

TRENDY TIMES

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Giving And Receiving With Cohase Lions Club



Many if not most people in this area know about David's House in Lebanon, New Hampshire. For those of you that do not know it is much like the more famous Ronald McDonald houses across the country. The one big difference is that David's House has no corporate sponsorship. It survives on donations and fund raisers locally.

For those still not sure about the mission of David's House let me try to briefly explain. It is a place for parents and other family members of sick children to stay while that child is being treated at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. The house is located just a stone's throw from the hospital. It features sixteen bedrooms and eight full baths. Each bathroom is fully handicap accessible. Each of the rooms at David's House is known by a name, not a number. There is the

lion room, the sheep room, the favorite of most of the boys - the pig room, and one of the newest rooms is the space room. Along with the bed or beds located in each room the staff has cots, roll-aways and other items that can be moved from one room to another to fit the needs of the family. Families staying at David's House are asked to contribute \$20 per night. But no family is ever turned away due to lack of funds.

Along with the baths and bedrooms there are several common rooms where the visiting families can meet other families or where the kids can find entertainment. The teen room has bean bag chairs, game systems and more. At present there is also a present room (usually the conference room) that has plenty to choose from for those who might otherwise not be having

a very Merry Christmas.

And what house is complete without a kitchen? David's House features a nicely proportioned kitchen with easy access from almost any part of the house. Nightly, different volunteers come in to prepare meals for the families staying there. Each family also has a bin in the refrigerator if they need one, and some cupboard space is they have non-perishable food supplies.

As mentioned there is no corporate sponsor for David's House, but that is not to say they do not receive donations from many different sources. From drinking water to an emergency generator, to weekly pizza parties, to a NASCAR star with a foundation set up for David's House, they are able to keep things going.

But what really makes the smiles come out from Richard Cyr, the man who's son, David was the inspiration for David's House, are the donations from local organizations and individuals. As Richard says, those folks who can only give a dollar almost always say, "I wish I could give more". It was in that spirit that a group of members from the Cohase Lions Club of Woodsville recently traveled to David's House to make what has become an annual donation. This year President Ron Fournier presented a check

for fifteen hundred dollars to David's House. Other Lions members who made the trip and were able to take a tour of David's House were Roger Fournier, John Aldrich, Dale Barber and Gary Scruton.

If you would like more

information about David's House go to their site www.davids-house.org. Check the calendar of events and maybe even participate in the annual radiothon which will take place this week.



A trio of residents at the Grafton County Nursing Home recently displayed some of their work from the past twelve months. And what did they do will all of this fine work? They donated it to the Cohase Lions Club to be put in Christmas packages that will be handed out to needy families in the area.

(l-r) Wilna Hicks, Bernice Blake and Catherine Dawson knit and crocheted mittens, scarves and hats just for the joy of the making and for the joy of helping those children that otherwise might not receive such gifts during the Christmas season.

This is the second year that these ladies have geared up their fingers to make this type of contribution. According to Bernice it may be more than just the thrill. She called it an addiction. When she gets up she just needs to pick up her crochet hook and start crocheting. The children who will receive these fine articles will be most grateful for her addiction.

Standing behind the hard working ladies are two Cohase Lions Club Members, Mike Conrad and Don Kimball. Don is the chairman of the Christmas baskets campaign for the Lions. Both members were joined later by other Lions as well as many other residents of Grafton County Home to play Bingo. This is an event the Lions run the second Thursday of each month from October through April for the residents.

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Haverhill Heritage Commission Activity Report

What is that big orange caboose doing parked downtown? The trains aren't running again are they? No, no, it's just the Haverhill Heritage Commission doing what it does best; raising the awareness of our town's history and taking exciting and creative ways to preserve it! The Woodsville district of the town of Haverhill was once an important railroad hub. A railroad hub that at one time had as many as 70 trains a day passing and or stopping for passengers, freight or repairs in the roundhouse. What a sight that must have been. It actually was the reason that Woodsville came to be a town of significance in

northern New England. The Haverhill Heritage Commission has joined together with other town organizations in recapturing those historic days through the development of the Railroad Park... The Heritage Commission was fortunate to have this big Orange Caboose donated to the town and to have a group of volunteers that will over time refurbish the caboose. It will be part of our ongoing commitment of building a more comprehensive display of vintage rail cars which may include a Passenger car, a Dining car, a Pullman and others. We have a vision of a museum in the park that contains arti-

facts from our railroad heritage, such as depot, stationmaster, and conductor paraphernalia, platform vehicles, time tables etc... We would also want to feature articles from various historic eras that shaped our towns metamorphous from a rail center... Stay tuned for updates as we make progress on this project.

