

HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER PROGRAMS

Missy Taylor

The Antrim Historical Society invites everyone to join us at the Tuttle Library on Sunday, December 14 at 3 pm for a festive holiday celebration. Refreshments will be served and Kathie Brennan will entertain us with her guitar and singing and lead us in some carols as we celebrate a very busy and successful year for the Society. We have presented a series of interesting and well-attended programs this year, had a membership drive that tripled our numbers, and had a very successful Home & Harvest booth selling homemade apple crisp and historical publications. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the year and our move back into the Historical Society room upstairs at the newly renovated and expanded Library.

On Sunday, January 18, Jeff Warner will present "Songs of Old New Hampshire", the songs and stories that, in the

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❄️ HOLIDAY SPECIAL ❄️

Tree Lighting, Sun Dec 7, featuring a visit from Santa, and a performance by our youth chorus: Memorial Park Bandstand and the Antrim Town Hall at 4:00 pm.

Window Painting, Sat Dec 6, Holiday Scene at Antrim Town Hall from 10-12 noon. Join Carole Storro and friends to enhance the beauty of our Town Hall with a winter holiday scene on the Main Street windows. Pre-register by calling 588-3121.

THE COWS COME HOME

Eric Tenney

When driving thru the countryside today, you see a lot of old pastures and fields with horses, cattle, and other domestic animals grazing. This sight brings back memories of how things used to be in the rural countryside fifty to one hundred years ago. Remember that in the middle 1800's as much as seventy per cent of the New England countryside was open land. Small farms dotted the countryside. By the end of the nineteenth century many of these

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MEALS ON WHEELS OPENS NEW SITE IN ANTRIM

St. Joseph Community Services, Inc., the provider of Meals on Wheels and Community Dining throughout Hillsborough County, is happy to announce that in addition to our Antrim Village site we will be opening a new Meals on Wheels Community Dining site at the First Presbyterian Church, 73 Main Street. This is part of our ongoing effort to expand our services in the Antrim area.

The need for volunteers within the community to come in and make this a success is urgent. Please help us with this important community project. Contact Maria to volunteer at 603/424-9967.

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INSANITY AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD: MOUNTAIN CLIMBING TALES OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED AND THOSE WHO DIDN'T

Sandy Snow

I've always viewed mountain climbing as a sport for crack pots or adrenalin junkies. I'm not talking about those who hike up Mount Monadnock; I'm talking about those who challenge the peaks that scrape the top of the world in the Himalayas, Alps, and Andes.

There is so much working against you: unpredictable violent weather, snow-covered crevasses, rotten ice, deep powder snow, massive vertical ice cliffs, snow cliffs that could collapse at any moment, crippling frost bite and bad luck. The list goes on. But above all,

those who climb are trusting their lives with others who are just as certifiable.

However, there is something gripping about reading the exploits of these people from the safety of your favorite chair. Two non-fiction books were recommended to me by my nephew who likes the outdoors but confines his hikes to safer areas. The books are *Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson and *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer, and both are available at the Tuttle Library.

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Please make checks payable to the *Antrim Limrik*. We hope people will keep up with the expiration dates of their subscriptions to the *Limrik*. On the mailing label is the following information: Subs. Exps. 'date'

The Limrik was founded November 1991 by Beverly Tenney, Lois Harriman, and Nancy Timko.

ADVERTISING FEES

Half Page (Back Page)	\$75 per issue
Half Page (Inside Page)	\$65 per issue
Quarter Page	\$45 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 the *Limrik* publication—February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 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

Cartoon on page 1 was created by Russ Russell. Photos of Home & Harvest Festival were taken by Lyman Gilmore.

NEWS DEADLINE

News deadline is the 10th of the month preceding each issue. Issues are published in March, June, September, and December. For the next issue, copy deadline is February 10. Please e-mail your article to: Lyman Gilmore at: l_gilmore@conknet.com.

THE GENERAL ELECTION IN ANTRIM

Diane Chauncey

One thousand five hundred forty six (1546) Antrim citizens of the one thousand nine hundred four (1904) registered voters exercised their right to vote on November 4, 2008 in the Presidential Election. One hundred fifty two (152) new voters were registered. The election was held upstairs in Town Hall because of booth requirements for a General Election which require one booth per 100 voters. In order to accommodate the anticipated heavy turnout, nineteen curtained booths and thirteen cardboard 'screens' were in use. Other than at the 8:00 am hour, there was very little waiting. Whenever possible, residents were asked to verify their address. The ElectioNet database does not interact with the Town information, so that if you move, change your name, etc., you have to initiate the change. In a General Election (November 4 was a General Election), everyone (Democrat, Republican, Undeclared) receives the same ballot.

In a Primary Election, voters receive a Democratic or Republican ballot, depending on how they are registered. If a voter is registered "undeclared," he or she will have to declare a party affiliation in order to vote in a Primary. After voting in a Primary, the voter will remain affiliated with his or her declared party *unless* he or she makes a 'Party Affiliation Change.' If a voter wants to return to undeclared status after voting in a Primary, he or she must make a "Party Affiliation Change" in the Town Hall following voting. As this can be confusing, any of the three Supervisors (Diane Chauncey, Sarah Edwards, Catrina Young) can explain the process to you, or assist you in determining your status as a voter. There is a current list (as of November 4) in the Town Hall, Edmunds Hardware store, and the James A. Tuttle Library.

After a Presidential Election, the Supervisors of the Voter Checklist can do a purge and send a letter to anyone who did not vote in the Election. Those who did not vote will be asked to confirm that they wish to remain on the Antrim Checklist. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Diane Chauncey at the Town Hall. *

HAVE YOU SEEN WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK?

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SCOTT LESTER, ANTRIM'S NEW POLICE CHIEF

Lyman Gilmore

On 9 October 2008, in front of a crowd at the Town hall, thirty-five year old Antrim native Scott Lester smiled as his wife Tammy pinned on his Antrim Chief's badge while his daughter Breanna looked on. This interview, part of the Antrim Historical Society's "Oral History Project," took place two hours before Chief Lester received his badge.

I was born in May 1973, and I graduated from Conval High School in 1992.

Do you remember when you first thought you might want to be a policeman?

Probably I had thoughts of that type of career in middle school, but I wasn't sure. Almost every boy wants to be either a firefighter or a police officer, and I can remember thinking about what I wanted to do. For a long time as a kid I wanted to be a veterinarian because I love animals. I like working outside and being outside, and I also didn't like doing the same thing over again. When I got into high school I really started to think about police work because friends of my parents were in law enforcement, and they said it was different every day, always something new, lots of fresh challenges. That's when I started to focus on law enforcement and tried to take background courses at Conval, but there weren't a lot of electives. Also, I never saw myself as college bound, but



once I got closer to being a senior and having to make decisions about my future, then I started looking into colleges.

Why hadn't you considered college?

I just didn't see it. I wasn't a book reader, I didn't like to sit down and read and study. I'm more of lecture learning, hands on, getting out there and doing it, sort of person. I didn't know how I'd do in college, I was never the best student, but

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NEAL CASS: ANTRIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Lyman Gilmore

On October 29 Antrim's new Town Administrator Neal Cass came out from behind his desk and welcomed me to his office. We sat down at a round table for our interview that becomes a part of the Antrim Historical Society's Oral History Project.

Tell me about yourself.



I'm forty-two, and my birthday is January 18, 1966. I live in Hancock. I started in Antrim on October 14th, having come from Lyndeborough where I was the Town Administrator a little over five years.

How does one get training to be a Town—is it "Manager" or "Administrator"?

I'm a "Town Administrator" which is different from being a "Town Manager." Under the statutes, the Town Manager is responsible for hiring department heads and having some of the authority of the Board of Selectmen. But a "Town Administrator" really functions under the direction and authority of the Board of Selectmen. Most New Hampshire towns do not have Managers. Jaffery does, but Peterborough does not.

Back to my original question, how does one work into this position?

Almost by accident. My degree in 1989 was in Business Administration from the Whittemore School of Business and Economics at UNH, and I have owned the grocery store in Hancock which was in my family. I worked there for quite a while, and I owned it for five years. Actually, I was convinced during that time to run for selectman. Things were changing quickly, and we were negotiating a new school in Hancock. The Saturday before Town Meeting day, my friends came and said, "Would you be willing to be a write in candidate?" I didn't have time to figure a way out of it! There was an

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SCHOOLS TAKE “GREEN” CHALLENGE

By Mary Allen

ConVal School Board

The ConVal School District is going green!

Saving money while saving the planet is getting attention in all eleven ConVal schools. New initiatives are helping reduce the schools’ carbon footprint while future projects hope to fuse classroom learning with alternative energy plans.

When students and teachers returned to their classrooms this fall, they found them a little “greener.” Harsh cleaning chemicals – including bleach – have been replaced by effective but more earth-friendly products. In addition, paper, tissue, and even trashcan liners now meet EPA guidelines for post-consumer fiber content. The district has picked Hillyard Co. of Shrewsbury, Mass., as its supplier. Hillyard sells Green Seal-certified and other environmentally preferred items. The recommended products are evaluated on a life-cycle approach, beginning with material extraction, continuing through manufacturing, and ending with the product’s recycling potential.

ConVal High School students have formed a Green Team that spearheaded a successful Green Week awareness event last spring. In addition to other projects, students requested that ambient lighting in the high school cafeteria – mostly found in the room’s floor-to-ceiling support pillars – be reduced for the week. Students and staff liked the effect so much that the temporary reduction is now permanent.

Light fixtures in all ConVal schools have been studied and, where possible, lighting has been reduced in hallways and other areas. A new round of fixture upgrades is planned. Taxpayers won’t feel the pinch since Public Service Co. of New Hampshire will cover the upgrade costs until the project payback period is complete.

Keeping an eye on school air quality and soaring heating bills just got some much-needed help. The district has hired its first full-time HVAC technician, Keith Lee, who started work in October. Keith is evaluating the heating and ventilation in all schools and fixing problems as he finds them. A combination of control and mechanical failures were first to get attention at South Meadow and Pierce schools. Antrim Elementary, Peterborough Elementary and Hancock Elementary are next on his list.

Last spring, the ConVal School Board appointed a new Energy Subcommittee and gave it two jobs to tackle: find ways to reduce energy costs, and research alternative energy sources.

The first task has been the easier of the two as ConVal’s business office had already taken a number of energy-saving measures. Keeping energy use down has been a passion for Business Administrator Marian Alese, and she’s brought several new tools to the job, including a Web-based program playfully named “School Dude” to track energy use in each building. Despite its name, “School Dude” is a powerful program with great potential to save money. And under Marian’s

guidance, the ConVal district has officially joined the Energy Star challenge. The district is developing a plan to reduce energy consumption in all its buildings and aims to earn an Energy Star rating as soon as possible. You might be familiar with the EPA’s Energy Star program if you recently purchased a household appliance.

Looking at alternative fuel sources will take more time, but the subcommittee has started researching solar thermal, solar voltaic, geo-thermal, wind and biomass fuel options. Several New England schools use wood chips or pellets for heat and hot water. The Energy Subcommittee and ConVal staff recently toured the new wood-chip facility at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center and plan to visit other wood-burning facilities in New Hampshire and Vermont. Under a new master plan for ConVal High School and South Meadow School, it might be possible to build a wood-chip heating plant to serve both schools.

The subcommittee hopes to use ConVal and Region 14 Tech Center students to help with the basic research and design for any alternative fuel projects. Bringing a real-time project into the classroom will help prepare our students for the workforce and help the district achieve its goal primary goal: educating tomorrow’s leaders.

The Energy Subcommittee meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the SAU office. The public is most welcome at meetings. Subcommittee board members are Ray Cote, Peterborough; Gail Cromwell, Temple; Dan Harper, Hancock; and Mary Allen, Antrim. Minutes and agenda are posted on the district website: www.conval.edu. ❄

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ANTRIM SELECT BOARD

Gordon Webber, Selectman

The Board of Selectman would like to welcome two new employees to the town. Ryan Storro has been hired by the Antrim Police Department as a full time patrolman. He is a certified police officer and will be coming from the New Boston PD. He is an Antrim resident and began work November 17. We now have two Police officers living in town. Chief Lester is currently in the process of hiring one other fulltime patrolman and two part time patrolmen. As the applicants for the last three positions are not certified, the town will be sending them to the Police Academy.

Chip Craig has been hired by the Highway Department effective November 10, replacing Allan Elliot who left to take another job. Chip has worked for the Hancock and Greenfield Highway Departments and is highly experienced. Please welcome these two new employees to the Town of Antrim.

Senator Harold Janeway attended the Board of Selectman's meeting on October 6, providing us with information regarding winter assistance. Please read Kristen Vance's Grapevine article.

The bridgework on North Main Street is proceeding apace. We do not expect it to be completed until the spring. We plan to set the new bridge November 18. We anticipate the bridge being open to vehicle traffic by the end of the year with paving to follow after the weather warms. The initial paving for North Main Street is expected on November 17.

The Board of Selectman met with the N.H. State Revenue Office to set the tax rate. We are waiting to hear from them to make it official, but it will be a large increase, in the 17% range. Our revenue for 2008 is down about 8%, while we have a modest increase in our budget. We have begun paying the bond on the Library addition, and we are paying for bridge-work that has been completed. We shall continue paying for bridgework under construction. The Board of Selectman has asked all departments to reduce their budgets by 8%. With a weak economy and our revenues down, we realize this puts a greater burden on the taxpayer. The Board of Selectman encourages all town residents to attend the budget hearing scheduled in early February.

Parks and Recreation has installed the swing sets at Memorial Park and plans a fence around the swings.

The Home and Harvest Weekend was a huge success. It has proven to be very popular and we look forward to next year. We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and, of course, a very Happy New Year. ❄️

THE MONADNOCK PAPER MILLS

The paper on which this *Limrik* is printed has been generously donated by The Monadnock Paper Mills. For this, the *Limrik* is very grateful.

HELP THIS WINTER

Missy Taylor

Over the past few months, groups in the region have been meeting to address the anticipated challenges of the coming winter. Higher heating costs, rising food prices, and the growing number of foreclosures have raised the concern that many of our neighbors, friends, and family, will need help this winter. Several meetings of the Antrim Brown Bag Coalition on the subject culminated in a 4-Town meeting at The Grapevine in late October to discuss how to help those in the four-town area of Antrim, Bennington, Hancock, and Frankestown. At the 4-Town meeting, residents highlighted some of the issues that we will be working on throughout the winter:

WHO NEEDS HELP?

