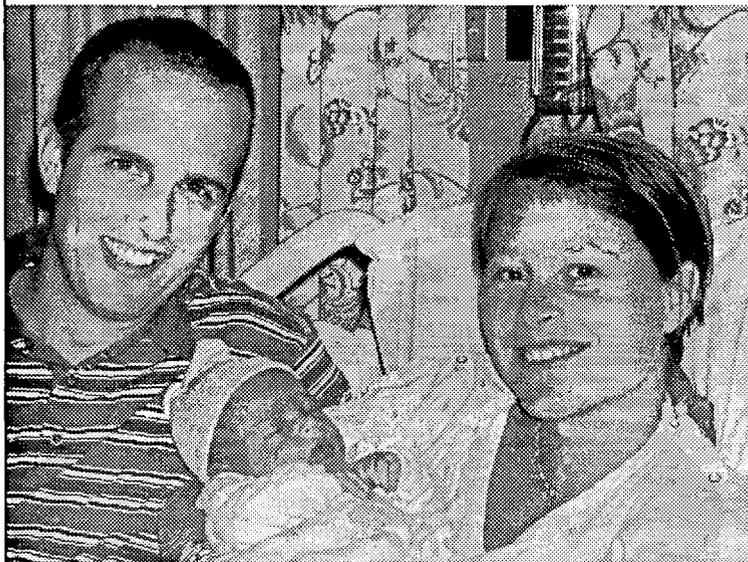
I hope I can live here as long as she did and continue her legacy of strength and kindness. My furnace clicks on and keeps me warm, the telephone keeps me connected with my family and friends and only once in a while do I lose power. This little house gives me strength and serenity and I understand, even more now, of the feeling of being glad to come home. Grace is there to open the door for me. Thank you Connie, for sharing. ☘

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Demand for land and housing in Antrim is beginning to match demands which have already threatened the character of many NH town, especially to our south and east. Over the past year, Antrim had 114 property transfers which includes 77 building permits and sales of land increased 66%!

In response to this, the Antrim Selectmen have established an Open Space Needs Committee "To explore ways to preserve and enhance our open spaces...to protect the character of Antrim into the future." Committee members include Ben Pratt, selectman; Bob Edwards, Planning Board member; Melissa Chapman and Rod Zwirner from the Conservation Commission; Marshall Gale from Fire and Ambulance; Eric Tenney from the Water and Sewer Commission—as well as at-large members Charles Levesque, Linda Bundy, Gil Geiz and Bill Harris. A member will also be appointed to represent the Parks and Recreation group. ☘

We'll Always Remember...



Wes and Kate (Cummings) Maggs
with newborn son, Fletcher

"There was never any doubt in our minds that we would have our first baby at Monadnock Community Hospital. Fletcher is the fourth generation of my family to be cared for by the loving and professional maternity staff. From the very beginning of my pregnancy right through the delivery and post partum visits... everyone at the hospital was extremely helpful and incredibly wonderful.

I'll never forget Room 105 where Fletcher was born... it was so homey and had all of the amenities. My nurses, Marian, Emma & Trish, were *like angels*... you feel like they are your best friends and the care is amazing. Even after I left the hospital, they said to call them anytime day or night with questions. And Dr. Levene was very supportive and by my side for a lot of my labor. If I lived as far away as Massachusetts, I'd come to MCH to have another baby....I don't think you could get better care at any other hospital."

—Kate (Cummings) Maggs

Call Pat O'Connell at 924-7191, ext 4174 for more information or to schedule a tour.

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NEWS ABOUT TOWN



IN THE GREAT BROOK AREA GIRL SCOUTING

By Jeana White

Girl Scouting is growing strong in the Great Brook area. Our combined Girl Scout community of Antrim, Bennington, Hancock and Frankestown now has close to 100 girls and 30 registered adults. We are proud to have 10 active troops, with girls from ages 5 to 17 participating.

This amazing group of girls and women has had a busy fall!

Our older girls have participated in several council-wide events, learning more about planning community service projects and just having fun with scouts from throughout the state. Several of our Senior scouts are working toward their Gold awards, similar to the Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts.

In addition to their regular meetings, troops have been involved in many special activities. We have been to the circus, taken an overnight bicycle trip, visited Shaker Village, munched popcorn at sleepovers, made beautiful Get Out the Vote signs, hosted a Medieval feast, made scarecrows at our Fall Fest and treasured gifts at our Holiday Fair.

Scouting has changed over the years: fewer uniforms, no clean-nail checks, not many Brownie beanies or knee socks. But many of the essential elements of scouting have stayed the same. We are still always looking for ways to learn, to grow and to make the world a better place.

If you know someone who would like to learn more about scouting in Antrim, please contact Jeana White at 588-3014 or jeanawhite@comcast.net. ☿

SENIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1367

By Sharon Dowling

The year has started well for the Senior Scouts—with a first meeting at Brady's in Peterborough after school in late September (yummy appetizers!) the scouts decided on a tentative schedule. We will meet alternate Thursdays at the First Presbyterian Church,

from 5-6:30 PM. To accommodate the many conflicts in the girls' (and leaders') busy lives, we have incorporated planning and fixing a communal dinner into the meeting. So far this has proven to be very successful. Good food and good company always go well together.

The Seniors participated in the Fall Product sale this year for the first time. Thank you to all who purchased goodies! The profits from this sale, as well as the traditional cookie sale that begins in January, will be going to fund an ambitious trip to Nantucket next summer. The scouts will be busy with plans for that trip as the year progresses.

The entire Service Unit will have been involved in the second Holiday Workshop in November, where the older scouts help the younger ones create and wrap gifts. This was a great success the first time, and we expect success to repeat itself.