These projects are costly when done correctly guaranteeing that they will be here for future generations to enjoy. One of the ways we are covering these costs is to sell engraved granite "memory" blocks and bricks that will have the names of the donor or whatever verbiage

the donor desires. These will be displayed in the park as walls and or walkways, along with the "1899" elementary school marker recently recovered by Roland Moore, after being lost for about 50 years... We are having good responses is selling these markers so get your request in and help the town make this a big success. E-mail info@wmtn.biz for more information. Or you can call Jim Hobbs at 603-747-4025 or 603-787-2449 or contact the town hall with a request for a participation form.

The Heritage Commission is not neglecting other projects that are on our plate while we build the Railroad Park. We are actively developing the Hazen property in North Haverhill. If you are not familiar with the Hazen property it was the farm belonging to our first settler, John Hazen... Built in 1765 it later became the Moses Meader property. (The local Sawyer family are direct descendants of Moses and Kate Meader).

The barn was destroyed by fire and the remaining house structure was removed without preservation in mind. Its historic significance was overlooked for years but we are fortunate that the foundations of the house and barns remain along with blueprints of the original buildings. It sits on a two acre parcel of land that borders the Connecticut River down from the Pink Ice Cream stand. The Upper Valley Trust has been appointed as a conservator of the property which means that its use will have to be carefully thought out. We are clearing the property at this time of overgrowth and clearly marking the foundations. This is an exciting venture and we will report on its progress soon. In the meantime we are forging ahead with the clean-up!

I will try to update all our activity as frequently as we have important news to share.

Duane Baxter, Press Officer
Haverhill Heritage Commission

December 15, 2009 Volume 1 Number 11

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“Learning to Serve” - An Important Component of 4-H 3

by Kathleen Jablonski, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

4-H youth are encouraged to practice generosity through community service learning projects. Many stories of meaningful contributions are reported each year by 4-H clubs, 4-H after-school programs, and individual 4-H members. During the past year, almost 100 4-H groups across New Hampshire reported that their youth members planned and carried out 319 different projects. Another 273 projects were done by individual 4-H members. An estimated 19,512 hours were voluntarily contributed by 3,781 youth and adults to make these projects possible.

Through these projects, youth learn many important life skills, including planning, organization, time management, communication and team work. Leaders of these 4-H groups reported three-quarters of the participating members now know more about their community, and most youth are more confident in helping others.

The majority of members also learned to follow a process to make decisions and accept their share of responsibility. Thirty-one members submitted individual reports, with most indicating they could make a plan to reach their goal, and organize an activity that includes others.

Many projects these 4-H youth have taken on made an important impact on an individual, a group in need, or in the community. One group was able to rescue a young neglected colt from a local horse auction, and he is now

starting to trust them through their rehabilitation efforts. In Grafton County, we have the county-wide Kids to Kids project. 4-H'ers and friends create twin size quilts that are given to youth who are displaced from their home due to disasters, fires or family breakups. To date, over 150 quilts have been distributed through police departments and social service agencies.

A majority of groups around the state took on the challenges of food security in their communities by helping at food pantries, raising gardens and donating the food, or setting up a food shelf in their school to regularly collect canned goods. One 4-H afterschool group provides meals each week to a variety of families needing assistance.

Intergenerational communication is being enhanced with such examples as youth visiting seniors, helping the elderly with yard work, and playing games or reading to nursing home residents. One entrepreneurial group performed a service to citizens of the community by providing a "grab and go" meal for those attending the annual town meeting.

Do you want to know more about how your youth group can do community service learning projects? Visit our website at www.extension.unh.edu or contact the 4-H Youth Development program at the Grafton County office of UNH Cooperative Extension at 603-787-6944 or email: Kathleen.jablonski@unh.edu.



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China, Now A Great Power – Part II

By George Clark

From the early 1920's until the Japanese invasion in 1937, the situation for foreigners in China continued to erode and those with any sense recognized that the "old days" were rapidly coming to an end. At first it was Chiang Kai-shek's armies fighting the war-lords but also thumbing their nose at the occidentals. In fact his armies came into close contact with and threatened foreigners every place they connected. This was especially true in the late 1920's when they were fighting warlord armies around Nanking, because of its contingency to Shanghai. The latter's attempts to curtail their freedom to go where they wanted too, when they wanted too, was a little much.

Because of the Boxer treaties the inland rivers were almost entirely "owned" by the foreigners. The Yangtze River was heavily traveled by US, British and French naval warships all the way to Chungking. They were there to protect their merchant ships and foreigners settled in business or missionary work. In fact, during the mid-nineteenth century, the USN had established

the "Yangtze Patrol." A series of gunboats built for just that traffic whose job was to protect US commercial traffic up and down the river. What matters most to us is that those foreign navies would allow (or disallow) Chinese naval vessels up and down the river, IF they decided it was acceptable. In effect, China had little say about plying their own inland rivers.