Everyone's assistance is needed in identifying who needs help this winter. The extraordinary confluence of negative economic circumstances means that some of us who have never had to ask for help will need support to get through the winter. Some of our residents are older and live alone, others have few ties to the community, and still others may not know where to get help or may be too proud to ask. If you know someone – a friend, a neighbor – who needs help, please call The Grapevine (588-2620), contact your local pastor, or call Antrim's Welfare Director, Brenda Slongwhite (588-6385, Ext.226). We will continue to meet throughout the winter, and as we learn those who may need support, we will visit to see what kind of help is needed, suggest options for getting that help, and assist in any way we can.

WHAT KIND OF HELP IS AVAILABLE?

We will be distributing fliers with information on how to get help for all kinds of needs: where the local food banks are, what fuel assistance is available, what to do if someone is snowed in and needs a walk shoveled, etc. Here are some of the options that are currently available:

FUEL ASSISTANCE:

Southern NH Services Fuel Assistance Program: Example of eligibility: a family of four earning up to \$52,438 in annual gross income is eligible for fuel assistance. Some adjustments to income are made based on specific family circumstances and the number of household members. If you are over 60 and over the standard fuel assistance income guidelines, your household may be eligible for \$270 fuel assistance allotment (one allotment per household). Call 924-2243 or 1-877-757-7048 to apply.

DHHS Emergency Assistance: Applicants must be eligible for TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families). The maximum allotment is \$700 in a 12-month period. Call 1-800-322-9191 for more information.

Town of Antrim: The Town of Antrim provides short-term emergency assistance for basic living needs to qualified residents through a voucher system. Assistance is available with

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ANTRIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Scott R. Lester
Chief of Police

As many of you already know, my name is Scott Lester and I was appointed as the Chief of Police in August. While waiting for the hiring process to be completed, and while working out my final weeks in Peterborough, I came into my new department and began reviewing the general operations.

I found a lot of differences in the two agencies, but I liked what I saw. I knew there is more than one way to get things done to meet our community's expectations. I first looked at the current officers I had available, Corporal Sean Cavanaugh



and Officer Adam King. Both had been for some time working very hard with long hours to maintain and ensure the best law enforcement coverage possible. As a lifelong Antrim resident, I greatly appreciate their dedication and believe their personal sacrifice should not go unnoticed. I also looked at the rank structure and how it would work best for the town. After careful thought, I promoted Sean Cavanaugh to the rank of Sergeant on September 15th.

Our first objective was to get the department back to full staff. I met with many community members and listened to their comments and concerns regarding the police department. During the hiring process, I have paid particular attention to not only the applicants' qualifications, but to their personalities and where they live as well. I also listened to Sgt. Cavanaugh and Officer King describe the sort of person they wanted to work with. In late October, we hired our first new department member. Officer Ryan Storro, resident of Antrim, comes to us as a full-time certified officer with great interest

in working with the community and becoming a *DARE* or School Resource Officer. Because he is known to us and several members of the community, and since he enjoys working with the community and is very approachable, we believe Officer Storro will be an excellent addition to our department.

As the hiring process continued, we interviewed several applicants, some with police experience, a lot without. We are looking for individuals who will best fit the department's professional goals and the expectations of our supportive community. We hope to have our final choices made by early December, and if they have not already attended, in the Police Academy in January 2009.

"*Hometown Pride*" is back on our patrol cars because I and the other members of the Police Department take a lot of pride in our town. We intend to continue running the department under the existing mission with modern technology, as well as incorporating several new ideas and policing methods with dedication, innovative thinking, and a strong work ethic.

I look forward to being your Chief of Police for many years to come. The Antrim Police Department will work closely with other town employees, our community, and surrounding towns, in an effort to provide the most efficient and effective law enforcement possible. ❁

"SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL"

Diane Chauncey

The "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL" grant has been approved, and Neal Cass, the new Town Administrator, has signed the Local Agreement for the project. The next step is for the Executive Council to give NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) authority to enter into the local agreements; the anticipated date is November 19, 2008. After that, NHDOT Commissioner George Campbell will sign the agreements and then the NHDOT Coordinator of SRTS will be able to issue the "Notice to Proceed" for non-infrastructure projects and preliminary engineering.

If you have a child in kindergarten through fourth grade, you should be receiving a letter explaining the project and a survey requesting your suggestions about children walking/biking to school (the information will be sent in the Friday Folders). The \$77,000 grant money will be used to finish the sidewalk on Highland Avenue, create new crosswalks, new signage, new bike racks, and develop an educational component (taught by Sergeant Sean Cavanaugh and Diane Chauncey) to teach the proper way to navigate a busy street.

The Antrim program has a Task Force of interested citizens, and we need more residents to be involved. If you would like to participate in making Antrim a "Pedestrian Friendly" town, please call or stop in and ask for Diane Chauncey at the Town Hall. ❁

WORLD WAR II ANTRIM'S LEGION LETTERS

Dick Winslow

A plaque near the bandstand in Memorial Park bears the names of some 125 Antrim men and women who served in WW II. Four of these died – Roger Hill at Anzio (where he is buried); Albert Poor piloting a bomber on a training mission; Paul Prescott, a gunner on a bomber shot down over Nazi Germany; and Robert Thibodeau, an anti-aircraft gunner on a PT boat in the Pacific. (Note: Paul Prescott was shot down during his 24th mission. Had he been able to complete 25 missions, he would have been rotated home.)

Periodically throughout the war an Antrim *Legion Letter* was sent to each of the 125 service people – with a little news about Antrim and a lot of news about the service people themselves, spread all over the world. There were 25 of these Letters, whose aim was primarily to keep service people in touch with one another. In order to save paper, each Letter was limited to two sides of a single sheet, single spaced and using asterisks to separate items from each other. Each Letter ran to approximately 1500 words. Each Letter began, “To All Antrim Service Men and Women.” This article offers six extracts from several of the Letters, with commentary interspersed.

July 1944 – “The War Department has notified the parents of J.R. Carmichael that he was seriously wounded July 19 in France. He is now in a hospital in England. **** Hank Stacy who went to France in one of the first invasion forces writes that he holds an enviable title. When it becomes imperative to dive into foxholes, he has it all over the rest of the fellows due to his small stature. He can make it in one swoop while his running mate, who is six feet tall, has to fold himself into sections. He has thereby been dubbed ‘the fox hole kid.’ **** Francis Rokes, who has been in England for some time, writes that he is busy dodging ‘Buzz Bombs.’ **** Pvt. Helen Auger, Air Wac, has left the country and is on her way to somewhere.”

The Legion Letters were started by Don Madden, then taken over by Dot Proctor when, after one issue, Don himself entered the service. Dorothy Barrett “Dot” Proctor was the wife of Harold “Bub” Proctor, himself in the service, and the mother of Barry and Carter Proctor who are well known to many of us. Those of us who knew her remember a gifted, fun loving, lively and imaginative person. She was assisted in the production and mailing of the Legion Letters by Nina Harding. Nina remembers that just keeping up with the addresses of the constantly moving service people – all around the world – was a major task.

August 1944 – “Major George H. Van Deusen, who many of you know, was recently awarded the Silver Star for an heroic rescue of comrades in the Burma Jungle. They were shot down by Japs over enemy territory and George went to the rescue in a Cub plane, landing on a sand bar in a river and swimming ashore. He cut his way through the jungle for a mile or so and, with the aid of friendly natives, carried the survivors of the crash out the same way he went in and got them to a hospital.”

March, 1945 – “Private Tommy Leonard was wounded twice within five hours in the German counterattack. First while on front line duty and again while being taken to the hospital. Two hours after he was evacuated the place was surrounded and as yet he hasn’t heard whether his outfit escaped or not. When he was taken to the hospital he met a fellow from Antrim in the Medical Corps but he was so doped he can’t remember who it was except that he was short, stocky and wore glasses. Tommy is now in a hospital in France and feeling fine and is curious as to who the unknown member of the Medical Corps could be. From his description and due to the fact that we know he is in that section, I would surmise that it was Rupert Wisell.”

April 1945 – “With such strides being made in Europe these days, we’re all hoping for the news that Freddie Butler Elliott will soon be liberated from the prison camp he has been in so long **** Martin Nichols aboard an LSM wrote home about his experience on Iwo Jima. He said he was on the beach for 12 minutes on D-Day which seemed like 12 hours. They hit the beach a great many times after D-Day ... He told about watching them raise Old Glory on Suribachi (‘Hot Rocks’ as he called it!) and a beautiful sight it was to see.”

May 1945 – “The past few weeks, Antrim people have been conducting a scavenger hunt in closets and trunks and depositing outgrown but still useable clothing at the house of Mrs. Emma Goodell, local headquarters for the National Clothing Drive to aid the crippled nations of Europe. Mrs. Goodell has informed me that 1400 lbs. was the final total.”

March 1945 – “From the 8th Air Force Bomber Station in England comes word that S/Sgt Neal Mallett has recently been awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in aerial combat. He is an engineer on a B-17 and has participated in 13 daylight bombing assaults against the Nazis.”

Here’s the way Dot Proctor ends the Legion Letter for March, 1945. “And speaking of snow — we have it – mounds and mounds of the stuff and still it comes. Where we’re going to park this lot, I wouldn’t know, there isn’t room for what we already have and Town Meeting only two weeks off.... I imagine a great many of you would be willing at this point to exchange your present living quarters for a chance to cope with some of our snow ... Here’s hoping that another winter will find you all back in the U.S.A. and Hitler and Tojo in a climate not equipped for the preservation of a snowball. So long for now, Dorothy Proctor.”

We have in hand only 8 of the 25 Legion Letters, numbers 17 through 24, and these are on reserve to be read at Tuttle Library. If anyone knows the whereabouts of other issues, would they please notify Nina Harding, 588-6175, or leave word at the Library! These letters are valuable — remarkably informative as well as absorbing, thoughtprovoking and moving. I wish Dot Proctor was still around so we could say to her, “Thanks, Dot” – as indeed we can congratulate Nina Harding for her part in creating this vivid, eye-witness written history. ❁

incumbent and a challenger, and I was convinced that I had no chance, I'd never win. Well, the next week I found myself sitting at my first selectman's meeting. I served two terms, six years, and I really enjoyed it and consider it my Master's Degree program.

What was your first job in town government?

I sold the store and ended up going to the town of Lyndeborough as Administrator. Having been a Hancock Selectman, I decided to make a profession of town government. I'd always had a strong interest in town government. I remember being in elementary school in Hancock and going to town meetings and always finding them very interesting. I grew up in Hancock, I left the area for about eight years, stopped back for what I thought would be a short time, and that was sixteen years ago. I went to Lyndeborough in June 2003, and I was there for a little over five years.

How is Lyndeborough different from Antrim?

How would I say they are different? Antrim is bigger, and I'd say there is a larger diversity in the population in income levels and occupations. And there is also business here, where there is really no business there. There's no waterfront, there's no tax base to speak of at all in Lyndeborough. It's a very residential area. There is a new horse farm that has been developed, which is great, but no working farms.

Last week I interviewed Scott Lester, our new Chief of Police. I know that you and he worked together in Hancock which should be a leg up for both of you.

I was on the Board of Selectmen that voted to give him his first full time position, and we sent him to the Police Academy. It was a good decision.

Well, as I asked Scott, what is your biggest challenge coming in to this job?

Probably—especially in the beginning—getting to know all the people. Not that getting to know them is challenging, but with such a busy town, and so many people in different areas, and a lot going on, I try to approach everybody exactly the same and give them always the benefit of the doubt.

I know the Selectmen are glad that you are here.

I'm glad they are glad! I think it's a good match, because I know the school district, and having grown up nearby, hopefully I can help carry out some of the progressive things that have happened here, but I also have a strong sense where the town is coming from.

Many people supported the progressive ideas that Bill Prokop introduced, but some residents did not, feeling that he was spending too much money on gentrification, for example. I assume you worked with Hancock residents who felt similarly.

Absolutely, I have known them for a long time, and I always kept their perspective in mind while also being working to be progressive.

Can you say something about your family?

My father retired from G. T. E. Sylvania, he was basically a factory worker for many, many years. I have two older brothers, and a sister two years younger. I have a son, Josh, in sixth grade at Great Brook, and my daughter Rachel is a second grader in Hancock Elementary School. My wife Alexandra—she goes by “Lexy”—is Director of a girls' summer camp in Fitzwilliam. She used to be a teacher in Massachusetts.

How does she feel about your being in Antrim?

I think she is excited to have me closer to home, where Josh can walk down here after school. We are already a part of the community in lots of ways. For example Rachel plays soccer at Shea Field, and we are involved with Josh's being at GBS.

What do you like to do when you are not working?

I'm definitely a political junky, which is kind of exciting this year, although I think I'm ready for a break! I'm a huge Red Sox fan, and I follow them very closely. I love to watch games on a regular basis. You can see that my coffee mug is a red Sox mug.

What are some of your favorite foods?

I really like everything, except grapefruit! It depends on my mood. I do enjoy cooking, but I don't do it as much as I would like.

Now that you have been here for a month, what are you struck by in Antrim?

I think all the things that are going on here. The Chamber of Commerce is very active, the TIF Committee is very active, the Grapevine is very active, I mean, I look at my calendar and there's something every day. There is a strong sense of community, and the staff is great, they work well together and are very accomplished. You walk down Main Street, and I can remember when there were three or four storied apartment buildings, and while it is important to have apartments for people to live in, clearly the town has come a long way in creating a viable downtown.

What do you see as worrisome in the future?

I think it's always that balance between growing and not over-spending. We have nineteen bridges, for example, and a lot of them need work, and while there is a very good plan in place, it will be expensive. We have to get things done that need to be done while not overburdening through the property tax—which is our only method of taxation—people who live here. With the economy the way it is right now, we always have to keep in mind people who are having a hard time putting food on the table and heating their houses, people on fixed incomes. Their income is not going up, and if their taxes do and their oil bill does and food costs do, then we always have to keep these people in mind.

How does your having been a selectman in Hancock affect your present position?

 continued on next page

rent, food, utilities, and medication. To apply, call Antrim's Welfare Director, Brenda Slongwhite at 588-6385, Ext.226.

Community Wood Bank at The Grapevine: The wood bank provides firewood to families and individuals who use wood as a primary heat source and can't afford to buy it. If you or someone you know needs firewood, please call The Grapevine at 588-2620 or stop in during office hours.

Community Wood Stove Bank: At the October Grapevine meeting, it turned out that there were several people in attendance who had unused woodstoves who would be willing to donate them to those in need. We hope to put together those with these unused stoves and those in need, as well as recruit some volunteers to help with installation. Call The Grapevine if you need a stove or have one to donate.

Weatherization: Households that are found eligible for the Fuel Assistance Program can be placed in the waiting list for free weatherization assistance. Call 924-2243 or 1-877-757-7048 to apply. Ask how long the wait will be. If it's too long, call The Grapevine. If you are over the income limit for the free weatherization services, you can find additional information at www.staywarmnh.org.