In December the Seniors will share dinner, hold their Bridging/Rededication and Awards ceremony, as well as have fun with their "Secret Santas" exchange. Decisions about community service projects, and other interest patch activities will be made soon. Many of the girls have expressed an interest in pursuing their Gold Award—the Girl Scout equivalent to the better known "Eagle Scout Award" in Boy Scouting. It will be a challenge to fit the commitment necessary for that into already busy days.

Registration for Girl Scouts is ongoing. Any questions about joining, about the program in general, or about a desire to volunteer or make contributions can be directed to Sharon Dowling at 588-3459 or Jeana White at 588-3014. Thank you for your support! ☿

THE NURSE IS IN

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services offers a FREE clinic at Antrim Village on Tuesday December 22 from 12 NOON to 1 PM. No appointment is necessary. Have your blood pressure checked. Ask our registered nurse about cholesterol, high blood pressure, and other health concerns. The nurse will answer your questions or refer you to your local health professional. For more information, call Working for Wellness at HCS at 352-2253 or 800-541-4145 or visit our website at: www.hcsservices.org. ☿

ANTRIM BOY SCOUTS

By Brian Beihl

HOLIDAY WREATHS

Antrim's Boy Scout Troop 2 is conducting its annual wreath sale fund raiser through Christmas, with proceeds going helping to pay for camp for the troop's 15 Scouts. The troop sells a 10-inch balsam wreath at \$12.00, a 14-inch at \$15.00 or an 18-inch at \$20.00, all with a red bow. Over 100 orders were taken on election day for delivery after Thanksgiving, but wreaths are still available for purchase. Call 588-3014 and leave your name and number, and a Scout will call you back to take your order. Troop 2 will also have wreaths available at Hilltop Tree Farm on Norway Hill in Hancock.

SEEKING DONATIONS OF CANOES AND KAYAKS

Have an old canoe or kayak you haven't used for years? Maybe it needs a few repairs? Give it new life by making a tax-deductible donation of your boat to Troop 2. Your donation will be appreciated for years to come! Contact Brian Beihl, Troop 2 committee vice chair at 588-3014.

FALL & WINTER ACTIVITIES

Troop 2 activities this fall have included a weekend at Hermit Island, Maine, the Antrim Harvest Festival parade, the Monadnock District's camporee at Old Fort #4 in Charlestown, a campout in Antrim, and the Scouting for Food campaign, collecting food for local food banks. Activities this winter will include snowshoeing, winter camping, indoor rock climbing and the district Klondike Derby.

JOINING TROOP 2

Boys 11-18 interested in joining Troop 2 are encouraged to contact Brian Beihl at 588-3014, or attend a weekly meeting at the American Legion/Odd Fellows hall at 6:30 each Wednesday. Troop 2, one of the oldest BSA troops in New Hampshire, currently serves boys from Antrim, Bennington, Greenfield, Hancock and Washington. More details about the troop can be found on its website: <http://troops.scouter.com/nh/troop2nh/>. ☿



ANTRIM GRANGE

By Beth Merrill

HOUSE DECORATING

Antrim Grange is looking to brighten up the community with its second annual Decorate Your House Contest. Residents of Antrim and Bennington are invited to participate by trimming doorways, dooryards, driveways, walkways, trees, shrubs, etc. with holiday decorations. Grange members will judge entries the evening of December 15th, so good lighting is important, but excessive lighting is not necessarily preferred. The cost is only your time. To enter, please call Gloria Davis, by December 13th, at 588-3208 with your name, phone number, and physical location of your home. Friends and neighbors can nominate each other, as well. Gift certificates to a local business will be awarded to the winners.

COOKBOOKS

Anyone who knows anything about Grange ladies knows that these women know how to cook. Offered in time for Christmas is the latest edition of Grange cookbooks, *What's Cookin' In The Grange?* A compilation of recipes from Grangers all across the nation, including one from Antrim Grange member, Beth Merrill, these cookbooks are available for \$7 by calling Liz Robertson at 588-2562.

12TH NIGHT PARTY

The annual Twelfth Night Party, previously hosted by Old Pound Road School, will be held on January 8th at 7 PM at the Grange Hall. For a good, old-fashioned night of family fun, make plans to join in the traditional festivities of folk dancing and singing, entertaining performances, feasting on refreshments, and the like. Who knows—maybe you will find the lucky bean in your piece of Twelfth Night cake and become king or queen for the evening? If you have a talent that you would like to share, or would just like to spend time with other community members, please do come and join us, but remember to dress warmly and comfortably, as the hall is heated only by a wood stove. Admission is a non-perishable food item, which will be donated to the local food pantry (a cash donation is equally acceptable). Anyone planning to perform is respectfully asked to reserve space on the program by January 4th by calling Beth Merrill at 588-6615. This is also the number to contact for further information or in case of inclement weather.

NEWS BITS

Election of officers was held at the annual session of the NH State Grange, at which time Beth Merrill was re-elected to serve as Overseer (Vice President) for the next two years. Arthur Merrill continues his term as chairman of the Executive Committee. Gloria Davis will continue her work as a member of the Membership and Promotions Committee.

Antrim Grange Secretary, Eliot Davis, represented the New England region at the recent 2004 National Grange session in Rochester, NY when he presented his award-winning speech "English 101". Antrim Grange is proud of the accomplishments of all its youth members. ☞



Gleanings continued

a bridge would require less excavation, be cheaper, and look considerably better.

The Selectmen and Town Administrator Bill Prokop approved this suggestion, and they contacted the company that made the pre-fabricated Hancock bridge, apparently a successful company because they were so backed up on orders they couldn't deliver our bridge until January.

As everybody knows, Antrim in January is a bad time to be building anything involving water. So, reluctantly, the Selectmen and Bill decided the safest, most practical, and least expensive time to construct a new bridge would be next spring. Included in the project will be that water main as well as much needed new sidewalks and curbs, new drainage and catch basins, and total resurfacing. They have written a thoughtful letter to us residents inconvenienced by Summer Street's closure, explaining the delay, and with apology.