Until Chiang's advent this was hateful but accepted control. He began pushing the "envelope" and the occidentals began sending increasing numbers of warships to the area. But they couldn't always agree on the ultimate course of action. The Chinese particularly hated the British and Japanese. Mainly this was because the British had been their adversaries for a hundred years or more and because both ran factories with a Chinese force. These factories were operated with almost slave labor and many strikes occurred which both occidental nations put down very violently.

Unlike the other signatories to the unequal treaties, the US State Department

was trying to ease up in its demands but had a staff at the Peking legation strongly opposing that. As the situation became more unpleasant, the US did agree to send more Marines to protect the American population. Obviously, and to each occidental nation, conditions were becoming nearly impossible to prevent any serious problems. The US Marines arrived in 1927 in several batches under the overall direction of the Corps' most distinguished fighting man, Brigadier General Smedley Darlington Butler. With a name like that he had to be tough. He was tough and also possibly the best "diplomat" the US military then had, and made it his business to allow the proud Chinese as much discretion as he could, within his general orders.

Now with a brigade of Marines, in a balanced unit, the US, at least was prepared for almost anything. This was, in fact, the first time the US or for that matter, any nation, had put together a unit with all the modern ingredients; infantry, artillery, tanks, and planes. However, Butler was a man who preferred peaceful methods and it wasn't long before the Chinese and he were palsy-walsy. In fact, when Butler was leaving China with most of his force, the grateful Chinese presented him with the highest honor of their nation, an Umbrella of Ten Thousand Blessings an almost unheard of gesture for any foreigner. But that wasn't all, they decided to present him with a second umbrella, both of which I saw in his West Chester, PA, home many years ago.

Butler and most of his brigade left China in 1929, but one regiment, the 4th Marines remained in the newly established American concession at Shanghai. That city had been, more or less, created by foreigners with the result that it was China's commercial center. The British and French, and soon the Japanese, would each have concessions which they occupied and ruled as an equal part of their own nation. It was their nation's laws that were imposed on everyone, including upon those Chinese citizens that lived and worked in each concession.

Over the following dozen years or more, conditions for foreigners became more difficult, even in the concessions. Strikes were put down using military force which created more hatred and unpleasantness. Conditions for individual occidentals, otherwise, were

of the highest standards. Living was a genuine treat in China, whereas in other countries the depression was hard, heavy and hitting many people. Money went four times as far in China, allowing living conditions unlike any to ordinary people in their previous lives. Military people especially loved China duty. They were hardly required to perform any service where Chinese could be hired to do the ordinary barrack duties: laundry, cleaning, making beds, you name it and the Chinese did it, for payment that even privates could afford. However, those were just the unequal conditions, but they added insult to injury and created more animosity.

In 1937, after several previous military adventures, Japan's army and navy launched an attack upon China, which would continue until Japan was thoroughly defeated in 1945. Conditions were terrible for the Chinese, as the enemy with extreme cruelty rode rough-shod over much of China's terrain. The treaty nations came in for some rough treatment as well, and especially in places like Shanghai where the Japanese tried several times to push into the various concessions and were urged out by the limited military forces of the US, Britain and France. Fortunately they went but in truth if they had decided to extend their adventure by fighting those three at the same time, what would have curtailed them?

Later, in 1939 when Britain and France were at war, and the latter defeated in 1940, it was a wonder the Japanese didn't try to take over those concessions. But they tried nearly everything else. In fact they purposely destroyed a US ship, the gunboat Panay in 1937, then apologized. But to observers, it was a deliberate act and showed how little the Japanese cared how the US reacted to their aggression.

At any rate, by 1940 the British had pretty much left China, as had the French and most other European nations and only the US still had the lone 4th Marines in Shanghai. Then, somebody decided they, about 800 Marines, had no chance if a war with Japan came and pulled them out on 28 November 1941. Soon after they arrived in the Philippines where not long after they too would be fighting the Japanese.

Until 1945 this meant a China free of every foreign nation, except Japan. The Chinese, Communists and

Fascists fought them until Japan was defeated by the combined forces of the US, Australia, New Zealand, and of course China. Within a few years the Communists overwhelmed Chiang's troops forcing them off-shore to the island of Formosa, now known as Taiwan. Since then, at least up until a few years ago, the Chinese nation has been wary of any contacts with foreign nations, establishing relations but building up a powerful military/naval force to preclude any attempts by any nation to try any encroachment upon them as a sovereign nation. Do you wonder why they feel that way? Well, let's look at what they tolerated and make a few suppositions.