FOOD

Antrim Bennington Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is located at the Antrim Baptist Church (588-6614). Supplies at many New Hampshire food banks are running low, so help if you can by contributing dry and canned goods. The Grapevine meeting identified a need for more collection points and we are working on involving more of the community in our efforts to make sure everyone has enough to eat this winter.

Wild Game Meat: With the help of the Antrim Police Department, Peter Gagne, and Steve Schacht, the freezers at the Antrim Presbyterian Church and the Antrim Baptist Church are being stocked with wild game. Call Antrim Baptist Church 588-6614. Hunters: Please let Peter know if you are willing to donate some game.

Community Suppers: Free community suppers are held on Thursdays at 5:30 as follows: first Thursday, Francestown

Community Church; second Thursday, Pierce School in Bennington; third Thursday, First Presbyterian Church in Antrim, and fourth Thursday, Hancock Congregational Church Vestry. Free transportation to the suppers is available on the Antrim Community Bus Supper Shuttle which loops through all four towns each week to bring diners to the suppers. Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 for information about the suppers and about others in the area on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Call CVTC for a reservation on the Supper Shuttle at 1-877-428-2882.

Boxed Supper: One of the suggestions to come out of the October Grapevine meeting that we will implement this winter is to box up the leftovers from the Community Suppers and bring them to those in need who were not able to get out to the Suppers.

Community Soup Outreach: The Bennington Congregational Church currently runs a Soup Outreach program. If you would like to help start a program like this in Antrim or know someone in need, please contact The Grapevine at 588-2620.

CAN YOU HELP?

Other programs we hope to help implement include a "warming center" for seniors to visit during the day and have a meal; community service by the Scouts, Great Brook School, and Teen Center; weatherization kits and assistance, which might include weather stripping, plastic for windows, door draft stoppers and quilted window coverings; and identifying those who would be willing to open their doors to shelter a person or a family in need of temporary housing.

"Many hands make light work," and these projects will need many hands. For instance, the youth weatherization project will require supervision and assistance from adults, preferably those who are handy with such things. If you can help with any of these projects or if you know someone in need, please call The Grapevine. One of the rewards of living in a small, close-knit community is how neighbors help neighbors in difficult times. Working together, we can strengthen our community ties and make Antrim an even better town in which to live. ❁



It is helpful, although when I went from being a selectman to being a Town Administrator, I was amazed at all that I didn't know that happens on a daily basis. And, vice-versa, I think if I had been just a town administrator, I wouldn't understand what the selectmen have to deal with.

Do you have a final word?

I would just say the door is always open, and I look forward to meeting as many Antrim residents as possible. Everyone is welcome! ❁

St. Joseph Community Services fosters independence and life enrichment for seniors and other qualified adults through nutrition, social engagement, and community services. Every week-day, we provide a hot nutritious meal and a safety check to an average of 1,550 people who belong to this frail segment of our population throughout Hillsborough County. Contact Paula J. Telage, ph: 603-424-9967, e-mail: ptelage@sjcsinc.org, website: www.mealsonwheelsnh.com. ❁

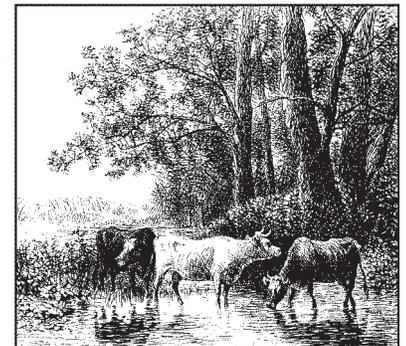
farms were gone (you couldn't make a living on them) but the land was still open. The problem was, left unused, nature started to reclaim this land. Just like today, there were two ways to keep the land open, find someone to farm it, or let animals graze it.

The farms that did remain grew larger in terms of the number of animals they kept. The problem was that most of these farms could not sustain the number of animals they had. The solution was to use the land of the farms that had shut down. My grandfather actually bought land—a farm on Holt Hill and a hundred acre farm on the Windsor-Antrim town line—for this purpose. Plenty of land existed for this to happen. Next you had to figure out how many animals a pasture could sustain for the pasture season, as a rule, from May 10 to Oct 10. Another rule of thumb, depending on condition of the land, was one to two acres of good grazing per animal. If you overloaded the pasture, most of the summer was spent putting cows back in after they “got out “ looking for food. That was a joy since the phone always rang at suppertime. Another consideration was the condition of the fences around the pasture and how much time would be involved fixing them. With a mid May starting date, fixing fences was usually done in “black fly” season, another joy. When all of this was done, the problem became how to move the animals from the home

farm to the new pasture when, early in the century, trucks were not available.

Prior to the advent of trucks, animals were driven in cattle drives. Two farms in Wilton actually drove cows thru Lyndeborough, Greenfield, and Bennington to farms in Antrim. My grandfather drove his cows from the home farm on West Street to the Windsor pasture. This effort required the help of many people to keep the animals from going down side roads, driveways, lawns, and so forth. Can you imagine a cattle drive going up Main Street today? With trucks this job became a lot easier, of course. During the pasture season animals were occasionally moved back and forth between the home farm and the pastures. In the 1950's my father would put a halter on a cow and lead to her to pasture through town, and I remember being embarrassed so I wouldn't go with him. In hindsight, I think many people enjoyed seeing him do it and came out to visit about the “good old days.” In the fall the process was reversed when the animals returned home for the winter.

These practices gradually stopped over a period of time for a variety of reasons, the primary one being the change in agriculture. Tools to make land more productive and farmers more efficient became available. Another reason was what happened to my father on Holt Hill. As was customary, weekly we went to the pasture to check the animals. As it turned out, the last year we used the pasture, my father also had sheep on the hill. When we arrived we couldn't see the sheep. After looking for a while we found them. Somebody had used them for target practice, all twelve of them dead. That was end of using Holt Hill for pasture. When we were pasturing at Winslow's Alabama Farm, a cow was shot in the paunch. Dick Winslow remembers this and wrote a poem about it. So, for a variety of reasons pasturing diminished and nature started reclaiming the land. ❄



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BILL PROKOP

by Ben Pratt

Bill Prokop became an Antrim Selectman in March of 2002. He served in that capacity until January of 2004 when he became Antrim's Town Administrator. From then until Sept. 11, 2008, he served the citizens of Antrim and accomplished much that will benefit the town for years to come.

Bill initiated the billing program for the town's ambulance service that, while costing Antrim residents essentially nothing, has made the department financially self-supporting. During his tenure, the town experienced several floods, and he has worked aggressively to allow the town to qualify for FEMA and NH State aid. With 19 bridges, Antrim was faced with significant costs for maintenance and replacement. Bill initiated a program to review all town bridges and established a schedule for their repair or replacement. The State of New

Hampshire now cites Antrim as an example of how other towns should structure their bridge programs.

Due to Bill's efforts, the town has entered into a lease / purchase agreement for a sandbank located at the North Branch. This will assure the town an adequate supply of material for road maintenance for years to come and will result in substantial savings. Additionally, he set up a leasing program for the town's highway and fire department equipment. This program has worked well and has now been expanded to include cruisers for the police department.

These projects represent only a few of the many efforts Bill has made over the past several years to make Antrim a better place for all its citizens.

In September, Bill left his post in Antrim to take a position in Keene. We wish him well with his new responsibilities, and we express our appreciation for his time and efforts on behalf of the people of Antrim. ❄

THEY'RE BACK! RICK & DIANE RETURN

Agricola

As you probably know by now, Rick & Diane Davis are again managing their pizza restaurant on Main Street, and they are excited to be back in business. Rick is thankful to



Larry Warren and his family for their year and a half running the show—tossing dough and manning the brick oven—and

he wishes Larry well as he pursues God's work as Pastor of Antrim's Church of Christ, of which Rick is a member.

Rick says, "What has really got us excited is that our son Nick is going to be joining our business. Nick has been Manager at Monadnock Spring Water in Wilton for almost ten years. He worked part time with us in our early days, but he was doing so well at the water company that he had to give them all of his time. But now the timing is right, and Nick is going to be a huge addition to our business, and to our family as Diane continues to battle her multiple sclerosis. Nick brings a ton of experience, not only as manager at Monadnock Spring Water, but from age ten, working for his parents in two convenience stores, Bowling Acres in Peterborough, The Sport in You, and Giuseppes Pizzeria."

Rick plans to add an "internet café" to his pizza restaurant, and he will be offering a fine line of coffee, muffins, bagels, pastries and breakfast. Also, in keeping with their interest in giving back to the town, and other towns as well, they are offering a 10% discount to all firefighters, police officers, and seniors 65 and older. All this is in addition to their ongoing support of our local youth.

Welcome back Rick and Diane! ❄

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I was an average student. I was more technical, and I needed practical experience. I was best in graphic arts and math; they came easier to me than English and History.

When did you make your final decision to go into law enforcement?

Well, I started to look into the “Police Explorer” program in Hillsboro run by the police department when I was a freshman at Conval. It was like boy scouts but directly related to police work. There were classes that taught what law enforcement is all about, such as its different responsibilities, and the basics you need to know. We really got an understanding of law enforcement without actually having to work the shifts.

How long a program is it?

You can be in the Explorers as long as you like, from age fifteen to twenty-one. I started when I was probably about sixteen, and I stayed in it until I went to college when I was eighteen or nineteen. So I was in about two and a half years.

I went to Hesser College in Manchester where they had a really good law enforcement program. I looked at Hesser and I looked at New Hampshire Tech, and I ended up choosing Hesser. It was a two-year program and I graduated with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice.

Was it interesting?

Yes, I did much better than I did in high school. There was more lecture, which I like. It’s kind of strange, I do better with lecture where they just explain things, and I retain information a lot better than sitting there reading it. There was a lot of practical stuff too. I’m a hands-on learner.

Speaking of hands-on, how do you feel about the sort of physical hands-on when you have to arrest someone who is potentially or actually violent, which is part of your job?

I’m just an average size guy, I’ve never been overpowering for a lot of people, and I’m not a physically intimidating person. So I have to adjust and become intimidating with “command presence.” I had to learn a lot of “verbal control and direction.”

Do they teach you that?

Yes, ways of talking through situations verbally where you can remain calming but still directive. So, I had to learn more communication skills, as well as reading the situation and really knowing what I’m getting into. Am I getting into a situation where it is automatically going to be a hands-on physical confrontation, or is it something where this person wants to show that he may get physical, but if I can persuade him not to, then he will quiet down? Or it is just something like somebody that talks real big and will never go physical. Being able to read those situations is important. Although I have been in a lot of situations that could potentially be physical, I’ve been able to handle a majority of them peacefully. There are a lot of big guys who are police officers, but I’m not the six foot three, two hundred eighty pound officer who

when he walks into a situation everybody sits back down and looks at him.

Did they teach you any kind of fighting skills like judo?

Yes, at the Police Academy they teach tactics that coordinate a lot of martial arts that are “soft-hand techniques,” so it’s not the breaking-bones sort of thing you see on tv. It’s joint manipulation and jujitsu- type soft-hand control. No matter how much you talk to people, as soon as your hands touch them—you have to physically touch them to handcuff them—that’s when people start to resist, and that’s when you need to use those soft hand controls and joint manipulation to keep them under control.

Is physical contact more necessary with alcohol and drug arrests?

Generally it is more likely with alcohol. Some drug users are usually more mellow, and they want to talk their way out of everything. Anything that affects the person’s mind, affects everybody differently. Alcohol is a depressant, and people can get angry when they’re depressed, so that’s usually when you get a confrontation. They don’t think past the moment, and they don’t realize what is going to happen later. As long as you are explaining things to people, sometimes you can talk them right out of violence. I’ve talked many people out of getting into physical confrontation because they just realize, “Okay, I’m only going to get myself in more trouble.” But there are some people who are violent, that’s the way they want to handle it, they don’t care: “I may be getting arrested, but you’re going to feel it too!”

Have you ever gotten hurt making an arrest?

Yes.

Did you play sports in school?

Yes, I ran track, I played soccer, I water-skied, played hockey, but as far as the organized sports in school, I was really into track and field. My parents had a cottage on a lake in Northwood, and we used to go there every summer. Also, I’d spend some time with my grandparents at Hampton Beach, and I developed some friends in those two areas.

Are your parents alive?

Yes, my parents live in Spofford now.

Good fishing in Spofford. Do you do any fishing?

Occasionally, I kind of dabble in a little bit of everything, I don’t hunt, really, I fish when I get the chance, I like to go deep sea fishing at least once a year, but I haven’t been able to do that for a couple years.

Did you go to the Police Academy?

Yes, I went to the Police Academy part time in 1993, starting off in the small town of Lyndborough while I was in college. I did my internship through college at the Lyndborough PD and then left there and went to the Hancock Police Department as a part time officer. I ended up obtaining a full

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time position in Hancock, and I went to the full time academy for Hancock in 1998. Late that year—in October 1998—I went to Peterborough, and I've been there until being hired as the Chief in Antrim.

It must have been a tough decision to leave the Peterborough job.

Very tough, very tough! But I think this is going to be a great challenge. Being the Chief in the town I grew up in was the only draw away from Peterborough that I would consider. A lot of people here talked to me about the changes in the Antrim PD over the years, and I think Todd—Chief Feyrer—did an excellent job getting the department to where it is today. I saw what he had done and what he had accomplished and the support that he had here.

What do you see as your biggest challenge?

I think staffing will always be a challenge, but we will be consistently recruiting to maintain a full complement of officers.

Are you hiring now?

Two full time positions, and two part time positions. The need for the part time positions is the special events we have in town, just to have extra manpower around so we have officers who have been here and are familiar to local people so we don't have to have officers from other towns coming in who don't know the people in town. Even if they don't live in town, they've been around here and people know them.

After Todd left, we lost Dean Wright who went back to Hinsdale, and Matt Elliott went to the State Liquor Commission. When I was hired, just two officers were left, Sean Cavanaugh and Adam King who have been working very hard, very long hours for several months. We are going to be swamped with trying to get things done that haven't been done for a while. The other difficulty is balancing, keeping the administrative portions going that Todd put in place that need to be there, and keeping the department up to date with all the new technology, and at the same time being able to get out on the road and patrol. That really was the big emphasis in this position when I was hired—being a working Chief out where Antrim residents can see me.

How do you feel about the administrative part of the job?

I learned a lot of the administrative responsibilities in Peterborough where I was Lieutenant and third in command of a fifteen-man department, plus two full time and two part time civilian employees. I loved it. The last few years of being in that position I really enjoyed the administrative and the operations part of the police department. That was appealing in this job as well. But I also like basic, bottom line police work, getting out on the road, stopping cars, and investigating crimes.

One of the problems in the past is the relationship between the police department and young people in town.