As Ben told me, throughout the whole process they made decision after decision that were reasonable and appropriate at the time, but which took too much time. They didn't know what they didn't know, but if they ever have to do it again, they'll be ready. ☞

Survey continued

What is your biggest concern for Antrim? The biggest concern is clearly growth, closely followed by and linked to taxes. Many respondents expressed the fear that we will lose our small town appeal and the beauty of our landscape if we allow "uncontrolled" growth to occur. Other concerns included conservation, our school system, and the improvement of the downtown area.

Are you interested in serving? We were very pleased that 33 of those answering the survey expressed an interest in serving on a Board or Committee. We hope that all our citizens will consider serving our Town. Vacancies are publicized in the local papers and will be listed on the new Town Website, or you may call the Town Administrator to inquire about a vacancy.

How can the Town Offices better serve your needs? The majority of the answers were more hours, weekend hours, better communication, keep taxes as low as we can, and improve the zoning laws to keep growth managed. Again, we are looking at each of these responses very carefully to see how we can better serve your needs.

Finally, what comments or suggestions do you have? The same concerns were reiterated here: control taxes, manage growth, work on revitalizing downtown, etc. The comment from one respondent that we'd like to end our review with is one that sums up what came through is so many of the surveys, as our citizens so thoughtfully expressed their concern for our Town and its future: "I love this Town."

Thanks again for your comments. ☞



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TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

By Melissa Lawless

PROGRAMS

- Sat Dec 11th *Patron Appreciation Day*
- Fri Feb 25th *Pet Read In*

HOLIDAY GIFT BASKET RAFFLE

We encourage all chocoholics to stop by the library and purchase raffle tickets for our fabulous gift basket filled with a yummy assortment of rich and premium Ghirardelli chocolate: milk chocolate drops and nonpareils in matching Ghirardelli tins, milk chocolate squares and a milk chocolate bar, mint chocolate drops, milk chocolate with almonds, Ghirardelli coffee, double chocolate hot cocoa, a mint chocolate bar. Mauna Loa chocolate covered macadamia nuts and a candy dish and other chocolate theme items such as candles, soap, and books have been incorporated into this lovely basket which will be raffled off in time for gift giving during the holidays.

PATRON APPRECIATION DAY

In an effort to thank you all for your support throughout the year, we have set aside one day to schmooze, eat, drink, and be merry! Stop by and visit with us on Saturday, December 11th as we kick off the holidays with treats for our patrons.

STAFF CHANGES

After many, many years of service as our library clerk, Maura Pascucci has moved on to bigger and better things. Having sold her house in Antrim, she is in the process of building a new home in Dublin with her husband and enjoying time with her very young grandchildren. We are grateful for all of Maura's hard work and dedication throughout the years, and we are excited about her new adventures. Her cheerful personality and attention to detail will truly be missed.

We welcome the addition of Emily La Pierre, who has joined our staff as library clerk. Formerly a student at Plymouth State College, Emily grew up in Denver, Colorado and now lives in Peterborough. She brings to us her enthusiasm, her love for books, and a certain flexibility which lends itself to our ever changing system in an overcrowded library. You can look forward to meeting Emily as she grows accustomed to the world of small town libraries, (especially one still in the process of automation).

BOOK DROP REMINDER

Winter is coming and with it comes messy weather and frigid temperatures! Please, please, please remember not to put videos, DVDs, CDs, and audiotapes in the outdoor book drop; use our front book drop for those items. The cold will damage not only the audiovisual materials, but the expensive cases as well. Your help will go a long way toward preserving our collection.

NEW FICTION

Maeve Binchy *Nights of Rain and Stars*; Chris Bohjalian *Before You Know Kindness*; Barbara Delinsky *The Summer I Dared*; Carl Hiaasen *Skinny Dip*; Iris Johansen *Blind Alley*; Au Niffenegger *The Time Traveler's Wife*.

MYSTERY

Margaret Coel *Killing Raven*; Deborah Crombie *In a Dark House*; Archer Mayor *The Surrogate Thief*; Robin Paige *Death at Epsom Downs*.

SCIENCE FICTION

Marion Zimmer Bradley *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Ancestor's of Ava*; Susanna Clarke *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*.

NON-FICTION

Jan Karon *Jan Karon's Mitford Cookbook & Kitchen Reader*; Gary Paulsen *Winterdance*.

NEW VIDEOS & DVDs

Inspector Lynley Mysteries; *Prime Suspect: Inner Circles*; *Prime Suspect: Lost Child*; *Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen*; *Hildago*; *Fahrenheit 9/11*; *The Passion of the Christ*; *Prime Suspect 2*; *The Prince and Me*; *Van Helsing*.

E-MAIL

Our thanks to Comcast for providing free broadband internet and e-mail service to the library. Renew your books (title, author, due date), request books, ask questions of our knowledgeable staff. Our address is:

tuttlelib@comcast.net



NEW MEMBER SCHOOL BOARD

By Janet MacLachlan

With the resignation of Denise Holmes from the Conval School Board, Antrim was missing one of its two representatives. Fortunately, William McKinnon of Bridle Path Road, stepped forward, volunteered and was approved by the School Board to serve out the remainder of Denise's term which ends in March 2005. Bill and his wife Su have lived in town for 20 years, raising four sons and two daughters in that time and sending them all through the Conval school system. Five of their children have graduated and one son is still in high school. This gives Bill a great deal of insight and experience on how the schools educate our children.

As a software engineer, which Bill says is a problem-solving type of job, he brings that skill to his new responsibility. He sees this as an opportunity to be of service to Antrim and hopes that people in town will feel free to call him at home, 588-3752, if there are matters they would like to bring to the attention of the school board. The board meetings are open to the public and are held twice a month at either the SAU office behind South Meadow School in Peterborough or at one of the other town schools such as Great Brook School in Antrim. Call the Office of the Superintendent at the SAU office or Bill for time and location of the meetings.