Suppose the Chinese sent a regiment of their Marines to occupy a section of San Francisco; we or they could call it the Chinese concession, where they ruled and would only allow San Franciscans to work there in their factories. They would use military force to put down any labor actions which we would be powerless to react to. And, of course, their naval ships would ply the Mississippi River and only allow US ships access upriver when they believed it was non-threatening to them.

How about Britain? The Chinese could have the Island of Man as a base, sort of like Hong Kong had been, and run it as a Chinese possession while forcing the British to accept the importation of Heroin or even Opium. Their factories in Liverpool and other coastal towns could produce, with lowly paid English employees, goods for distribution over much of Europe.

Then, in France and Italy they would be allowed to own factories and implant their Buddhist religion (if by then it was allowed), plus control much of both territories, especially on their coasts.

I could go on with this but perhaps you may now have some impression of what a proud people like the Chinese, tolerated for so many years, and I do not believe will allow to ever happen again. Wouldn't you agree?

Much of the details in this article was taken from my two books on the subject of US Marines in China. Treading Softly now published by ABC Clio, and Few Scars of Violence, Few Wounds to Heal by the Brasshat. The latter is still available and covers the US presence in China from 1819 to 1949.



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An Evening Drive Home

By Gail Girard

It's 2am and I just got home. I had a flat on I-95, right near the Civic Center. Not a good area, 3 lanes coming in from 3 directions. Thousands of cars. My cell phone was dead. No cops. So being resourceful, I jacked the car up, but could not get the lug nuts off (I've since learned to loosen the lug nuts first). I decided to jump on the tire iron. The vibrations knocked the jack sideways, which got stuck when the darn car fell. So I started to walk...once again not a good thing...someone under the bridge (robber, druggie, ZOMBIE)....so I sat on 95....also not a good thing. No cops...thousands of cars...no help. And of course, those that know my husband, know he would never come looking for me, being that I'm so resourceful and independent and everything. So there I sat....thinking I should take the tire iron and smash the crap out of the "BMW from Hell". Although it wouldn't really help the situation, it would make me feel a lot better. Just as I was getting up to put it out of my misery, I heard beep, beep, beep. A large tow truck stopped. The driver pulled behind me so we wouldn't get hit and changed the tire. I gave him \$20...I would have given more, but I was also on "E" and needed gas! I pulled off the highway to find a gas station, going a little faster than I should and guess who finally showed up....you guessed it, the cops!



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THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE: SCRUTONIZED

The following essay was retyped from an email sent on January 30, 1997 from Dawn Nelson to several people including my wife.

Obviously the authors of "The American Language - Scrutonized" are not alone in their head scratching over this interesting but frustrating language.

Let's face it -- English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger: neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend, that you comb through annals of history but not a single annal? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If you rote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?

Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are alike? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?

Have you noticed that we talk about certain things only when they are about? Have you ever seen a horseful carriage or a strapful gown? Met a sung hero or experienced requited love? Have you ever run into someone who was combobulated, grunted, ruly or peccable? And where are all those people who ARE spring chickens or who would ACTUALLY hurt a fly?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your home can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm clock goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it.

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For further details or to place your ad contact Gary at 603-747-2887 or mail information to 171 Central Street, Woodsville, NH 03785 or email: gary@trendytimes.com

Through the Eyes of Children

Written by the family of SSG Ralph Messenger

How do I say good-bye to my dad, will he be upset with me if I cry, should I cry, what if I don't feel like crying, what if...what if...what if. So many questions run through my head as we are waiting for the ceremony to start I just can't seem to focus on one but I know I need to focus on the short time I have left with Dad. This is our dad's second deployment as a Vermont Army National Guardsman, but this deployment seems to be more confusing and painful. We have had a cousin, Andrew Gendron, seriously injured in Afghanistan just a few months ago, his brother, Travis, is still in Afghanistan. Even though Andrew is doing well and recently was discharged from the hospital; the thought of a possible middle of the night call from the Army will now linger over our dreams at night. Dad will be able to come home for 10 days for Christmas this year, it will be absolutely great to have him there and not be missing him this year but the great sadness of another good-bye will be just around the corner. Dad will be returning back to IN for more training and then will be leaving for Afghanistan sometime in February (to the best of our knowledge but



Blakelee and Jobin Messenger saying good bye to their dad Ralph Messenger, of Bradford on Sunday December 6 at the send off ceremony for phase one of the Vermont National Guard Deployment.