How do you feel about working with kids, for instance, at the skateboard park?

It's a tough area. I don't see the respect in some young people these days that there was in the past, even ten years ago. Some of the respect has gone away. But, I think it is how you approach and deal with the kids. If you come off as controlling and authoritarian in front of these kids, there's not going to be a good reception there. But if you talk to them, say "Hey, what's going on?" and ask them to show their latest skateboard trick, and take interest in what they are doing, then you get on a better and even playing field where you talk with them and not talk down to them and not give them direct orders. I want to have a positive presence up at the schools where the police officer is somebody they can look up to and talk to and be friendly with.

I understand you know the new Town Administrator.

Yes, I knew Neil Cass from Hancock. When I got hired there he was a member of the Board of Selectmen, so I've worked closely with him in the past.

How has your wife responded to your new job?

She was one of my biggest supporters for making the move and coming here, because as I mentioned before, it was a very difficult decision for me, and without her support, I may not have made the decision to come to Antrim. When we decided to go through the process, there was no turning back. I knew that if I went through this process, and if I was offered the job, I'd have to take it. Her biggest worry was having people come to the house. Brian Brown mentioned to me that townspeople would come to his house for help, and that's the one thing that I want to establish right off the bat. I have an open-door policy here at the police department; if you want to meet me here any time, I'll be available. I am the police officer, my wife is not, and my daughter is not. Their home is their sanctuary, that's where they run their lives.

Have you a final word?

I'm excited to be rebuilding the department and reestablishing the police-community relationship. This is a great police department with a very supportive community. I love living in Antrim and will enjoy working here as well. ❄



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TOUCHING THE VOID

Touching the Void documents the near-fatal climb of the author and his friend, Simon Yates, in the Peruvian Andes. Their objective was to climb Siula Grande. A photograph of the snow and ice-covered peak would send shivers down any sane person's spine. The west face is just shy of 21,000 feet high. (For a view of the mountain and vital statistics, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siula_Grande.) The book, itself, contains many intriguing photographs of the mountain and the men.

Simpson and Yates and another friend, who would stay behind at camp to watch the gear, hike 28 miles to the base of Siula Grande where they set up camp. The altitude is 15,000 feet and the friend who will stay behind is suffering from altitude sickness. However, Simpson and Yates won't be deterred from their objective. They take a daylong hike up one peak to get a better view of the main mountain. They turn around at 18,000 feet, due to very deep snow, and return to camp. Several days later, the weather appears favorable for their main objective, the ascent of Siula Grande's west face. Although they estimate a two-day ascent and a two-day descent they forego a tent because of the additional weight and instead elect to dig snow caves in which to sleep.

Their grueling climb is punctuated by falling rocks and ice, hidden crevasses, massive icicles, numb hands, and the ever-present danger of frostbite in the below-zero temperatures. Then the unthinkable happens – near the peak, 21,000 feet high, Simpson falls when his hammer pulls loose from the ice. His legs smash into the icy slope. Hanging upside down in mid air, his left leg tangled in the rope, he is panic-stricken that his fall will also pull his partner off the mountain.

"I hung, head down, on my back, left leg tangled in the rope above me and my right leg hanging slackly to one side. I lifted my head from the snow and stared, up across my chest at a grotesque distortion in the right knee, twisting the leg into a strange zigzag. I didn't connect it with the pain which burnt my groin."

As reality sets in, he realizes what has just happened. "I've broken my leg, that's it. I'm dead. Everyone said it ...if there's just two of you a broken ankle could turn into a death sentence...."

But remarkably, Yates isn't pulled off the mountain. He makes valiant attempt after valiant attempt to lower Simpson down the mountain. Simpson is able to fight through the incredible pain. However, as the cold and exhaustion settle into both men, the inevitable happens – Yates can't continue to hold Simpson. He has to cut the rope or he surely will be dragged to his own death. Remorse engulfs Yates who is convinced that he has allowed his friend to die.

But Simpson is not dead. What follows is an unbelievable tale of how Simpson crawls his way off the mountain. Delirium, pain, starvation, frostbite and brutal cold are his constant companions.

This is a riveting book. The constant dangers and unimaginable obstacles that have to be overcome will probably seem insurmountable to the average reader, but weren't for Simpson.

INTO THIN AIR

Half way around the world from Siula Grande is undoubtedly the most famous mountain in the world – Mount Everest. At 29,029 feet it is the highest in the world. According to Wikipedia, Everest has claimed 210 people, twelve of whom died in the fierce rogue storm that swept the mountain May 10, 1996. Often, the conditions near the summit are so difficult that most corpses are left where they fall, and some of them are visible from standard climbing routes.

Jon Krakauer's book *Into Thin Air* documents the death of five of the 12 climbers who died in 1996. Krakauer, an experienced climber, was hired by *Outside* magazine to document the growing commercialization of Everest. He signs up with Rob Hall, one of the most experienced guides in the Himalayas. Hall had successfully reached the peak four times between 1990 and 1995. Krakauer successfully reaches the summit, but Hall and another famous guide, Scott Fischer, die near the peak. In fact, one of the guides dies shortly after communicating with his wife, who is at home, via radio from the summit.

The obstacles are much the same as they were for Simpson and Yates in the Andes. Weather is a very critical element. The extreme cold, the potential for altitude sickness and the attendant confusion it causes in some people, the lack of oxygen, and the inability to make sound judgments, make climbing Mount Everest an acutely dangerous undertaking.

Krakauer's book is a fascinating account of the determination, bravery, and foolhardiness of some of the people – both men and women – who challenged the mountain that year. Several expeditions cooperated with each other, and at least one that refused to cooperate, putting all climbers at further risk.

Krakauer says in his introduction, in response to criticism that he wrote the book too soon after the disaster, "I wanted my account to have a raw, ruthless sort of honesty that seemed in danger of leaching away with the passage of time and the dissipation of anguish. Some of the same people who warned me against writing hastily had also cautioned me against going to Everest in the first place. There were many, many fine reasons not to go, but attempting to climb Everest is an intrinsically irrational act – a triumph of desire over sensibility. Any person who would seriously consider it is almost by definition beyond the sway of reasoned argument. The plain truth is that I knew better but went to Everest anyway. And in doing so I was a party to the death of good people which is something that is apt to remain on my conscience for a very long time." Whatever your opinion of the people Krakauer describes, you'll find this book as entrancing as *Touching the Void*. ❄

“THE BRAVEST VS. THE FINEST”

Sergeant Sean Cavanaugh
Antrim Police Department

The 2008 Bravest vs. Finest baseball game was held on Sunday September 21 at noon in front of a large group of local fans. On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in Antrim, the Finest won for the second year in a row. Don't let the 20 to 12 score fool you, the Bravest gave the Finest an honest run for their money earlier on. If it weren't for two big power innings at the plate for the Finest, this game would have been a close one. The Bravest brought their “A game” on Sunday and wanted to take home the trophy, with spectacular plays at first base by Firefighter Jeff Robidoux diving to make an out, incredible fielding at short stop by Firefighter Shane Demers, and remarkable, if not life saving, catches by the pitcher Captain Eric Phillips. The Fire Department displayed why they are called the Bravest, best demonstrated by EMT Sherry Miller who put her life on the line, swinging for the cheap seats and almost risking serious back injury doing so.

If you missed this year's game, then you missed a good one. Antrim resident and last year's “all time clean up hitter” for both teams, Jeff Causey, was traded to the Fire Department just prior to the start of this year's game and made a considerable contribution. The specifics of the deal that sent Causey to the Fire Department were not released in what appears to be a last minute sealed-bid deal.

The Finest pulled this one out with assistance from past Antrim Police Officers, Investigator Matthew Elliott and Deputy Chief Scott Dunn of the NH State Liquor Commission, and Chief Brent Hautanen of the Wilton Police Department. Chief Brian “G-man” Giammarino of the Greenfield Police Department was pulled up from the minors, flying in just in time to make his contributions felt as well. The Finest only had two poor showings during game. First was Officer Adam King at first base who appeared to have a gapping hole in his glove, missing what most would describe as something a first year ball player could have stopped. Second, and no laughing matter, was the poor base running of Sgt. Sean Cavanaugh. Fans were overheard saying, “He is really showing his age”.

At the end of the game everyone appeared to have had a great time, and we are eagerly looking forward to a year of rest before having to battle it out again. Fire Chief Mike Beauchamp shook hands with, and turned this year's trophy over to, the New Chief of Police Scott Lester in a gesture the Fire Department hopes will be reciprocated next year.

Don't miss next year's game when the Finest will be going for a “Three peat”! ❄

OFFICER RYAN STORRO, ANTRIM PD

Agricola

Antrim resident Officer Ryan Storro first reported for duty Monday 17 November, and we're fortunate to have him. He loves being a police officer. He could have been an electrician, for which he was trained in the US Navy, and he might have continued his successful thirteen year self-employed carpentry business. But in 2007 he saw how gratifying being police officers was to several good friends, and he decided to make law enforcement a career. Ryan comes to us from the New Boston Police Department which sent him to the NH Police Academy, so he arrived here fully certified.

Ryan and his wife Carole (who worked with the Recreation Department last summer) have lived in Antrim for three years with their two children who attend AES. “I was born in Leominster, Massachusetts—I'm forty-three—and played football and baseball in high school there. After high school I went into the US Navy from 1983 to 1986 where I was trained



as an electrician.” When he is not working or at home with his family, Ryan likes hunting deer in Illinois, fishing for bass and crappies at Gregg Lake and Powder Mill Pond, and practicing two martial arts, Modern Arnis from the Philippines, and the more traditional Goju Ryu Karate.

Asked what aspect of police work he likes the best, he said: “I like to meet and greet people. I enjoy working with kids, and I hope to do the DARE program up at the schools.” It was a pleasure to meet and greet Officer Ryan Storro. ❄

ANTRIM VOLUNTEER DRIVER NETWORK

Ruth Benedict

The Antrim Volunteer Driver Network has been up and running since May of this year. Thanks to the generosity of our registered Drivers and Phone Volunteers, we have been able to provide 15 rides to Antrim residents in that time. Many thanks to all who have given of their time to help this project have a successful launch!

The next step is for us to coordinate with other local towns and 'grow' our volunteer networks into a larger service. This new service will be coordinated by the Contoocook Valley Transportation Company. CVTC has recently brought its new website online (cvtc-nh.org) where a Rideboard is available, along with information on Volunteer Driver Networks, and Shuttle Bus programs. Use the Rideboard to find others who are going to the same concert or ball game as you, and go together. You'll save money and have company for the drive. Recently, there were rides on the Rideboard for work commutes, errands, and getting to the voting polls. (All Rideshare participants remain anonymous until they choose to share their name and e-mail address. Until a match is found, Riders communicate with one another with screen names.) These CVTC services can also be accessed toll free 1-877-428-2882, where a volunteer will take your information and post an entry onto the Rideboard for you.

CVTC, recently incorporated as a state nonprofit, has moved to new offices in the Monadnock Business Center on Route 202 South in Peterborough (925-9585). This new office will provide room for staff and volunteers. If you can help with community organizing, driving of small buses/vans, or coordinating of activities, please contact CVTC at 1-877-428-2882 or info@cvtc-nh.org.

For more information on the Antrim Volunteer Driver Network, please contact Ruth Benedict, 588-6208. If you would like to receive updates from the CVTC, please send an email to Rebecca Harris, CVTC Project Coordinator, at info@cvtc-nh.org. *

SHADES OF GREEN

Peter Gagne

It is December and readers of the Limrik are beginning to realize that winter has settled in and there will be many months before we see any green color except for our Christmas trees and wreaths. Limrik readers are used to my writing about the outdoors, its wild inhabitants, and pretty much anything to do with the worlds of woods, waters, and sky. It is my life and something I have some knowledge of. But this article is a bit different. It trends toward the outdoors, but it leans more toward the "Big Green" movement that has taken to television, newspapers, and the bright bumper stickers that adorn cars of folks that like to express their greenness. Here is where I take a bit of a turn.

I believe in Green more than most folks, I live Green more than most folks, and I understand Green more than most folks. I do because I work as a logger, a wild-game butcher, and a trapper. I have vegetable gardens, raise animals, and believe that growing, canning, and preserving make for a better life. I do it because I believe in it, I enjoy it, and I love the rewards. It is hard work but well worth it. I am not looking to be politically correct, I am not a granola head, and I do not believe that we should give up our trucks, oil heat, computers, and many of the great benefits the modern world has given us. What I believe is based on twenty-five years watching the changes in belief and behavior among local folks. Most people I know like the sound of "living green," yet the great majority do not live green. Here is where I may make sense to some folks but draw some curled lips from others. If you have an open mind, and are honest about who you are and the life you live, then you will be okay with my thoughts. If not, well, that's what makes us all so different.

People in the Green Movement are interested in the betterment of Mother Nature and the desire to improve the land, its animals, and themselves. In Antrim we have some powerful green movement folks who are so hard working they do not need a movement in order to stand out. Lets start with the Platt Farm, the Tenney Farm, and the Chauncey Farm. In these farms green gets no stronger or better. The Platt farm is our only locally owned dairy farm, and Steven, Chris, and Caleb

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Platt have stuck their hands, heads, elbows, and knees on their cows and into the ground for so many years that their jeans are green. There is the Tenney farm, another long running family farm. Eric, Linda, Crista, and Chris raise corn, strawberries, pumpkins, every other type of vegetable and flower you could ever want or need. They turn the earth every year and rely on nature to dictate the weather that will determine whether or not they will turn a profit or have months of hard work ruined. The Chauncey Farm is smaller, so the family has to work other jobs full time while cultivating, planting, tending, harvesting, and marketing. You can find Diane and her grown kids working their land many a dark night, and they do this because they love the earth and the land calls to them. Whether they are picking corn, sunflowers, pumpkins, or cutting field-side firewood, these folks are full time Green.

As you move down the vine of green you come to a second, small group of local folk who raise back yard gardens, burn a little firewood, recycle, and are careful about not abusing Mother Nature. They are concerned about wasting water, gas, and food, and they make an effort to watch what they eat, what they waste, and what they contribute—or should I say do not contribute—to the environment. The true back yard Greeny is a person who understands that you must give up something to gain something. If you love to garden, to raise a pig or a few chickens, and to can or freeze your har-

vest, then you must give up time from other things.

Here is where I find my third category of Green folks. I see many a “Going Green” or “Think Green” bumper sticker on cars around town. Bumper stickers draw attention to one’s belief in something; we stick them on to make a statement. Yet, I know for a fact that many of the people driving those cars do not grow a garden, raise an animal, recycle, or make an effort to sacrifice some time or energy for the environment.