In an effort to become more familiar with the workings of the school board, Bill has been attending some of its various committees on education, communications, budget, extra-curricular activities, etc. He is finding it very interesting and plans to seek to be elected to the board when election time comes around in March. He feels he has the time and dedication at this point in his life to take on this new venture and do the best he can.

The Conval school policies are now available on line at: www.conval.edu. All town libraries have computers where anyone can look up this information. Having this information on line not only makes it very accessible but also means it can be updated when changes or amendments are made. ☞

THE MONADNOCK PAPER MILLS

The paper on which this *Limrik* is printed has been generously donated by The Monadnock Paper Mills.

✝ **CHURCH NEWS** ✝

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
588-2209

Rev. Peggi Kephart Boyce

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

(nursery available for 4-year olds and under)

Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

Youth Ministry 11:30 AM

Communion every Sunday of Advent

AA Meetings on Sundays at 7:00 PM

Spectrum Art Association meets
Thursday mornings 9:30-12 NOON

- **Dec 10 at 6 PM and Dec 11 at 10 AM**
Youth Lock-In Theme is Christmas traditions
- **Dec 19** *Children's Christmas Program* during worship service
- **Dec 24 6:30 PM** *Christmas Eve Service*
- **Feb 19 5-6:30 PM** *Washington's Birthday Dinner* Turkey Pie with biscuits and all the fixings. Adults-\$7; ages 6-12-\$5; under 6 years-free.

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Pastor Charles V. Boucher
Cherryl Boucher, Associate Pastor

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday School (preschool-8th) at 10:30 AM

- **Dec 12 10:30 AM** *Christmas Pageant*
- **Dec 19 7 PM** *Christmas Musical "Joy in This Place"*
- **Dec 24 7 PM** *Christmas Eve Service*

SAINT PATRICK CHURCH
588-2180

Rev. Richard A. Smith

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:15 PM

Sunday 8 & 10:30 AM

Mon-Fri 7:30 AM

- **Dec 24** *Christmas Eve Family Mass* 5 PM and 7 PM
 - **Dec 25** *Christmas Day Mass* 9 AM
- Penance 1/2 hour before all weekend masses and by request.



UPCOMING WARRANT ARTICLE

**RELEASE OF
LEONARD PELTIER**

By Shelley Nelkens

On Thursday, February 17th, discussions led by Amnesty's Domestic Director, Ben Jealous, and Barry Bachrach, Esq. will be hosted at 7 PM at Antrim's Baptist Church. An additional discussion in February will be scheduled, TBA. Refreshments will be served.

The evening's topic revolves around a major lawsuit filed on September 2, 2004 in Washington, DC, in which Leonard Peltier and Yorie Von Kohl claim that the U.S. Department of Justice illegally extended their prison sentences for more than a decade, despite undisputed evidence of misconduct by the US government in each of these controversial cases.

This is an excellent opportunity to share reasons for supporting or not supporting a warrant article at Antrim's Town Meeting in March 2005, calling for the immediate release of Leonard Peltier, American Indian Movement leader.

For more information contact Shelley Nelkens at 588-2916 or Barry Bachrach, Esq. at 508-926-3403, e-mail: bbachrach@bowditch.com. Information about Leonard Peltier is available on the website: www.info@leonardpeltier.org. ☞

CENS

COMMUNITY EDUCATION NETWORK AND SUPPORT

By Sharon Dowling

CENS has made the decision to change monthly meeting dates to the 2nd (instead of the 1st) Tuesdays of each month, in order to not be in conflict with already established School Board meeting nights. CENS will continue to hold meetings at The Grapevine, located behind the Tuttle Library, at 7 PM. Additional meetings, workshops, or training sessions will be announced as necessary.

Currently CENS is attempting to discover and understand the policies and procedures governing the issues of bullying and harassment. The state and federal governments are weighing in on these issues, and the school district needs to address them. CENS is encouraging the community to get involved, even if only to contact your local school board rep, or a member of CENS, with concerns, questions or suggestions. Those can then be passed on to the Board.

Representatives from CENS were pleased to attend the October meeting of the GBS-

PAC, under the new direction of President Michelle Ricco. In several areas the two groups are in "parallel process", and hope to do some programs jointly. Since CENS is constantly in "information gathering mode" so as to better provide assistance to those parents and community members with questions and concerns about our local schools, it is gratifying to know that middle school families have a great resource in Michelle, and the new focus of its Parent Advisory Council. If you have a child at Great Brook School, you should check out the Pac's monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. You'll be glad you did!

And if you have a child at AES—what a wonderful new principal can be found in the front office! Deb Lesure comes to the position with lots of enthusiasm, an impressive background in teaching reading to all styles of learners, and the dedication necessary to make a huge difference to her students. She

expressed to me her strong belief in the basic skills that are necessary in the earliest school years, in order to avoid the expensive, and often not successful, remedial attempts later on. Deb described her teaching style as "eclectic"—pulling from many approaches in order to find what works for different individuals. If you are seeing your young student struggling, you need to ask questions and express those concerns. CENS encourages all parents to get involved with their children's schoolwork and classes—no one knows your child as well as you, and your input and additional help can have an amazing impact on the success your child will experience, in school and out.

Anyone wishing to contact CENS can call toll free to 517-0957 and leave a message. Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, at 7 PM. All are welcome to attend! ☞

GREAT BROOK SCHOOL NEWS

By the Great Brook Staff and Students

WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT

The GBS band and choral groups will perform on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:30 PM in the GBS gymnasium. Students have worked diligently with teachers Marge Moran and Jahna Moncrief. It will be a great show! We hope you can join us.

HOME OF THE WORLD'S WORST WEATHER

Our sixth graders—all 110 of them—traveled to Pinkham Notch during the week of November 1 to study and experience the weather around Mt. Washington. The Northeast's highest peak supplied the kind of weather for which it is famous. In 24 hours the weather ranged from crystal clear to crystalline snowflakes 4 inches deep!