Photo courtesy of Shelly Messenger

the military can change their mind in a blink of an eye). Once he leaves in February our communication will be

dwindled down to email, face book and letters, our communication becomes much better and stronger be-

cause he is not here to see the day to day childhood events unfold so we have to write it the best we can so possibly he could close his eyes and envision what it is we were writing about. He will miss the birth of a grandbaby, he will miss a Junior Prom, he will miss our birthdays, our holidays, he will miss college visits, he will miss so much, mostly he will be missing us.

Our dad has been in the National Guards since we were born, we have been thru weeks and sometimes months of him being gone for trainings, but we knew he was safe, now we just have to pray God will keep him safe. It is not easy to be a child of a soldier but it does give you a sense of pride that some would never know or understand. It creates emotion that can be overwhelming to the point of a tear when the National Anthem is played, a tear to look up into the stands and see the spot where he usually sits filled by another spectator, a tear when it is our birthdays and he is not there, a tear knowing he won't see his new grandbaby be born, a tear bursting with pride and happiness to know our daddy is protecting our freedom. Can you say conflicting emotions?

December 15, 2009 Volume 1 Number 11



At a recent meeting of Ross-Wood Post #20 American Legion in Woodsville awards were presented to Leah Rutherford, age 8, and Laura Rutherford, age 12, for their assistance in the annual Thanksgiving Dinner served at the post on November 22. Both girls volunteered several hours of their time to help prepare, serve and clean up the meal. Legion Commander Gary Scruton awarded the girls certificates along with thanks from the post members. Courtesy of Marilyn Rutherford.

Patriotic Cow



A patriotic cow in Bath, NH taken by Valerie Pickens

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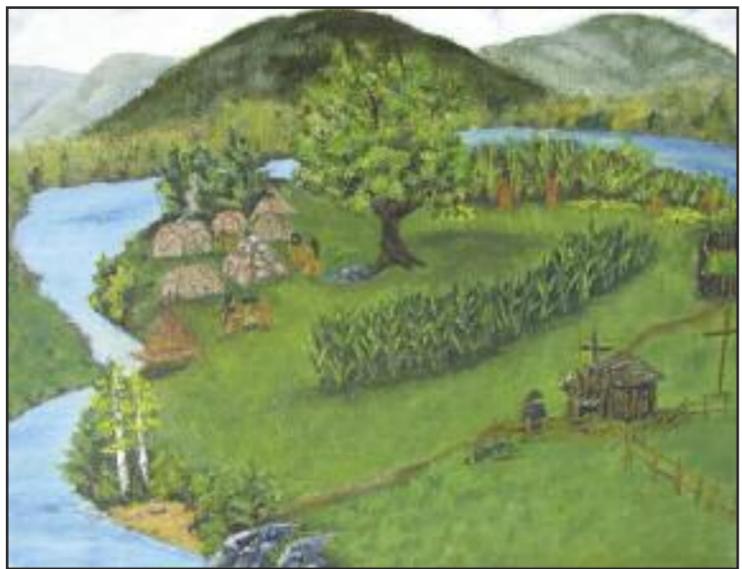
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A Brief History: From The Koas Meadows To You Today



Painting by Nancy Millette who continues to write grants and work on other fund raisers in order to expand this booklet. If you would like to donate check out whitepineassociation.org

A new history book is about to reach the schools in the Haverhill/Newbury area. It is very unlike most history books, however. There are several reasons for this difference. The first difference noticed when one looks at this new history book is that it is more like a booklet than a book. A very nicely done cover is followed by a 24 page booklet of interesting information and some very old maps. The next difference noticed is that this historical booklet pertains to a very small piece of our world. That

area is referred to by many different names even within the booklet. The title calls the area the Koas Meadows. It is also referred to as the Little Oxbow and Big Oxbow area. Some refer to this area as the Lower Cohase Region. There is also reference to the area as: "The Place of the White Pines" or Cahass, Cohasiac, Coos, Coosuc, Cowasuck, Cowass, Cohas and Cohase. Many of these may be simply explained as different spellings. But the difference in the names can also be related to the fact that this area has been inhabited for thousands of years by the

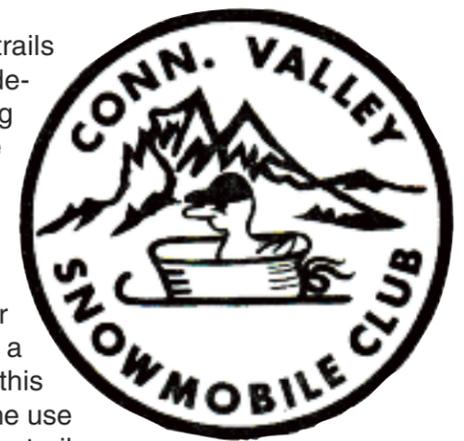
native Abenaki people. Those native Abenaki of this particular area are also known as the Kiasek.