But of course not everybody can be a farmer or even a backyard gardener. Unfortunately, Green has become a huge money business, and if you want to live Green you have to be well off. It is sad that most folks cannot afford to buy Green. Have you ever seen what a package of “green” toilet paper cost? How about a Green 2x4, or a Certified Green jar of peanut butter? If you really want a shock, buy any type of Certified Green cereal or a Certified Green free-range Thanksgiving turkey! Green products run close to double what most other products cost. Don’t get me wrong. I know that Green is better for one’s health and better for Mother Earth’s health, and it would be very good if everyone could afford to live Green.

There was a Green movement back in the 1960s practiced by a few folks while most people put up a big stink over it. Back then they were called hippies, and they were proud to be thought green. But, after a year, maybe two, they realized green meant hard work, and it was easier to just go to the

 continued on page 21

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References

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SPENSER COOK
FREESTYLE SKIER

Agricola

Dude!

Antrim's ConVal sophomore Spenser Cook is a USASA ranked Free Style skier who works out at his home ski area Crotched Mountain in Bennington and competes throughout New England—Waterville, Loon, Cranmore, Gunstock—and at the end of last year's season, in championships at Colorado's Breckenridge and Copper Mountain.

After two years of successful competition with numberless bone-threatening falls perfecting his flips and twists, Spenser was endorsed last spring by the Nordica Ski Equipment Company as one of its team of highly skilled ski competitors. This means that he will be given discounted ski equipment and clothing to represent the company at competitions. (You know, how those Olympic ski racers rush to get their skis off and hold the logos up to the cameras.)

Spenser says his favorite tricks are the "Front Flip" off a jump, the "Cork 720" (two full spins, or 720 degrees), and the "Corkscrew" (an off-axis twist). His most gnarly and best trick is a "Cork 900" which consists of full-rotation two-and-a-half twists, or 900 degrees. For the upcoming ski season he is working on the very difficult—and dangerous—"Double Front Flip." When there's no snow Spenser practices his



moves on his home trampoline and at a community swimming pool. I was impressed one day at the end of the summer when his friend and fellow free-style skier Emerson Doty showed me the off-season ski jump Spenser has constructed in his yard out of used lumber and some green Astro Turf he found somewhere.

So, this winter keep your eye on the Crotched Terrain Park and you may catch Spenser's Cork 900, or possibly even his Double Front Flip. Awesome! ❄️



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CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 4 **"A Christmas Carol"** • bus leaves for St Anselms College at 6 PM • sponsored by the REC Dept
- 5 **Family Fun Night** • 6–8 PM • at the Town Gym sponsored by the REC Dept
- 6 **Window Painting** • 10–12 NOON • Town Hall • sponsored by the REC Dept
- 6 **Visitor Day** • 10–12:30 PM • Maharishi Academy of Total Knowledge • RSVP: 603-606-2089
- 7 **Holiday Tree Lighting** • 4 PM • Memorial Park Bandstand and Town Hall
- 12 **A Viennese Christmas concert** • bus leaves at 5 PM • sponsored by the REC Dept
- 13 **Holiday Craft Fair** • 10–2 PM • Avenue A Teen Center
- 13 **Stop, Drop and Shop** • 10–1 PM • fun for kids at The Grapevine
- 13 **Patron Appreciation Day** • 10–4 PM • Tuttle Library
- 13 **Shopping Trip to South Nashua stores** • bus leaves at 11:30 AM • sponsored by the REC Dept
- 14 **Historical Society Holiday Celebration** • 3–5 PM • at the Tuttle Library
- 18 **Community Supper** • 5:30 PM • at the Presbyterian Church
- 19 **BIG Open Mic Night** • Avenue A Teen Center
- 21 **Christmas Musical & Pageant** • 10:30 AM • Baptist Church
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
 - Mass • 4 & 6 PM • St Patrick Church
 - Worship Service • 6:30 PM • Presbyterian Church
 - Candlelight Service • 7 PM • Baptist Church
- 25 **Christmas Day Mass** • 9 AM • St Patrick Church
- 26 **Storytime with Owl Tree Puppetry** • 10–11 AM • Tuttle Library



JANUARY

- 9 **Family Fun Night** • 6–8 PM • at the Town Gym sponsored by the REC Dept
- 10 **Roller Skating & Dance Dance Revolution** • 6–7:30 PM (families) 7:30–9 PM (teens) • at the Town Gym sponsored by the REC Dept
- 12 **Talking with Children about Alcohol** discussion session • 6:30–8 PM • The Grapevine
- 15 **Community Supper** • 5:30 PM • at the Presbyterian Church
- 15 **Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren** discussion session • 6:30–7:30 PM • The Grapevine
- 16 **BIG Open Mic Night** • Avenue A Teen Center
- 18 **Jeff Warner "Songs of Old New Hampshire"** • 3 PM • Historical Society program at the Presbyterian Church
- 24 **Snowshoeing & Tracking** in McCabe Forest • 10 AM • meet at The Grapevine
- 24 **Spaghetti Supper** hosted by Avenue A Teen Action Committee • 5:30 PM • at the Presbyterian Church
- 30 **Storytime with Owl Tree Puppetry** • 10–11 AM • Tuttle Library

FEBRUARY

- 3 **Wings of Knowledge Lecture series** • bus leaves for NHTI at 5:30 PM • sponsored by the REC Dept
- 6 **Family Fun Night** • 6–8 PM • at the Town Gym sponsored by the REC Dept
- 9 **Sharing Kids After Divorce** discussion session • 6:30–8 PM • The Grapevine
- 11 **Cannon Mountain Ski** • bus leaves at 6:30 AM • sponsored by the REC Dept
- 14 **Klondike Derby** • hosted by Boy Scout Troop 2
- 15 **Peter Moore "Conservation in Antrim"** • 3 PM • Historical Society program at the Presbyterian Church
- 19 **Community Supper** • 5:30 PM • at the Presbyterian Church
- 20 **St Petersburg String Quartet concert** • bus leaves at 8 AM • sponsored by the REC Dept
- 20 **BIG Open Mic Night** • Avenue A Teen Center
- 23 **February Vacation Parent-Child Open Playroom** • The Grapevine
- 24 **February Vacation Winter Fun Day** indoor/outdoor activities for children ages 4–6 • The Grapevine
- 26 **The Wild Side** animal fun program for children ages 4–6 • The Grapevine
- 27 **Pet Read-In** (Guinea Pigs) • 10 AM • Tuttle Library



ANTRIM RECREATION

Celeste Lunetta, Director

The Recreation Department has been running at full steam through the summer and fall. There are several programs planned for the upcoming winter and early spring months. Read on to learn more. If you ever have questions about a program, please do not hesitate to contact us at 588-3121. Please be sure to leave a message if we do not answer. If you have a computer, you can email us at antrimrecreation@tds.net, and program information is available on the town website at antrimnh.org. The Recreation Office is staffed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursday evenings, and many Saturday mornings. We are always looking for ways to improve, and have many opportunities for volunteers. The Antrim Friends of Recreation meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 7pm, and the Antrim Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month. Both of these meetings are held at the Antrim Town Gymnasium.

WINTER AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR ADULT RECREATION

Open Basketball for Adults at Town Gym: Sundays, 6:00 pm.

Volleyball: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:15 pm.

Yoga: Tuesday evenings, 6pm. Contact Jeanine Clarke Edmunds for details.

Boot Camp: Aerobic/strength cross training- Wednesdays 5:30 pm.

Pilates: Thursdays, 6pm, contact Jeanine Clarke Edmunds.

Indoor Walking at AES: Daily, Monday-Friday 6:30-8:00 pm. Call 588-3121 to register, no charge.

Chess Club: Thursdays, 7pm...call ahead to make sure game is on.

Please call if transportation to the gym is a problem, we may be able to help find you a ride.

POPULAR PROGRAMS FOR OUR YOUNGEST FRIENDS AND THEIR GUARDIANS

Indoor Toddler Playground: Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 am, begins January 7th. This program is open to all, free to Antrim Residents. Held upstairs at the Antrim Town Hall, an indoor playground with mats for tumbling, balls for throwing and kicking, tunnels to clamber through, and slides to play on. Music sets the mood and the kids have a great time at this popular program. The indoor playground is designed for babies and toddlers up through age 3.

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Friday Family Fun Nights: December 5, Holiday Crafts, Floor Hockey and Basketball; January 9th; February 6, March 6. At the Town Gym, 6-8 pm. Activities geared for elementary age children and their families.

Roller Skating & Dance Dance Revolution- Jan 10, Feb 14, March 14. Held every second Saturday of the month, this is becoming an extremely popular event. Join us for old fash-

ioned and supreme fun with indoor roller skating at the Town Gym. This event offers two separate sessions; 6:00-7:30 pm for families, and 7:30-9:00 pm for teens. Skate rentals are \$5.00 per session, and admission is \$2.00. There is a \$4.00 max per family. Proceeds benefit the Antrim Friends of Recreation.

FIELD TRIP TO SKI CROTCHED MOUNTAIN

Tues March 10- 12:30-5:30. Kids and Families, schedule the day off to introduce your families to this great winter sport. Join us for a field trip to Crotched Mountain Ski Area. For this special trip, youth tickets are \$20 and adults are \$25. This includes a lift ticket, lunch, rentals, and a group lesson for beginners.

NEW PROGRAM for 2009

Movies at the Town Hall Beginning early in 2009! Come out for a variety of films and cartoons at the Antrim Town Hall. Details are still being worked out, but you can expect a variety of films to be presented, from classic B&W, cartoons, musicals, dramas, and more. Admission to these movies will always be free. If you would like to help with this initiative, or have a group that would like to sponsor concessions during some of the movies, contact Celeste at 588-3121.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY BUS TRIPS

"A Christmas Carol" at St. Anselms College, with the renowned Nebraska Theatre Caravan on Thursday December 4. Bus will leave Antrim at 6:00 pm. Cost for the trip is \$16.00, and seats are in the lower section of the Dana Center. Return to Antrim around 11pm.

A Viennese Christmas, Friday December 12. Celebrate the spirit of Vienna and the holiday season with The New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra, featuring 30 world-class musicians and four vocalists. The program ranges from the overture of Strauss's "Die Fledermaus," to selections from many wonderful Romberg operettas such as "The Student Prince," a full suite from "Babes in Toyland," several Broadway musicals, and popular carols of the season. Bus leaves Antrim at 5pm. Concert is free, and we recommend getting in the "indoor line" at 6pm. Cost for bus is \$2.50 for Antrim Residents, \$5.00 for nonresidents.

Shopping Trip to South Nashua-Trader Joes, Christmas Tree Shop, Kohls, and LL Bean Outlet, Saturday December 13, leave Antrim at 11:30, return at 5:30, enjoy holiday light displays on the way home. Cost for bus is \$2.50 for Antrim residents, \$5 all others. Pick Ups are available for Antrim Village, Town Hall, Bennington, and Frankestown.

Shakespeare and Modern Culture Wings of Knowledge Lecture Series at NH Tech Institute: Douglas Lanier, Tues February 3. UNH English Professor Douglas Lanier will explain how and why it is that Shakespeare, perhaps more than any other major literary figure, is alluded to or adapted in so many ways, and for so many different audiences. Enjoy a fun evening of the Bard, Star Trek, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and

 continued on next page

store or a fast food joint. Here is another one of my points: those people who were green back in the 60s, well I look at them now and see that most do not grow gardens, do not own small cars, do not recycle (unless they are forced to), and do not use solar power or burn firewood.

Our new technology should have given everyone more time to become green and in touch with the earth, most people have gone in the opposite direction. We have created a world where we can talk into a phone the size of a pack of cigarettes, we have created machines and tools that do the job twice as fast as ten years ago, and we own TVs so big you feel like you're at the ball game. In doing this we have driven up the cost of living so high that a regular working man or woman can't afford to buy a piece of land for a garden.

Everyone must eat, and in order to eat you must work, to work you need a car, if you have a car, you need gas, to have gas, you must get oil, to get oil, you need big business, and big business is not Green. Even family farmers like the Platts, the Tenneys, and the Chaunceys are not totally green. Green is gone. *

ANTRIM BENNINGTON FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry that serves our town is located at the Baptist Church at the intersection of Routes 202 and 31, opposite T-Bird. The Rev. Charlie Boucher reports that there are many more clients visiting the pantry this fall and the need for emergency food requests are much more urgent. The economic downturn has affected many people in our community, and families have found themselves needing a temporary few bags of food.



If you can help with a donation of non-perishable food, please bring it to The Laconia Savings Bank in Antrim (formerly Ocean Bank), the Tuttle Library, or drop it by any morning at the church. Cash donations can be mailed to PO Box 206, Antrim, NH 03440.

If you are in need of emergency food, the food pantry is available and you are welcome to stop by. It is open on Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to noon. For further information please call 588-6614. *

REC Dept continued

hip-hop. Bus leaves Antrim at 5:30, lecture is at 7pm, return to Antrim around 9:45.

Trip to Cannon Mountain Wednesday Feb 11th—Final Prices TBA, we are waiting on Cannon. Bus will leave Antrim at 6:30am, will return around 6pm.

St. Petersburg String Quartet; World Renowned Chamber Ensemble from Russia; Friday February 20 - One of the world's leading string quartets, "the St. Petersburg String Quartet has blazed an impressively Olympic trail through international chamber music competitions, taking home Silver and Gold time after time in Tokyo, Italy, and Australia over the years. Combining the power and emotionalism of the great American quartets with European style precision and attention to detail, their luxuriously dark and rich tone is music-making of the highest order, and practically intoxicating. With passion and unparalleled technique they play the works of the greatest classical composers on earth, including Shostakovich, Ravel, Debussy, Tchaikovsky and Brahms, showing a remarkable unity of spirit in the ebb and flow of the music that you will long to hear again." Bus will leave Antrim at 8:00 am, concert starts at 9:30 am, we will return around noon. Cost is \$15.00.

Trip to Waterville Valley—Dollar Day! Weds April 1. \$1.00 lift tickets at Waterville, no foolin. Bus leaves Antrim at 7am, return around 6pm. Cost for bus is \$8.00 pp.

YOUTH SPORTS AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Basketball Registrations for kids in first and second grade will be accepted through December 12. After School Chorus, held Tuesdays, will accept new registrations for participa-

tion starting in January. Registrations and planning session are happening now for the 2009 Softball and Baseball Season. Indoor training for softball pitching takes place every Tuesday at the Town Gym.

ARCHERY GRANT

The recreation department was awarded a grant for continuing to develop our Target Archery program, so watch for news in this area starting in February. Indoor soccer for 4 and 5 year olds will be held for three Saturdays in February and 3 in March.