Teachers led groups of students and chaperoned outdoor educational activities during the daylight hours. After dark, all enjoyed a rousing game of "vampire tag," then off to sleep at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Joe Dodge Lodge.

The next day, the groups visited the Mt. Washington Center in North Conway to learn about what makes the "worst weather in the world." This included a question and answer session via videophone with weather observers on the summit. Other exhibits at the museum helped students understand the forces that make weather.

Back at school, students reflected on their experience in an image-writing exercise. The following are a few impressions of the trip.

"The waterfall rumbles as it plummets to the pond. The pond overflows into the rushing stream. The bulky rocks form the land around them. The rocks being eroded every second by the never-ending flow of the waterfall."
— Drew Sullivan

"I walk along the trail, crisp air filling my lungs with every step. The trail splits, one way goes off a sloping dirt trail, the other up natural rock steps. I take the steps, my breath coming in shorter gasps as my legs try to keep up with my mind..."
— Audrey Wood

"... In the forest, it becomes silent and the leaf-covered ground crunches under my feet. The bare trees get pushed by the wind. As the wind blows, I feel a chill through my bones."
— Chris Hardwick

For these sixth graders, their teachers and chaperones, this was an opportunity to ex-

perience first-hand New Hampshire wilderness and the wild weather found only around Mt. Washington.

RAPTOR-IFIC TRIP

By Daniel Hendrick, grade 5 student

The students in the fifth grade at Great Brook School have been learning about raptors and the way they live. We took a trip to VINS, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. While we were there we learned about some of the raptors that had been hurt and cannot live in the wild. We each had a raptor to study, and we saw our raptor there. They presented a bird show with some of their injured birds. Some of them could fly, and some could not. At the end of the show they answered some of our questions. We learned new facts about raptors. Did you know that the peregrine falcon is the fastest-flying bird in the world? It can go 200 miles per hour when it is diving. If you want to know more about raptors, just ask a fifth grader.

GBS BRICKATS TAKE FIRST PLACE

The GBS Brickats and TechnoTurtles participated in the Keene Jamboree Robotics competition on Saturday, October 30th. The Brickats, our grade 5/6 team, took first place! The Techno Turtles, our 7/8 grade team, placed third! What a tremendous effort for our first ever robotics teams! We thank Beth & Ray Wallace and Ms. Frost for their efforts as well.

LA CLASE DE ESPANOL

Spanish classes in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are producing children's books for the Latin American Center in Manchester, NH. Eileen Phinney from Uruguay, visited our students on November 19th and talked to them about life in this foreign country. She spoke about how children's books reflect their culture and about where, and by whom our books will be read once we publish them.

\$5000 GRANT

GBS received a \$5000 grant for the education outreach program, Saving the Leatherback Turtle.

Did you know that Leatherbacks live all around the world? Their migrations cover entire ocean basins. Adult leatherbacks have been known to dive up to 4,922 feet deep. The largest leatherback found was 9.5 feet long and weighed almost 2000 pounds. They are the only sea turtle that can swim in the colder waters of the Atlantic coast to feed on their favorite food, jellyfish. Highly migratory, they have been spotted as far north as Nova Scotia and as far south as Chile. Through the

use of satellite telemetry tracking equipment, we now know that leatherbacks swim off our NH coastal waters. On June 2, 1970, the leatherback turtle was designated as Federally endangered.

Jill Rolph, mother of two GBS students, wrote a grant with GBS to the NH Charitable Foundation to increase public awareness and community participation in leatherback sea turtle biology and conservation. Using a variety of multimedia presentations, this project will help students at GBS to see, hear and feel the largest turtle in the world. Using real world data, students can plot leatherback sea turtle movements, calculate the distance they travel and really know when they are off our NH coast during their migration. Students will learn about the interconnectedness of this species and how changes in their habitat affect all the different parts of the marine ecosystems. Jill has already begun an after school conservation club at GBS to study sea turtles and the environmental forces that threaten its survival. Grant monies will also be used for students to create a website, an educational brochure, and a life size model of the sea turtle. This project will supplement our science, technology and art curricula and provide a number of practical learning activities for our students. Thank you, Jill!

NURSE COMPTON'S HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school a healthier environment. The week of October 18-24, 2004 was National Health Education Week and the focus was on healthy eating. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, among children ages 6 to 19, 30% are overweight and 15% are obese. This has tripled since 1980. To encourage healthy eating habits, the GBS Health Advisory Committee plans to continue to implement the program "Changing the Scene, Improving the School Nutrition Environment". If you are interested in volunteering to help the committee with various projects, please call 588-6630 ext. 3.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH NEWS

The Great Brook Students of the Month celebrated their October accomplishments with a presentation by "Acting Out", an Improv Troupe. The actors explained Improvisation and included the students in the development of several skits which they then acted out. The hit of the day came when all of the students were invited to join the troupe in an Improv activity. We have some great actors in our school.

 continued next page

The October Students of the Month completed 570 hours of community service this month. These students also worked hard to maintain a B average in all subjects and participated in at least one co-curricular activity. No small feat!

The Great Brook Student of the Month program is unique in that any and all students who complete the requirements of the program are recognized. Other schools limit their Student of the Month to one or two students per grade level each month. We at Great Brook prefer to recognize the efforts of all students who take the initiative to complete the requirements.

Great Brook students contribute their many service hours and talents to their local towns and agencies as well as reaching out to other agencies beyond our four-town area. These students are an incredible work force and many have come to depend on them to complete projects. ☘

THE WEEKLY ASSEMBLY ANTRIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Debbie Lesure, Principal

As the new incoming principal, I met with teachers during the summer to learn about each teacher, the children, the school, the rituals and traditions. Every teacher mentioned the Friday morning assemblies. I admit to being a little confused about the assembly—I thought *presentation*. I was so wrong—it's much more!