That brings us to the third uniqueness of this booklet. It was written and produced by those same Kiasek Abenakis. More exactly it was a creation from the White Pine Association, (WPA) a non-profit organization headquartered in Newbury, Vermont and Haverhill, New Hampshire. The WPA is made up of Abenaki descendants as well as other concerned citizens who have made this region their home for generations.

Not only has this wonderful history booklet been produced, but WPA has also copied CD's of the Abenaki language in an effort to save this language from extinction. Those CD's along with a dictionary are available to those who are interested in learning the language and carrying on the Abenaki tradition.

So if you are attending school in the Haverhill/Newbury area, especially in grades four, five & six, you have a new history book to look forward to. If you are a teacher in this area and have not yet seen this booklet ask for a copy and be part of the continuing history of the Koas Meadows.

ATTENTION All Snowmobilers



The snowmobile trails will be opened on december 15th providing we have adequate snow cover per RSA 215C. At that time, you will see the gates will be open and the groomer will be out. Our trail system will have a lot of new changes this year as we have lost the use of a major part of our trail due to disrespect to the land owner. He was tired of picking up trash that people tossed out on his land and for failure to stay on the marked trails.

Our trail system is well marked again this year and in many places we have roped off trails going across fields.

We are asking everyone to PLEASE obey the signs and stay in the trails and keep out of any place that is marked with No Snowmobiling signs. Do not go outside the marked trails and stay off any trail that is marked with a dead end sign for these are access trails only.

Do not try to cut across any field that is not marked to try to save time. We try to use the outside edge of a field for our trails to cut down on crop damage.

All effort must be made to respect the land owners whose property we use.

PLEASE respect quiet zones and watch your speed in areas where there are homes.

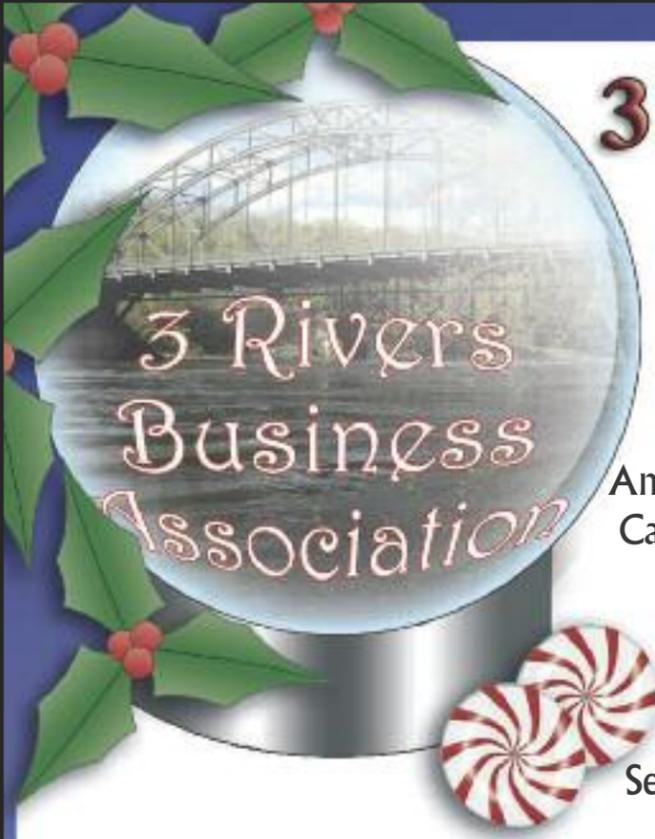
If you pack food and drinks in on your ride, please take your trash back out with you.

Snowmobiling is a privilege, not a right and many hours of hard work as well as money goes into maintaining trails that goes to waste when a trail is closed. Please enjoy our trails and ride with safety and respect.

We invite you to attend our meetings that are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Municipal Building in North Haverhill at 7:00 PM and to also give us a hand working on the trails. We meet at Aldrich General Store on Sundays at 8:00 AM and work till noon.

Connecticut Valley Snowmobile Club

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Of Woodsville, Wells River, Haverhill & Bath

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December 15, 2009 Volume 1 Number 11

Possible Grant Money For Woodsville Armory

By Robert Fillion, Woodsville, NH

The state of New Hampshire is turning over to the town of Haverhill its no longer used armory in Woodsville. The select board appointed a committee to advise on the uses to which the town might put the building. Robert Fillion of Woodsville delivered a memorandum to the committee on December 3 that outlines the possible use of the armory as an

information services and community activities center. He has advised that he is proposing to offer as much as \$500,000 to adapt the building for town use but only if the center is fully established and funded. The grant money would be available as it becomes needed and before the town commits expenditures.