THANK YOU

In closing, I want to say thank you for taking the time to read our article! Our goal is to offer programs for people of all interests and ages. We hope that you can find something you and your family might be interested in. Please call us at 588-3121 if you have any questions or suggestions. *



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words of Carl Sandburg, tell us “where we came from and what brought us along.” These ballads, love songs, and comic pieces reveal the experiences and emotions of daily life in the days before movies, sound recordings, and, for some, books. Songs from the lumber camps, the decks of sailing



ships, the textile mills, and the war between the sexes offer views of pre-industrial New England and a chance to hear living artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries. Mr. Warner is a Folklorist and Community Scholar for the New Hampshire Council on the Arts, has been named an Arts Council Fellow for 2007, and is on the Speaker’s Roster for the New Hampshire Humanities Council, which is the sponsor of this program. He has toured nationally for the Smithsonian Institution and has recorded for Flying Fish/Rounder and other labels. His 1995 recording *Two Little Boys: More Old Time Songs for Kids*, received a Parents’ Choice Award. This program promises to be a lively and entertaining program that

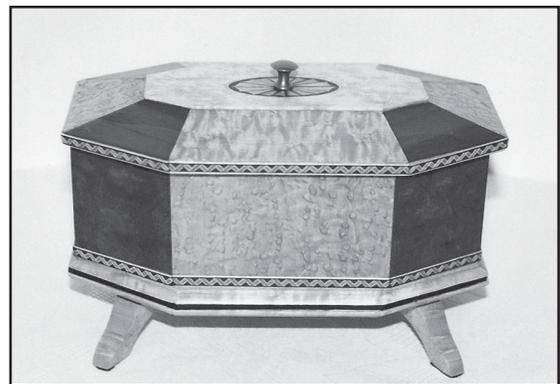
you will not want to miss and one that you won’t forget: just the tonic for those winter blues. It will be held on Sunday, January 18 at 3 pm at the Antrim Presbyterian Church.

Peter Moore will present the February program, Conservation in Antrim. Many of you have no doubt avidly read Peter’s series of essays on the Hills of Antrim in the *Limrik* and know of Peter’s deep love of our town and its stunning natural beauty. We hope many of you will join us on February 15 at 3 pm at the Antrim Presbyterian Church as Peter delves into the history of conservation in Antrim, what has been accomplished so far and why land conservation is essential to a healthy and prosperous community.

Historical Society programs are usually presented on the third Sunday of every month at the Presbyterian Church at 3 pm. Please watch for the new Historical Society brochure and for program announcements in the papers and on the town’s website at www.antrimnh.org. The Antrim Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation and understanding of Antrim’s heritage. All of the Society’s programs and meetings are open to the public without charge. ❄

DUNLAP BOX RAFFLE

The drawing date for the beautiful Dunlap box is Sunday, December 14, at the Historical Society’s Holiday Program at the Tuttle Library from 3–5 pm. Music and Refreshments. ❄



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NEWS ABOUT TOWN

ANTRIM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

By John Robertson

The Chamber has had an active summer and fall, taking on major activities at Home and Harvest, sponsoring the Community dinner in July, a Business after Hours at Antrim Computer, and getting the new website up and running.

Some sixty-five professional skateboarders invaded Antrim on September 19th to compete over the weekend, and Summer Street was filled with activity for three days with a world record set. Many thanks to Brian Beihl and his committee for a very successful event.

The other event at Home and Harvest the Chamber sponsored was the Pumpkin Regatta during which more than 100 Pumpkins raced down the pond. We thank Crista Salamy for all her efforts.

In July we fed more than 100 people at a cookout at Gregg Lake, our turn hosting the Community Dinner. Many thanks to Dr. Greg Perry for his donation for this event, and to several members who contributed food, grills, and supplies.

Our new website became a reality over the summer. With the help of Matt Burke and Terry Cutter, we now have a state-of-the-art website. Members can have their businesses listed on our website along with a description of services and products they provide.

Early in 2009 we shall hold our big Annual Dinner with an inspirational speaker and program. Look for an announcement and listing on the website. *

BOXES MOVE

SHIP CHRISTMAS PACKAGES AT EDMUNDS ACE HARDWARE

Brian Beihl

This Christmas season brings a new owner to a familiar Antrim business, Boxes on Board. Edmunds Ace Hardware acquired Boxes on Board from Brian Beihl on October 15, bringing Fedex & UPS services back to Antrim after a two year hiatus in Hillsborough. Long time employees Linda Bryer and Jason Bryer have gone to work for Edmunds Hardware, assuring a smooth transition. Manager Rick Edmunds is offering Fedex, UPS, and light packing services. Due to space considerations, however, Edmunds will not be packaging furniture and large items, or creating custom packaging. Pick-up times have changed somewhat, with Fedex Ground about 2 p.m., Fedex Air about 3:00 p.m., and UPS about 4 p.m. For more information, contact Rick Edmunds or Linda Bryer at 588-6565. *

WINNERS OF THE SEPTEMBER LIMERICK CONTEST

A record number of readers—fifteen—submitted endings to our September limerick contest: Penny Welch, Jess Baribault, Gerry Chagnon, Cory Morrill, Julie Hebert, Toni Naglie, Molli Naglie, Petra V. McLay (6 years old, 1st grade AES!), Ginny McLay, Trish Murphy, Irene “Reenie” Neonakis, Beth Fletcher, Judith Stuart, Margie Warner, Shelley Nelkens. All the entries were excellent, but our judges chose three as outstanding. The three winners who will receive \$50 gift certificates to the Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough are:

Jess Baribault

The trouble increased when she sold
Her holdings in silver and gold.
‘Twas a terrible mess,
When she left her address
For a new destination untold.

Irene Neonakis

The trouble increased when she sold
Her holdings in silver and gold.
‘Twas a terrible mess,
And so under duress
She vowed her Picasso to hold.

Margie Warner

The trouble increased when she sold
Her holdings in silver and gold.
‘Twas a terrible mess,
Said the popular press
In a story most vilely mis-told.

NEW LIMERICK CONTEST

For this contest you must provide the final two lines of this limerick. The best entry will receive a \$50 gift certificate at the Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough. E-mail entries to l_gilmore@conknet.com, or by regular mail to Antrim Limrik, PO Box 30, Antrim, NH 03440.

Fair warning you brigand, you thief,
and others who might cause us grief!
You’re out in the cold

AVENUE A NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Dave Kirkpatrick, Teen Center Coordinator

Avenue A Teen Center is back to school-season hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2:30-6:30. Open hours and days may change as it gets colder and darker. To keep posted on seasonal changes as well as events and activities, teens and parents are encouraged to get on the email list. Just send an email to Dave at teencenter@tds.net.

Thanks to some hard work by the Teen Action Committee (TAC) and helpers, Avenue A raised over \$300 in October at the “yard sale” end of the Grapevine Auction. Currently a 50/50 “Holiday Surprise” raffle is being promoted, which draws December 1st. To get your ticket, or to find other ways you can support Avenue A, drop on by, call 588-3334 or visit our website: www.avenueatc.com.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Saturday, December 13—Grapevine Holiday Craft Fair at Ave A, 42 Main Street

Friday, December 19—BIG Open Mic Night—Call to schedule your performance.

Open Mic Night has been a regular activity at Ave A for a while. Now that we have some experience under our belts,

we want to make it more of an EVENT, a bit more “professional.” This means scheduled performance slots, more promotion and invitations, and a small donation at the door.

BIG Open Mic, on the 3rd Friday night of the month is for ages 13+, and adult members of the community are encouraged to attend and perform. (We’ll still have our less formal open mics on occasional Fridays, open to all ages under 13 accompanied by an adult.)

Other upcoming activities include a JR TAC Night (For our pre-teen supporters and their friends), Poetry Reading, another bona-fide Pool Tournament, and a Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament—Drop in, call, email or visit the website for details.

*And in January...*TAC will host a Spaghetti Supper to raise funds to support the operation of the teen center. The Details: Saturday, January 24 at 5:30 at the First Presbyterian Church.

We Want You! The Avenue A Steering Group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, and we encourage parents of teens, pre-teens and other community members to attend, find out what’s happening at the teen center, and contribute your time and talents. Teens are welcome to attend the steering group meetings. ❄

tooth·ache

\ˈtüth-,āk\ *n*(14c):

an ancient phenomenon no longer experienced today by anyone receiving preventive dental care from the hands of experienced professionals such as the people at:



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ANTRIM/BENNINGTON SCOUTS

Brian Beihl

BOY SCOUTS FALL ACTIVITIES

The fourteen Scouts in Troop 2 have had a very busy fall, having helped with Home & Harvest and danced in a Native American pow-wow ceremonial circle in Hancock during September, camped on an island in Maine for four days over Columbus Day weekend in October, helped collect over 1800 items of food for local food banks with Scouting for Food, had a father/son cabin weekend, and climbed Mt. Monadnock in November. Too bad Scouts don't have any fun!

NEW LEADERSHIP

The Troop has voted Christopher Brinkley Senior Patrol Leader, supported by Assistant Senior Patrol Leader James Hollingsworth, Patrol Leader Sean Campbell and Patrol Leader R.J. Carney. Chris Healey has also joined the troop as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

ANNUAL WREATH SALE

The Scouts wish to thank all those who supported Troop 2 through our annual wreath sale. If you didn't get your reservation in, limited numbers of 10 inch, 14 inch and 18 wreaths are available at Hilltop Christmas tree farm in Hancock or by calling Yvette at 588-2092. Proceeds from the sale will help send the troop to summer camp at Hidden Valley in July 2009.

TROOP 2 HOSTS DISTRICT KLONDIKE DERBY

February 14 Troop 2 hosts the Monadnock District Klondike Derby, which challenges patrols to pull a sled loaded

with gear around a course with stations of Scout skills, navigation, first aid, physical challenges, and teamwork. The troop has chosen a "polar explorer" theme for the 2009 event.

JOIN TROOP 2

Does your son enjoy the outdoors and doing service for others? Join Troop 2! Contact Brian Beihl, Scoutmaster, at 588-3014 for more information. Boy Scouts starts at age 11.

CUB SCOUTS

POPCORN THANK YOU

The boys of Pack 2 thank residents who bought popcorn this fall and helped support the pack's spring 09 trip.

NEW SCOUTS

Pack 2 registered 30 Cub Scouts this fall, with the largest group the Webelos Den, lead by den leader Dr. Tom Bara with 14 Cubs this year. Tammie Blanchette has taken over as committee chair this year and is the contact if you'd like your son to participate in Cub Scouts. The fun starts with Tiger Cubs at age 7 or first grade and continues to Webelos in 4th/5th grade. Contact Tammie at 588-2594 for more information.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Along with Troop 2 Scouts, Pack 2 Scouts canvassed Antrim, Bennington, and Hancock collecting food for area food banks. Over 1800 items of nonperishable food were collected, which are then redistributed to food banks in the area through the New Hampshire Food Bank in Manchester.



ANTRIM-BENNINGTON LIONS CLUB

Sarah Edwards

The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club would like to thank all those who helped make the barbeque at Antrim's Home and Harvest Celebration a success! We would like to thank the donors for the barbeque—without their generosity the barbeque would not be the success that it was. Thank you to Shaw's, Malarkey's, Cutter Construction, and Allen Chiropractic. It was our best Home and Harvest barbeque yet!

Once again we will be selling Christmas Trees on weekends in December at the Tenney Farm Stand. The proceeds of the Christmas Tree sales help fund the Operation Santa project in town. We greatly appreciate all of our annual customers and look forward to having new customers purchase a tree from us. Help spread holiday cheer to families in our community. ❄️



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GALLOPING WITH ASHLEY

Schatze Moore

I did something recently that I haven't done in a very long time, though I have often dreamt of doing this thing again. So when Ashley asked me if my horse liked to gallop, how could I resist?

Here is the story of my gallop with Ashley. The office I work at was closed for the Columbus Day holiday, and I decided I would take my horse Sleet for a ride. I also decided it would be nice to have some company to ride with so I called a friend. I left my message on my friend's answering machine and headed for the barn. About five minutes later my husband called me to answer the phone. Ashley was on the line. Ashley is the granddaughter of my friend and Ashley was interested in a ride.

I asked Ashley how long it would take her to get ready. She thought she could be ready in about five minutes, and I said it would take me a bit longer than that. We agreed that as soon as Ashley was ready she would head my way. She lives about a mile from my house. Anyway, I scurried back out to the barn and got Sleet cleaned and tacked up in fairly record time. I was on Old Clinton Road by Billy Harris's barn when I heard the sound of a horse's hooves. I could tell by the sound that it was a fast walk, and next thing I knew Ashley and her horse came into view. Let me tell you now that the sight of them brought joy to my heart. Those two were a happy pair, it was written all over them. I said, "Ashley are you riding bare back?" Yes she was, and not only that, her bridle was without a bit because, "I have more control this way." Some horses just do not like a bit in their mouth. Her riding attire was very casual, too. I loved it; she was wearing a big hooded sweatshirt, pants that came just below the knee, socks of course, and some kind of shoe that looked like it ought to fall right off her feet. When I was in my twenties I always rode bareback, frequently barefoot and often in my cut-off jeans.

We decided on our route, which was to head back the way she had come, get onto Old Hancock Road where it turns to dirt and heads into Hancock. Ashley's horse and mine are about the same age, hers is nineteen and mine is twenty. My horse is an Appaloosa and Ashley's is a Quarter Horse. Ashley's horse is also a trained gaming horse, she does Gymkana which is timed athletic events. She is helping Ashley learn barrel racing. Needless to say, Ashley's horse, Silky Lady Doc, or just Lady, is very fast, even at a walk. Sleet and I were traveling about twenty feet behind, which caused Ashley to have to retrace her steps frequently. Ashley was a wonderful riding companion with excellent trail manners. This means that Ashley never changed gaits with her horse without asking me if I would like to trot or canter. Because horses are herd animals they like to stay together, and it can be a bit problematic if one rider takes off without warning and leaves the other behind.

As we were nearing the end of the unpaved section of Old Hancock Road, Ashley turned to me and asked, "Does your

horse like to gallop?" I replied, "Does my horse like to gallop? Well, I don't know, I've never galloped him before."

As you can guess, Ashley was hoping for a gallop. Where the dirt road ends and the pavement begins there is a very steep unpaved road up to the left, and Ashley was asking me if I would like to gallop up that hill. But as I have said, she had excellent trail riding manners and she said, "It's your call." I responded, "Sure we can do that."

The training of gaming horses is not unlike that of racing horses. They need to be fast out of the starting gate. So by the time we got to the bottom of the hill, Lady was ready for take-off. Again, Ashley waited for me and even offered me the starting gate. But since I have never galloped Sleet, I told Ashley it would be okay if she and Lady started first and we would be right behind.