Friday morning assemblies are such an important part of our school life. Children stand up in front of the group and act as "reporters" for their classrooms. They speak to the entire student body and staff about topics they are learning in the classroom. One morning, third graders spoke about Rocks and Minerals. I overheard the fourth graders saying, "I remember that!" When the second graders sang a song at assembly, I observed third graders also singing along. This extends and refreshes memories. The youngest ones look up at the oldest ones speaking, in awe of the "big kids." They are also hearing what they will be studying as they grow.

Our students must focus on what is most important to report on. They learn to address a crowd and also to use a microphone. Public speaking will be much easier for our children. This experience of speaking about what they are learning for all to hear is powerful.

Each assembly brings an action song lead by Mrs. Mierins. One morning it was the *Alley Cat*. As children were standing, a fourth grader turned to me and exclaimed "3rd and 4th graders are going to do something special with the song and do it even faster." The enjoyment on their faces as the *Alley Cat* became the *Charleston* was heartwarming—and we now know how fast these kids can move!

I can't forget to tell you about birthdays. At each assembly, teachers announce the birthdays of students and staff. All get a special pencil as a gift. We sing the traditional Happy Birthday song along with sign language. The children also sing a special Polish birthday song, adding to the celebration. Sometimes, there are special activities. For example, second graders recited a poem, "I Use My Brain to Think, Think, Think" with accompanying actions. A third grade group presented their play, "We Share Everything."

I invite every parent, grandparent and community member to attend our Friday Morning Assembly at least once this year. Look at our children's faces. See their enjoyment and pride. Take pleasure in our school community!

P.S. *Kids Say the Smartest Things*: When I was eating lunch with first graders, we were talking about their teachers going to "Teacher School." Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Zawacki had both gone to a Reading Workshop. I asked them why teachers would go to teacher school. Their response, "Teachers are like doctors. They have to know a lot!" So true, so true.... ☘

AFTER THE FIRE A NEW BEGINNING

By Dancy Bluhm
A.E.S. kindergarten teacher

Since our house was destroyed by fire in March of 2004, I have learned to be grateful for many things that I once took for granted. For instance, I really appreciate knowing in which plastic storage container I have put my long sleeved t-shirts, versus the kitchen towels. And by the way, where is the scotch tape? You see, this happens when one moves three times in six months. Now I am pleased to say that there will be no more moving as we have found a comfortable house, still in the village of Fitzwilliam, that is available until the end of May 2005 when our new home will be finished. (At least, it is supposed to be finished by then.) Yes, complete

demolition was needed. We are building a new cape on the same site.

The above-mentioned examples of things for which I am grateful, are insignificant in comparison to ones that are so immense that they are immeasurable. I don't know how to express my feelings when my heart is so full that is it about to burst. Words seem too light, to invisible, and too fleeting. In March when the news of my house fire became known, I was so overwhelmed with the outpouring of offers to help, of donations of money, of kind words, and hugs. For this I am forever indebted to all of the staff at Antrim Elementary School, the students, and their families. Having taught kindergarten at A.E.S. since 1993, has allowed me to make connections with many wonderful people. I am blessed and fortunate to continue to have the opportunity to build on these relationships, and to form new ones. It is this feeling of emotional fullness that keeps me committed to this school and community. Wild horses could not drag me away. I can only say: thank you, thank you, thank you for making my life so rich. ☘

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THE GRAPEVINE

By Kristen Vance, Director

The "Brown Bag Coalition" (or "BBC" for short), a group of representatives from the schools, churches, scouts, town office, recreation department, the Lions Club, the library and The Grapevine, is beginning to focus its efforts on increasing and coordinating before and after school care and activities for school-age children in our community.

In October, Michelle Ricco of Creating Positive Changes, our local coalition addressing substance use among children and youth, reported on the results of a survey of 800 ConVal students in 2003. Overall, the results indicate that substance use in our school district is at or above State levels. One way to help children make healthy choices, members of the BBC reasoned, is to work together to make sure all children have the opportunity to be involved in supervised out-of-school-time activities that enrich their experiences in school and in the community. (Please see related "Parent Circle" notice below.)

Parents and other community members are encouraged to join the BBC meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 12:30 at The Grapevine. The BBC was convened by The Grapevine's Sydney Wilson-Smith in 2003.

PEOPLE'S SERVICE EXCHANGE

With an initial membership of 31 people from Antrim, Hancock, Bennington and Frankestown, The People's Service Exchange boasts the following services:

Animal sitting; assisting in a classroom; assisting on a field trip; baby care; baking; balancing a checkbook; bicycle repair; book-keeping; cabinet making; canning; caring for the physically challenged; caring for the sick; caulking; chainsaw; child care; clerical; companionship; cooking for a family; cordwood; crocheting; data processing; delivering goods; driving a bus; driving a car; eldercare; errands; filing; filling out forms; floor washing/waxing; furniture repair; gutter cleanout; helping home schoolers; house sitting; household cleaning; installing dry-wall; jelly making; keeping records; knitting; knocking out walls; letter writing; light housekeeping; making a budget; Master Gardening; meal preparation; moving furniture; mucking out stalls; painting; playing an instrument; putting on siding; raking; reading; scrap booking; sewing; shoveling; singing; tax forms assistance; teaching an instrument; teaching another language; tile work;

tutoring; typing; walking dogs; window washing; word processing; writing reports; yard work.

The next scheduled opportunity to join the Exchange is Tuesday, December 14 at 7pm at The Grapevine. If you'd like to join but can't make this meeting, please let us know. The People's Service Exchange is a neighbor-helping-neighbor network. Members trade their services for credits called "time dollars," which they can then use to purchase the services they need. The People's Service Exchange is funded by a grant from the Henry L. and Patricia J. Nielsen Fund of the Monadnock Community Foundation.