Fillion states that the

purpose of the center would be to ensure that residents of the town have access to several information and community services that they presently do not have, as well as to improve or increase any relevant present services. The center could coordinate and plan community activities, such as recreational activities, youth services, exhibitions, museum, and cultural events. It would provide space and other resources to support independent study and research as well as to support formal (classroom) study. It would provide for information literacy including offering computers for public use. It would offer literature and information that is relevant to adult education, basic literacy, career development,

local history and genealogy, pre-school learning, home instruction, agriculture, and commerce. It would be able to provide community information, which consists of facts about the community including town agencies and organizations. It would be able to offer a wide array of literature, both serious and popular, that is geared to the expressed interests of Haverhill people.

The center might organize educational and cultural activities, such as lectures, concerts, and book discussions. It could hold exhibitions of various kinds. It could administer a program of bringing people in the community together to deal with community issues as well as issues that extend beyond the community.

Although the grant would stipulate that the information center be subject to the state law that governs libraries, it would not perform as present libraries in Haverhill do. A board of trustees elected at town meeting would govern the center and be subject to decisions of voters at town meetings. It would operate openly and would be subject to the state's right-to-know law, to reporting requirements, and to audits and evaluations. The center would submit annual budgets that outline how the center would plan for uses of its appropriations.

The center could also provide for outdoor activities such as a sculpture garden, horticultural garden, playground, picnic facilities, boat launch, skating rink, and trail center for skiers, boaters, bikers, cyclers, and snowmobilers.

The center could provide services for nearby towns that contribute to its operational costs.

The center would need around 4800 sq. ft. or about 1/3 of the armory interior space. Most of the space would be available for other functions.

December 15, 2009 Volume 1 Number 11

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Trendy Times reserves the right to accept or reject publication of any letter to the editor or submission of any nature for any reason, of course you will need to be really out there for us to turn you down. However, we do reserve the right to make slight changes to submissions for readability purposes. Thank you for your understanding.



TRENDY TIMES

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION

Citizens Work on Use of Woodsville Armory

An ambitious group of citizen volunteers have been meeting to work on compiling information for the usage of the Woodsville Armory by the Town of Haverhill. After the Town of Haverhill held public meetings to determine if its citizens wanted the Town to acquire the armory, the Selectboard began the acquisition process based on the positive citizen input.

From the public hearings, many individuals stepped forward and volunteered to work on a committee to compile ideas to determine the best usage of the Armory. This group has seen Peter

Conrad, Larry Corey, Joel Godston, Alex Graham, Howard Hatch, Samantha Huntington, Mike King, Jim Peterson, Ana Peterson, Regis Roy, Cole Rutherford, Gary Scruton and Lynn Wheeler putting their heads together to come up with some outstanding ideas.

Their first meeting on December 3rd. began with a visit to the Armory to assess the size and physical layout of the facility. An enthusiastic group had lots of questions and ideas after the initial review. Members have gone back out in the community to gather additional information

about the physical plant, day to day operation of the building and where we can obtain information to assist in this large project. Plans of the property are being acquired from the National Guard.

In addition, Town Manager, Glenn English has arranged with LightTec of Merrimack, New Hampshire to begin an energy audit of the facility. The first portion of the audit was put in place on, Tuesday, December 8th. This has been made available through the Office of State Planning. A second audit will be done of the heating system.

At the second meeting of the group on December 10th., the group brainstormed on ideas for usage. Prior to the meeting written input had been gathered from the Recreation Committee and the Haverhill Police Department as well as a statement of purpose of the Committee from the Selectboard. Gathered information has been categorized and is being weighted by the Committee. The additional information gathered from the nights meeting will be cataloged along with the previous gathered information. During the meeting it was stressed that

the Selectboard would like the project to be cost neutral during these very difficult times.

The next scheduled meeting of the Woodsville Armory Advisory Committee will be December 17th. at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building in North Haverhill. The public is welcome to attend. If you have information that would be helpful for the Committee, please feel free to leave it at the Municipal Building for Lynn Wheeler.

Lynn Wheeler
Charperson
Woodsville Armory
Advisory Committee

Executive Council Report

by Ray Burton

The NH Operation Life Saver Committee has been in existence since 1983.

Our focus is three fold- education, engineering and enforcement where railroads come into contact with highways.

This 27 member committee is a part of the New England Health and Safety Council with offices in Concord, NH. Committee members include railroad owners/operators, state safety officials, driver education teachers, and interested citizens. Over the years we have conducted mock rail/vehicle crashes, have trained presenters for classroom presentations, partici-

pated in railroad promotion marketing days, trade shows and local chamber of commerce events. We meet about 4 times per year.