They were off and they were gone, and so were Sleet and I. I checked him a couple of times just to be sure I could slow him down if need be, and then I let him out again. I truly don't think I let him go as fast as he was capable of, but it was fast and it was thrilling.

Ashley was waiting for us at the top of the hill. She said she thought it looked like Sleet liked to gallop. He was prancing a bit then and so I did agree with her. The thing that really excites Ashley is how when you are galloping as fast as we were, your eyes water. She wanted to know if my eyes had watered. Yes they had, which was a little disconcerting because it meant I couldn't see all that well. I told Ashley, "That was very brave of me. I haven't galloped in a very long time, probably thirty years."

When you are twelve years old, what understanding can you have of thirty years? I am 42 years older than Ashley, but on that day I felt like a kid again. Also on that day, something was renewed in my spirit as I watched Ashley and her horse work and play together. They like and respect each other and they love what they are doing.

Ashley and Lady have competed in a series of six shows this year at the Oakrise Farm in Goffstown where they had the fastest pole bending time for the year for all of the divisions, and Ashley received the Championship of the Year for age thirteen and under. All I can say is, "Way to go, girls." ❁

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JAMES A. TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

Melissa Lawless, Kristin Readel, Kathryn Chisholm

PROGRAMS

- Dec. 13** • Patron Appreciation Day • 10 am to 4 pm
Dec. 26 • Story time with Owl Tree Puppetry • 10-11 am
Jan. 30 • Story time with Owl Tree Puppetry • 10-11 am
Feb. 27 • Pet Read-In (Guinea Pigs) • 10 am

Please drop by for Patron Appreciation Day on Saturday December 13th from 10 am – 4 pm hosted by the Friends of the Library. If you haven't already signed up for the Friends group and you would like to participate, this would be an ideal time to join. Friends of the Library need your support. If you missed our grand reopening and 100th birthday celebration in August and haven't yet dropped by to see the new and renovated spaces, this would be the perfect time. Library staff would love to show you around!

Our annual Pet Read-In will feature guinea pigs this year. Owl Tree Puppetry story tellers Connie and Skylar Vandervort have graciously accepted the challenge to provide stories and live guinea pigs for our program this year. Open to children of all ages, our Read-In is scheduled for the last day of the Con-Val school district's Winter Recess. Just as parents and children are getting on each other's nerves after being cooped up in the house all week, we invite you to stop by the library for fun and refreshments.

Now that we have wonderful new space, we are making preparations for several public programs in conjunction with the Lions Club and Antrim Recreation on socially pertinent topics, as well as a concert series with various musical artists coordinated by Jonas Taub.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The first Friends meeting was held Oct. 9 when 14 people were in attendance. During the meeting, the topics included: what Friends of the Library is, programming, fundraising, Friends cookbook, cake pan fundraiser, mitten tree, tutoring, and managing the book-sale. In the future temporary board members will be elected and the group will decide on a mission statement and fill out and file all necessary forms for becoming a non-profit entity. Library staff and Trustees can make suggestions or requests, but have no voting rights. Projects need to be approved by the Library Director and/or Trustees. Virginia Dickinson will continue to be a liaison

between the Library and the Friends group. Members of the Friends can determine their level of involvement in terms of time and interest. Minutes of the meetings will be posted on the Library pages of the Town's website.

DONATIONS

Given the current economic crisis and in gratitude for your support of the expansion, trustees and staff are carefully reviewing all budget items. Help us keep our collection up to date in a fiscally painless manner by donating current bestsellers, books on CD, and DVDs in good condition, or consider underwriting a purchase. We will try our best to keep our shelves up to date in your lovely library, but we ask you to bear with us. We may ask to sell any donated items we don't need for our collection in our ongoing book sale.

AUTHOR FOCUS

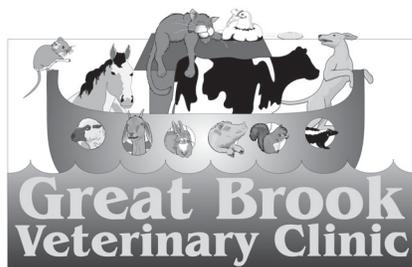
Michael Crichton, M.D., author of various action, science fiction and techno-thrillers died on November 4, 2008. A man of many talents, he not only had a degree in anthropology, but was a medical doctor, a film producer, film director, and a television producer as well. Known as the author of *Jurassic Park* and its sequel *The Lost World* which were subsequently made into popular films, he also wrote widely read titles such as *The Andromeda Strain*, *Congo*, *Disclosure*, *Timeline*, and *State of Fear*. Crichton was also creator of the television series *ER*.

Tony Hillerman, best known for his series of Navajo Tribal Police mystery novels based on characters Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee, died on October 26th, 2008. A pioneer in what is now called the tribal mystery genre, Hillerman wrote in rich detail about the Hopi, Zuni, and Navajo people, reflecting his love for the American Southwest.

Our catalog computer shows 23 entries for Michael Crichton and 29 entries for Tony Hillerman. Both authors would provide seemingly endless hours of entertaining reading and film watching on cold winter days if you are interested.

A NOTE OF INTEREST

The release date of the film *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince*, which was scheduled for November of this year, has been pushed back to July, 2009, and according to Warner Brothers Studio, the final film in the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, is scheduled to be released in two parts, one in November, 2009, and the second in July, 2010. ✨



Dr. Tom Dowling, Veterinarian

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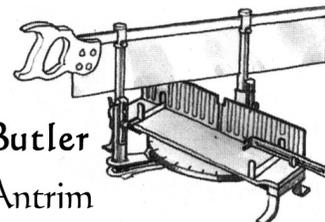
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LOCAL NOVELISTS SPEAK AT THE LIBRARY

Virginia Dickinson

Now that the entire library is up and running, we have been able to start offering special programs to the community. Our first program, which featured two writers from Hancock, William G. Tapply and Vicki Stiefel, was held on Monday 27 October.

William Tapply has authored about forty books with over half of these being his Brady Coyne mystery series. The latest in this series, *Hell Bent: A Brady Coyne Novel*, was released this September. Mr. Tapply is a professor of English and Writer In Residence at Clark University in Worcester, MA. He is a member of the Editorial Board for *The Writer* magazine, and his handbook *The Elements of Mystery Fiction: Writing a Modern Whodunit* is used in writing classes and workshops around the country. He is also an avid angler and outdoorsman and is a Contributing Editor for *Field & Stream* and a columnist for *American Angler*. Along with these pursuits, William Tapply and his wife, the mystery writer and film critic Vicki Stiefel, who also spoke at the program, run The Writers Studio at Chickadee Farm.

Vicki Stiefel's novels feature the protagonist Tally White who is a grief counselor. Ms. Stiefel has published three Tally novels: *Body Parts*, *The Dead Stone*, *The Grief Shop*. Her latest novel, *Bone Man*, was published in 2007. These novels have received high praise. Robert B. Parker wrote that "*The Grief Shop* is compelling, touching, and a pleasure to read."

Crimestalker Casebook noted, "Stiefel has the psychological thriller down so well, you might think she invented it."

At our program Mr. Tapply and Ms. Stiefel spoke about how they develop their characters and how they create their story lines. Mr. Tapply also spoke about the books that he wrote with his friend and fellow mystery writer Phillip Craig who died last year.

Mr. Tapply and Ms. Stiefel took questions from the audience, and everyone enjoyed the program, the refreshments, and an opportunity to speak directly to the authors. ❁

MORE DAFFODILS PLANTED

Brian Beihl

The Antrim Chamber of Commerce continued its mission to beautify Antrim with thousands of daffodils. With donated bulbs, and bulbs purchased through financial donations, another 2500 were planted this fall. New plantings were placed around town, at the Tuttle Library, at Goodell Park, near the "Welcome" sign on Main Street, and in the "V" in front of the Baptist Church. Our thanks to Marie Harriman whose generous donation allowed a planting in memory of her mother, Lois, at the Tuttle Library. Lois Harriman was a long-time resident involved in many town organizations and activities—including the *Limrik*—and the daffodils will be a beautiful tribute to her. If you would like to remember someone with a gift toward a daffodil planting, please contact Brian Beihl of the Antrim Chamber of Commerce, 588-3014. ❁

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

GREAT BROOK SCHOOL AND ANTRIM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

G. Bruce West, Principal

We have had a wonderful start to the school year at Great Brook School this fall. The faculty are working with their students to build a sense of school community, and we began the year with each class/advisory creating an “identity.” They shared their presentations and their “identity” posters at a school-wide assembly. If you visit the school, you can see their posters hanging in the gym. We also held our first school-wide cookout where students had time to enjoy their friends and play on Shea field.

We were fortunate to host Rachel’s Challenge for our 7th and 8th graders. This initiative reminded us of the legacy of Rachel Joy Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shooting in April 1999. Her family developed the program to share Rachel’s thoughts about kindness and cooperation. It creates awareness that students have the power to make PERMANENT, POSITIVE, CULTURAL CHANGE in their schools and communities. Each student may choose to accept the challenge of Rachel Scott—to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. The program challenges us in five ways:

- Look for the Best in Others – Eliminate Prejudice
- Dare to Dream- Set Goals – Keep a Journal
- Choose Positive Influences – Input Determines Output
- Kind Words + Actions = Huge Results
- Start a Chain Reaction with Family and Friends

To build on this program, some students are meeting during lunch. They have also started a Thank You bulletin board where students post thank you notes to teachers and peers.

The new school year has also brought new courses for our students in the areas of health and technology. All of our students will take a 45-day health course based on “The Great Body Shop” curriculum. Our fifth and sixth graders are taking a technology course with Mrs. Hale in which they examine how technology can be integrated into their core classes.

This fall, our 5th graders took field trips to Lowell Mills and to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science where students had the opportunity to see the specific birds of prey they are researching. They attended a presentation on the adaptations of birds of prey for hunting and flight which included a red-tailed hawk, a barred owl, an American kestrel, a turkey vulture, and a Harris’ hawk. Our sixth graders and their teachers recently returned from a trip to the Capitol Center for the Arts where they watched a theatrical production of “The Phantom Toll Booth.” Eight of our 8th grade girls traveled to Boston’s Museum of Science to be part of their Women in Science Conference for Middle School on October 20th. Thanks to Mrs. Egan and Mrs. LeClerc for making this trip possible. This is the first time students from New Hampshire have been a part of the program. All of our 8th graders and their teachers spent an enjoyable fall day climb-

ing North Pack Mountain. Our Students of the Month students climbed Mt. Skatutakee as part of their SOM trip and every student reached the summit and enjoyed the amazing view while having lunch.

Our fall has also meant that our students had the hard work of preparing for and taking the NECAP and NWEA tests. From all accounts, G.B.S. students gave their best efforts as they took tests in reading, math and writing and language arts.

The Arts programs at G.B.S. continue to thrive. We have over 40 students participating in the New Hampshire Dance Institute this year, and our chorale and string and band musicians are busy preparing for our holiday concert. The 7th and 8th grade Art Club students continue to meet weekly.

Congratulations to our 5th grade faculty team (Barbara Black, Linda Bundy, Anne Kenney, and Sylvia Shea) who were honored by the Harris Center as Teachers of the Year. Dori Drachman, one of the Center’s teacher/naturalists, noted, “The best Harris Center residencies are ones in which the classroom teachers are fully invested in planning and implementing the lessons, eager to connect them to other subjects and thereby, make student learning integrated and relevant. Fortunately, for Great Brook students, the 5th grade team excels at this kind of collaboration.”

In an instance of the positive beginnings of an Antrim K–8 campus, in October over twenty members of G.B.S. and A.E.S. staffs completed a three-mile walk to support cancer research. After the walk, a number of us sat eating lunch in the cool October sun and we talked about how to come together to support each other and our community as professionals. It was an exciting discussion.

This past Halloween, the students and staff of G.B.S. lined the parking lot to cheer on the A.E.S. students at the start of their costume parade. As Thanksgiving approaches, plans are underway to include A.E.S. in the G.B.S. annual Turkey Trot. These are small steps toward creating understanding and trust for each other that we hope to build on in the future. I am honored to work with the fine professionals in each school as we begin to build a vision for the future. I appreciate the trust that the parents from each school have placed in us, and we will strive to fulfill that trust. ❁

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MAHARISHI ACADEMY CAMPUS RENOVATIONS

Sherry Levesque

The transformation of the dormant Hawthorne College campus into the Maharishi Academy of Total Knowledge is well underway.

To create an appropriate learning and living environment for high school students, we are making extensive renovations of the existing buildings. Headmaster Alan Colby and his wife Martha, who arrived in June, are involved with every aspect of the new school and are shaping the campus after Maharishi Academy's sister school, the award-winning Maharishi School of the Age of Enlightenment (MSAE) in Iowa. Mr. Colby was principal of the MSAE Upper School for sixteen years before coming here.

Our renovation budget is one million dollars, including the gymnasium and Scarborough Hall (residential and academic building) that will enable the school to receive a certificate of occupancy for residential education purposes.

The project started in the spring with the Silver Library demolition, masonry crushing, and cleanup. The gymnasium roof is being repaired, and the classrooms, locker rooms, and office and storage rooms are all being re-framed and refurbished. The basketball court will be completely re-finished.

Electrical retrofitting is under way for both the gymnasium and Scarborough Hall. A new shingle roof, up-to-date fire alarm and sprinkler systems, and new kitchen and dining room are being installed in Scarborough Hall. Light fixtures will be energy efficient, with the support of Public Service of New Hampshire. New walkways have been completed in front of Scarborough Hall, and additional campus landscaping will occur in the spring. The front of the interfaith chapel building has received a fresh coat of paint.

The project has been receiving expert direction from Jeff Parsons, Antrim Building Inspector, as well as the state of New Hampshire inspection department.

Between \$400,000 and \$500,000 of the work to date has been by New Hampshire businesses, including architect Susan Phillips Hungerford of Peterborough and fire/life safety consultant DeBlois Risk Services of Hollis. Electrical work is by George E. Smith Electrical Contractors of Amherst, and other companies include High Voltage, ICR of Raymond, Life Safety Fire Protection, Inc. of Dublin, Monadnock En-

gineering of Rindge (structural engineering), and SR Jones of Antrim (site prep and excavation).

Contractor Mike Fitzpatrick of Mike Fitzpatrick and Associates has worked with Maharishi Academy and affiliates for several years. He reports: "The project has picked up good steam, and is moving ahead at a rapid pace. The January 1, 2009 target completion date is an aggressive schedule, but we are on track and everyone is pulling together and putting in their best effort to meet that goal. It's a real team atmosphere."

Maharishi Academy's Director of Facilities Development, Dan Wasielewski, is pleased with the renovations completed so far. "The people working to create Maharishi Academy are very creative, professional, and dedicated to the project – clearly aware that this school is going to be something significant. All are committed to launching this new school in a way that is indicative of the highest presentation possible."