KEEPING WARM THIS WINTER

Fuel assistance and free firewood are available at The Grapevine. Southern NH Services offers fuel assistance Friday mornings from 8:30 to noon by appointment, or drop in and see Carolyn during Grapevine office hours to complete a pre-application form and make an appointment. Fuel assistance is a federal program assisting eligible individuals and families with heating oil, firewood, gas and electricity.

Our community wood bank, coordinated by The Grapevine and fueled by volunteer labor and donations, has firewood available for families and individuals who use wood as their primary heat source and cannot afford to buy it. The wood bank is available primarily for urgent needs, as we do not have enough wood to supply households with the amount needed to keep warm all winter.

Wood donations and volunteers are always needed. Call us for scheduled work days, or drop by The Grapevine on a Saturday morning, when you may find us stacking, cutting and splitting.

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Winter is a great time to join our parent-child programs, which meet weekly as follows. The Aiken Street Barn, where The Grapevine is located, is fully accessible, and we welcome all children birth to 5 and their parents.

- Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 — Better Beginnings playgroup
- Mondays 3:30 to 5pm — Teen and Young Parents playgroup
- Tuesdays 9:30 to 11:30 — Better Beginnings playgroup
- Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 — The Learning Vine preschool
- Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30 — Better Beginnings playgroup
- Fridays 9:30 to 11:30 — The Learning Vine preschool

- Fridays 10:00 to 11:30 – Better Beginnings for Babies

Better Beginnings playgroups are for toddlers through 5-year-olds and their parents. The focus of the children's program is on language and social skills development in a fun, nurturing and supportive environment.

Better Beginnings for Babies is for infants to new toddlers and their parents. Expectant parents are welcome, too. Parents have found this group a great opportunity to meet other parents while their babies make their first friends.

The Learning Vine is a hands-on preschool program for children 3 1/2 to 5 years old. Parents are encouraged to call to visit this unique learning experience.

The Teen and Young Parents group is an informal playgroup for parents in their teens and 20s, and their children. Drop in Monday afternoons at 3:30pm to check it out.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

"When Your Kids Push Your Buttons" with Bonnie Harris

A 6-week course, Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30, beginning January 13. All parents get their buttons pushed by their children. We open our mouths intending to correct our child's behavior and out come those words we swore we would never say. We react automatically in ways we hate, our authority is lost, and parenting skills are totally inaccessible. Nothing effective can be taught or learned. Our children drive us crazy by pushing those buttons again and again, and we lose control. This workshop will help you identify your buttons, what pushes them, and how to effectively change your reactions so that you regain your authority.

Early registration is recommended for the popular workshop. Children are welcome in playgroup while their parents are in the workshop. There is a sliding scale fee but, as with all programs at The Grapevine, no family is excluded due to inability to pay.

Reducing Holiday Stress

Join a parent discussion on ways to survive and enjoy the holidays while you make a homemade gift and relax with a cup of cocoa. This is an informal and supportive discussion facilitated by The Grapevine's Sydney Wilson-Smith and Beth Bradford, Monday December 6 from 6-8pm.

Art Class for Children age 7-9

Antrim resident artist Dorothy Ascunsa is offering free art classes at The Grapevine on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00. Media include pen and ink, painting and charcoal. Dot

and the children will also experiment drawing to music and poetry, and with crafts. Ideas from children and parents are welcome. Dot and The Grapevine will provide materials.

February Vacation Activities

Tuesday, February 22 from 9:30 to 11:30—"Royal Preschoolers," for children 3 to 5 years of age and their parents. Children will enjoy making crafts, cooking snacks and pretend play while parents enjoy being treated like royalty.

Wednesday, February 23 from 9:30 to 11:30—"Parent-Child Play Date," for children of all ages and their parents. Come and play with you child—exciting "play and explore stations."

These programs are free. Please call to register. Presented by Grapevine early childhood educators Carol Lunan and Beth Bradford.

Adoptive Parents Meet

Adoptive parents in Antrim and nearby towns are meeting at The Grapevine on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The idea behind the meetings is to offer parents a chance to meet with each other and talk about the special joys and challenges of family life with adopted children. For more information, call Susan Bartlett 588-2241 or The Grapevine.

The Parent Circle – Before and After School

On Monday, January 10 from 6:30 to 8pm, Michelle Ricco of Creating Positive Change will facilitate a discussion at The Grapevine with parents and concerned community members about substance use and abuse among our youth, and how before and after school resources can help. No need to register—just drop in.

The Parent Circle, which also meets in Peterborough and Jaffrey, is intended to bring parents and other concerned adults together to discuss and support the issues we face raising healthy and resilient youth, with a focus on the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.

New Parenting Workshops and Focus Groups

Do you have an idea on a parenting topic you would like to know more about? Let us know. Grapevine educators and parents are developing new workshops—look for announcements around town and in the newspaper this winter.

Babysitting Course at The Grapevine on a Saturday in April, to be determined. Please call if you'd like to get on the list. This comprehensive course is a collaboration of The

Grapevine, The Family Center and Monadnock Regional Pediatrics.

COMMUNITY SUPPERS REPORT

By the time this is printed, about 100 people will have enjoyed the November community supper—planned, prepared and coordinated entirely by the Boy Scouts at The First Presbyterian Church in Antrim. Our chefs for December are members of The Grange. The January supper in Antrim will be a chili cook-off. February is canceled—celebrate Washington's Birthday with dinner at the First Presbyterian Church on the 19th.

The 4-Town community supper schedule is as follows:

1st Thursday: Frankestown—Community Church

2nd Thursday: Bennington—Pierce School

3rd Thursday: Antrim—First Presbyterian Church

4th Thursday: Hancock—Congregational Church Vestry

STRONG LIVING STARTS AGAIN JANUARY 4

Strong Living is a NH Celebrates Wellness program for adults 50 years of age and older, created by researchers and exercise physiologists from Tufts University. This research has clearly shown that older adults can improve their health and fitness with appropriate balance and flexibility training to maintain their ability to function independently. If you have interest in participating in this 12-week program, call The Grapevine at 588-2620 for information and to reserve space.

SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE

- **Information & Referral:** Information about area resources for financial 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.
- **Heating Fuel & Electric Assistance** for eligible families, provided by Southern NH Services, Friday mornings from 8:30 to noon.
- **Child & Family Counseling** provided by Monadnock Family Services by appointment. Sliding scale fee.
- **Family Conflict Resolution** offered by Milford Area Mediation Services by appointment. Free.
- **Help finding meaningful employment:** Associates in Community and Career

Employment Support Services (A.C.C.E.S.S.) offers support for people with disabilities in their search for meaningful employment.

- **Help finding shelter:** Southwestern Community Services assists individuals and families who are homeless or are concerned that they may become homeless.

Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 for more information about the above services or to register for programs. We welcome visits. The Grapevine is a grassroots, nonprofit service organization funded by grants and charitable contributions. ☞

AREA RESIDENTS IN THE MILITARY

A number of area residents are now serving in the US Military, some in the states and others around the world.

Dean C. Allison. Major Allison, US Marine Corps Reserve, is serving as the commanding officer of Alpha Company, Provisional Security Battalion at Al Asad, Iraq. His parents are Arthur and Ann Allison of Antrim. Other family members are his sisters; Yvette Brinkley of Antrim and Yvonne Marin of Hillsboro. Dean's residence is in Santa Clarita, CA with his wife Carla and son Matthew. He reports that the time is passing quickly and he has met a lot of Marines that he hasn't seen in many years. This is his second deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

David Carter. Staff Sgt. Carter is currently serving in the Air Force stationed in Misawa, Japan. He has tentative orders for deployment to Iraq in July 2005. His family in Antrim are Richard and Teressa Carter.

Christopher Morello. Pvt. Morello is with the Army Quartermaster Battalion, 5th Platoon stationed in Fort Lee, Virginia. He will graduate AIT in December at which time he will receive deployment orders. His family in Antrim are Richard and Teressa Carter.

Joseph E. Mullahy, Jr. Pvt Mullahy is currently in training with the US Marine Corps in California and scheduled to graduate in December. He is the son of Dawn Calderara and Joseph E. Mullahy, Sr.; other family members are a brother, Jonathan and sister, Chelsea. Joe's family are very proud of him and can't wait to have him back home after graduation. His unit is out of Worcester, MA and he will be a reservist for 6 years.

Please contact Pam Caswell if you have news about someone in the military. ☞

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CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 4 Christmas Open House • 10:30-5 PM • Parkside Gallery
5 Crafts for Giving workshop • 12 NOON-3:30 PM • Antrim Town Hall
5 Tree Lighting • 4 PM • Bandstand at Memorial Park
6 "Reducing Holiday Stress" for parents • 6-8 PM • The Grapevine
7 Brown Bag Coalition • 12:30 PM • The Grapevine
8 Winter Holiday Concert • 6:30 PM • Great Brook School
10 Youth Lock-In (Christmas Traditions) • 6 PM • Presbyterian Church
11 Patron Appreciation Day • 10-2 PM • Tuttle Library
11 Youth Lock-In (Christmas Traditions) • 10 AM • Presbyterian Church
12 Christmas Pageant • 10:30 AM • Baptist Church
14 CENS (Community Educational Network & Support) • 7 PM • The Grapevine
14 People's Service Exchange • member meeting/new member orientation 7 PM • The Grapevine
14 Adoptive Parents • 7 PM • The Grapevine
15 "Decorate Your House" contest judging by the Antrim Grange
16 Community Supper • 5:30 PM • Presbyterian Church
19 Children's Christmas Program • 10:30 AM • Presbyterian Church
19 Christmas Musical • 7 PM • Baptist Church
22 The Nurse Is In • 12 NOON-1 PM • Antrim Village
24 Christmas Eve Services 5 & 7 PM • Saint Patrick Church 6:30 PM • Presbyterian Church 7 PM • Baptist Church

Have you seen what's new this week?

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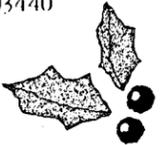
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CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 4 **Brown Bag Coalition** • 12:30 PM • The Grapevine
- 4 **Strong Living wellness program begins** • 1 PM • The Grapevine
- 6 **"When Your Kids Push Your Buttons" program begins** • 9:30 AM • The Grapevine
- 8 **Twelfth Night party** • Antrim Grange • 7 PM
- 10 **Parent Circle on Our Youth and Substance Use** • 6:30 pm • The Grapevine
- 11 **CENS (Community Educational Network & Support)** • 7 PM • The Grapevine
- 19 **Antrim Grange program** • Antrim Village • 7 PM
- 20 **Community Supper** • 5:30 AM • Presbyterian Church
- 30 **Harvest Dinner** • 5-7 PM • Baptist Church

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Brown Bag Coalition** • 12:30 PM • The Grapevine
- 2 **Antrim Grange meeting**
- 8 **CENS (Community Educational Network & Support)** • 7 PM • The Grapevine
- 8 **Twelfth Night Party** • 7 PM • Antrim Grange
- 10 **News and Advertising deadline for the March LIMRIK**
- 16 **Antrim Grange program** • Town Hall • 7 PM
- 17 **Amnesty discussion** • 7 PM • Baptist Church
- 19 **Washington's Birthday dinner** • 5-6:30 PM • Presbyterian Church
- 22 **"Royal Preschoolers" play, crafts and cooking** • 9:30-11:30 am • The Grapevine
- 23 **"Parent-Child Play Date" open to all ages** • 9:30-11:30 AM • The Grapevine
- 25 **Pet Read In** • Tuttle Library



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