Maharishi Academy, a boarding school for boys, grades 9-12, features stress-free learning using the Transcendental Meditation program, leadership training, sustainable living curriculum, and outdoor education experiences. More information about the school can be found at: www.MaharishiAcademy.org, pr@MaharishiAcademy.org or call 603-588-7000. *

Maharishi Academy of Total Knowledge invites interested families to attend Visitor Day, Saturday, December 6, 10-12:30 to meet headmaster Alan Colby and hear about stress-free learning, leadership training, and sustainable living curriculum. For more information: www.pr@maharishiacademy.org. RSVP: 603-606-2089.

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SPIRALSCOUTS

Jess Baribault
Granite Tribe Coordinator Silverling Circle #58

FALL RECAP

This fall, Silverling Circle #58, the local chapter of SpiralScouts International, had fun completing our Astronomy Badge, walking in the Home & Harvest parade, letterboxing at McCabe Forest, and participating in Celebrate Samhain, our biggest fundraiser of the year. We collected donations of nonperishable food and winter clothing for local charities, and raised several hundred dollars selling delicious soups, stews, and baked goods – all in observance of the traditional Celtic holiday commemorating the final harvest and ancestors past. We also decorated cards and collected items to ship to local soldiers serving overseas as part of our seasonal community service requirements.

LOOKING AHEAD TO WINTER

Starting this winter, SpiralScouts will offer twice as many opportunities for scouts to meet, work, and grow together. The second Sunday of each month will be our badge meeting, focused on work related to Community Service, Sculpture, Drumming, Birding, and other badges. The fourth Sunday of each month will be a more social meeting, centered on recreation, field trips, and celebrations. New families are

welcome to join anytime. Among the choices this winter are snowshoeing, making edible holiday decorations for our woodland friends, sleigh rides, etc. Our Londonderry neighbors, Spiral Bear Circle, invite everyone to the Ever 'Green' Yuletide Faire on December 20th, 9:00-3:00, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Milford. In addition to the delicious baked goods and Winter Solstice celebration that SpiralScouts will offer, the Yuletide Faire will provide the community with a wonderful opportunity to support eco-friendly commerce for the holidays. Handmade, fair-trade, and earth-conscious goods from a variety of local merchants will be featured, as well as professional storytelling. More info can be found at <http://EverGreenYuletideFaire.wordpress.com>.

VOLUNTEERS AND SPONSORS WELCOME

A balance of male and female leadership is part of the SpiralScouts philosophy, and we invite teens and adults to volunteer. Helping opportunities can include teaching a skill or organizing trips. Area business, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to get in touch to learn how they can sponsor SpiralScouts activities on an occasional or year-round basis.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

SpiralScouts™ International is a non-profit, co-ed scouting organization for youth ages 3-18 and their families. Its activities are directed by the interests of its members, and include everything from cooking and gardening to drumming and sculpture. Its philosophy is rooted in ecology, inclusivity, and gender balance, and its mission centers on healing our Mother Earth.

MEETINGS AND CONTACT INFO

Silverling Circle #58 meets the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 2:00. Registration is \$15 per year, and interested families or volunteers are invited to check out a meeting before deciding to join. Our Circle Co-Leaders are Francine and Pete. For information, contact 588-4219 or email SpiralScoutsJess@yahoo.com. ❄️



Building Materials

Mon.—Fri. 7 to 5
Sat. 7—1
Closed Sundays

**78 Smith Road
P.O. Box 148
Antrim, NH 03440
603-588-2139**

HAVE YOUR COFFEE BREAK WITH US WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 10:00AM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Learn about a community program being organized by concerned citizens of Antrim to help seniors who need warmth and companionship this winter, and how you might participate and help. We will have several options for you to consider and hope you will take this opportunity to see what we can do together!

Invite a neighbor to join us for coffee, tea and goodies!

For more information, call the Grapevine at 588-2620 or Thelma or Wayne Nichols at 588-6766.



✝ **CHURCH NEWS** ✝

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

588-2209

REV. PEGGI KEPHART BOYCE

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

(Nursery available for children under 4 years of age)

Dec 7 • Second Sunday of Advent

Dec 14 • Third Sunday of Advent, Children's Program

Dec 21 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec 24 • Christmas Eve worship begins at 6:30 PM. All are welcome!

Jan 4 • Communion

Jan 11 • Baptism of the Lord; reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Breakfast begins at 9 AM followed by discussion/Sunday School classes for children.

Jan 18 • Week of Christian Unity begins

Jan 25 • Breakfast begins at 9 AM followed by discussion/Sunday School classes for children.

Feb 1 • Communion

Feb 8 • Transfiguration of the Lord. Breakfast begins at 9 AM followed by discussion/Sunday School classes for children.

Feb 25 • Ash Wednesday Lent begins with worship at 6:30 PM, includes communion and imposition of ashes. All are welcome!

BAPTIST CHURCH

588-6614

PASTOR CHARLES V. BOUCHER

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Dec 21 • Christmas Musical and Pageant

Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 PM

**SAINT PATRICK CHURCH
OF DIVINE MERCY PARISH**

588-2180

REV. GERALD BELANGER

WINTER MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 8 & 10:30 AM

SATURDAY 4:00 PM

Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Masses at 4 PM and 6 PM

Dec 25 • Christmas Day Masses at 9 AM

Dec 31 • New Years Eve Mass at 4 PM

CHURCH OF CHRIST

LARRY WARREN, PREACHER

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM

SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM

TEEN DRINKING

Sydney Wilson-Smith

Underage and binge drinking among local youth was again the topic of conversation at The Grapevine on October 13th. Parents and professionals from law enforcement, juvenile services, and school guidance were joined by four local teens. Participants were candid about their perceptions of the problem in the community, and all agreed that prevention must begin early, at the latest by middle school. As a former parenting educator at The Grapevine, I have facilitated discussions in parent groups over the years, and these discussions reveal that prevention of underage drinking can begin in the family life of very young children.

As with previous meetings at The Grapevine on the subject, this theme emerged: "What we don't know can hurt us." When parents learn that their children are "using," their response is often "Thank god it is only alcohol." But statistics show that alcohol kills more kids each year than all the other drugs combined. Participants in this meeting discussed that the prevalence of the "other drugs" is sufficiently alarming to obscure the dangers of underage and binge drinking. The consensus seemed to be that the "other drugs" are widely available on school campuses, but alcohol is easy to get either at home, in the homes of friends, or from adults who purchase for teens. The opening sentence in the ConVal policy on drugs reflects our concerns; "The ConVal school board believes that alcohol and other substance abuse, directly or indirectly, affects a significant portion of the school population".

Many of us may have only a vague awareness of what our kids are "using" and what the consequences are, unless we learn of alcohol-related accidents or deaths. It seemed clear from our discussion and from the research on prevention that alcohol use and abuse is more common than we know, maybe more than we want to know.

One factor contributing to underage drinking is the aggressive marketing to underage consumers of caffeine "energy" drinks with appealing images and brand names and high caffeine content. One company has introduced a "buzz brew" that includes alcohol and caffeine "delivering a wallop of alcohol and a wide-eyed caffeine punch." Attorneys general in 25 states have appealed to the company's better judgment in marketing this dangerous hybrid to young people. But pressure from the beer industry is relentless, and a multi-billion dollar business rests on the public's tolerance for these products. So it seems unhelpful to blame the kids, their parents, or schools. The young people and adults at these meetings reflected a sense of helplessness in the face of this advertising campaign.

On the second Monday in January The Grapevine will host a facilitated discussion focusing on the emerging awareness of alcohol in elementary school-age children, and how we can begin in the early years to support healthy decision-making in the teen years. ❄

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THE GRAPEVINE

Kristin Vance

In this difficult economic time, it makes more sense than ever to consider membership in the **People's Service Exchange**. Members give and receive services without the exchange of money. You can begin requesting services right away, and offer services when you're able. Services include snow shoveling, help managing debt, sewing, light carpentry, appliance repair, music lessons, rides to the grocery store and much more—over 250 services and counting! It's free and easy to join—call Christine or Gerry at 588-2620.

Winter at The Grapevine

DECEMBER

Elementary Years, Tuesdays from noon to 1pm beginning December 2nd—join other parents of children who are in elementary school to talk about school, family, child development, learning styles, discipline, play, fostering responsibility and other topics. Facilitated by Carol Lunan M.Ed, parenting educator. Sliding scale fee starting at \$1 per week.

Holiday Craft Fair at Avenue A Teen Center, Saturday December 13 from 10-2—stocking stuffers, hand-crafted clothing and accessories, books, fiber craft, note cards, kid craft kits and more holiday goodies created by local crafters.

Stop, Drop and Shop, Saturday, December 13 from 10-1 at The Grapevine—a Saturday of fun for your kids while you enjoy a few hours of uninterrupted shopping, baking, or just relaxing. \$5 per child. Register by December 10.

Senior Exercise (formerly Strong Living)—call now about the next series of classes.

JANUARY

Preschool Parenting Workshop, 4 Wednesdays beginning January 7th, from 11:45 to 12:30. We will focus on ways to support the development of responsible behavior in your preschool child. Register by Monday, December 29 for the corresponding children's program, which includes outside time from 11:30 noon, lunch (bring your own), then puzzles and games until 12:30. Fee is \$25 for the 4-week series—payment plans and partial scholarships available.

Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren, Thursday January 15 from 6:30 to 7:30—talk with parenting educator Jane Richards-Jones and other grandparents about the special issues that come with parenting your grandchildren. Call ahead if you need onsite childcare. Free, childcare donations appreciated.

Snowshoeing and Tracking in McCabe Forest, Saturday, January 24th. Meet at The Grapevine at 10:00 to share tracking information. Leave for McCabe about 10:30 to look for tracks and signs that animals have been in the forest. For adults and children (under 12 accompanied by an adult), BYO snowshoes or let us know you need to borrow snowshoes by calling by noon on Monday, January 19. Free.

Second Mondays at The Grapevine, 6:30 to 8pm

- **January 12—Talking with Children about Alcohol.** A 9-year-old asks his mother, "Is alcohol bad?" Parents and educators are invited to join a facilitated discussion exploring how to talk with children about such questions in ways that will support healthy decision-making and communication in the teen years. Free.

FEBRUARY

Second Mondays at The Grapevine, 6:30 to 8pm

- **February 9—Sharing Kids After Divorce.** Parents who are divorced or separated are invited to join this facilitated discussion about ways to ease the pain, loss and disruption for the kids, and to discuss custody/visitation concerns. Depending on the needs and interests of the participating parents, this topic may be explored in additional sessions. Free.

February Vacation Fun, 9:30-11:30

- **Monday, February 23rd—Parent-Child Open Playroom—** Feel free to drop in!
- **Tuesday, February 24th—Winter Fun Day** for children 4 to 6. Join in outdoor and indoor science experiments, art activities, games, and other winter creating fun.
- **Thursday, February 26—The Wild Side** for children ages 4 to 6. If you like animals, this is the program for you. Acting out stories, dressing up, mask making and other animal-type, fun projects.

Call to sign up for the Tuesday and Thursday vacation programs—parents may stay or drop off. Monday Open Playroom is free, Tuesday and Thursday programs are \$5 per child or \$10 per family.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

The Grapevine welcomes children birth to 5 years of age and their parents to our weekly children's programs. Call to register, sliding scale fees. The Aiken Street Barn, where The Grapevine is located, is fully accessible.

- **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11:30—Better Beginnings** parent-child program
- **Wednesday and Friday 9-11:30—The Learning Vine** preschool
- **Friday 10:00-11:30—Better Beginnings for Babies**

Military Families meet with NH National Guard Family Support and the Vet Center for readjustment counseling, financial assistance, family support and other services. Meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6pm. The January meeting will be rescheduled, as it falls on New Year's Day. Call Peter Merritt at 227-5175 for more information about available resources and services. Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 if you need on site childcare for the meeting. Free, childcare donations appreciated.

 continued on next page

Parent-Teen Connections, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-8pm—a new discussion group for parents of teens with Liz Broderick of The Family Center. Topics of discussion may include communication, decision-making, risky behaviors, encouragement and letting go. Sliding scale fee.

Before and After School Clubs, Monday through Friday on the Antrim schools campus.

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 to fill short-term urgent and emergency need for families and individuals who use wood to heat their homes and cannot afford to buy firewood. Hours: Mon 9-3, Tues 9-1, Wed-Fri 9-noon and by appointment.

• **Heating Fuel & Electric Assistance** information.

• **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 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.

• **Healthy Kids Insurance** application assistance from Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services.

• **Visitation Center:** The Grapevine is a certified visitation site offering a local, welcoming environment for visits between non-custodial parents and their children.

Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 for more information about the above resources, or to register for programs. The Grapevine is a nonprofit organization funded by grants and local support. The Grapevine's Annual Giving Campaign is in full swing, and your financial contribution—whether it's \$10 or \$500 or something in between—goes a long way to ensure that The Grapevine can continue to provide programs and resources for children, youth and adults in our community. And it's tax deductible. Thank you for your support! ❄️

CURIOUS ABOUT ANTRIM'S CAFÉ?

In early 2009, the café at 54 Main Street will be opening under new management. According to the owner of the building, Monica Steele, many Antrim residents are eager to see the restaurant open again, "there is even a standing order for split pea soup." Since early October, the building has undergone some renovations, with much of the kitchen equipment updated. The Antrim ZBA recently granted approval for an expanded deck in front of the building. The details are still in the works ... so stay tuned Antrim! ❄️

ANTRIM RESIDENTS IN THE MILITARY

Pam Caswell

Josh Chandler (US Army) will be returning to Iraq in January, according to his father, Paul.

Airman Kyle Crafts (US Air Force) is currently deployed and stationed in Guam.

Jessica French (US Air Force Basic Training at Fort Lackland, Texas.) Jessica is the daughter of Pam and Steve Campbell, and the granddaughter of Giff and Russ Russell.

PFC Michael Frosch (US Marines) has completed basic training and will be spending the holidays with his family then returning to NC for more training. Michael is the son of Mike and Stephanie Frosch. His siblings are Holly, Corinne, Stephen, and Ariel.

Spec Brent Murdough and **Corpl James Murdough** (US Army) will be home for the holidays. The brothers both served in Iraq this past year.

PFC Brian Quinn (US Army) is currently deployed and stationed in Kuwait.

E2 Dan Quinn (US Navy) will be celebrating the holidays with family in Antrim and surrounding towns.

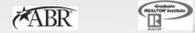
We wish all our family and friends serving in the military Happy Holidays. We support you! ❄️

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Happy Holidays!

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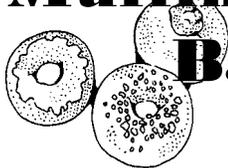
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