The NH Highway Safety Agency is a key to purchasing educational informational items to distribute.

If anyone is interested in further information please contact our Executive Director Lyman Cousins at 796-6446. Or contact my office at 747-3662.

With season's greetings to all.

Ray Burton
338 River Road
Bath NH 03740
ray.burton@myfairpoint.net

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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17
WOODSVILLE ARMORY USE COMMITTEE
7:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
ANNUAL HAVERHILL POLICE DEPARTMENT
BLOOD DRIVE
12:00 Noon - 6:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
1ST ANNUAL READING OF CHILDREN HOLIDAY STORIES
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Patten Library, North Haverhill

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
LESSONS & CAROLS / ADVENT SERVICE
10:00 AM
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Woodsville

LIGHTING OF THE MEMORY TREE
2:00 PM
Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING
6:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
6:00 PM
Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike
7:00 PM
Wells River Congregational Church, Wells River
7:00 PM
East Peacham Baptist Church, East Peacham

7:30 PM
Orfordville Church Building, Orford

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
CAROL SING
9:00 AM
Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike

CAROL SING
10:30 AM
United Congregational Church of Orford, Orford

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
BRING A BELL AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR
9:00 AM
Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike

BRING A BELL AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR
10:30 AM
United Congregational Church of Orford, Orford, NH

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New Year's Eve marks the 17th annual First Night celebration of the arts in St. Johnsbury.

It all starts in St. Johnsbury at 4 pm on December 31, 2009 and finishes with bright bang at the midnight fireworks finale on January 1, 2010. That leaves eight hours to choose from among the 100 performances by 50 different artists or shows being presented at 19 venues on and near Main Street St. Johnsbury. Hear music from many traditions, including folk, pop, rock, blues, bluegrass, Broadway, sacred, contemporary and classical piano. See modern dancers, break dancers, magicians, a hypnotist, jugglers, a one-man band and comedy shows. Dance the night away to swing or hot rock, in country squares or contra dance lines. Let the kids work off some energy with giant inflatables and enjoy craft activities at the Family Fun Fare.

In between favorite shows, enjoy the diverse selection of food and beverage at several churches and other venues. And the free late night pancake supper is always popular.

The entertainment lined up this year includes many favorites of former First Nights and a number of debut performances.

Among the new acts this year is Leonard Solomon's one-man variety show featuring some of the most bizarre homemade instruments ever seen or heard. Conceived and constructed in his basement, the goose-honking and train-whistle cacophony of the Majestic Bellowphone renders symphonic compositions arranged for dog whistles and bicycle horn. Solomon rounds out the show with a polished juggling routine.

Equally unusual is the music of Kevin Colosa who plays the world's oldest electronic musical instrument, the Theremin. By skillfully moving his hands near its two antennas to control oscillators for pitch with one hand and volume with the other Colosa gives a new dimension to favorite show tunes on this strangely compelling instrument.

First Night is a showcase for new young performers.

Local college students make up two alternative rock bands--Sidrak & Bokkus and The Rêves. Other young performers coming of age at First Night are Walker Storz with two groups: Rubato and Derk & the Avengers. Twelve-year old Ashley Miles is already an award-winning country singer. The Bethel Anabaptist Musicians are devout young people who make heavenly music.

You Already Know is a group of young men who grew up with each other and became the self-proclaimed "world's greatest street dance crew." They perform on the streets of Boston, showing off their gymnastic "styles" in breakdance, hip-hop, house, krump, rave, popping and locking.

After she performs with the Thrive Dance Company, dancer Laurel Askren teams up with visual artist Jesse Proia for a unique modern collaboration.

And the sketches of the Kingdom County Comic Theater always welcomes new student comedians.

In addition to performances by the young, there are many shows especially for the young, including the comic antics of the King of Silly and the delightful songs of James Lamar. For pure amusement and amazement there's Bob Shelley in three magical incarnations as Ishkabibble and Professor Marvel, and finally, for older kids and up, Bob Shelley the Hypnotist.

And for the young at heart Lewis Franco and the Missing Cats swing onto the stage with their gypsy rhythms.

Tenor saxophonist Benny Sharoni comes up north from the Boston jazz scene with three of his favorite sidemen to play an energetic blend of straight ahead bop with Latin fusions. With a strong emphasis on close harmonies backed with fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, button accordion, and sundry percussions, Fifth Business produces songs with roots in American, British, and Celtic music, plus some original contemporary compositions. Guitarist Linda Warnaar, with Micah Carbonneau on bass and Alex Wolfsten on trumpet, sings original songs that blend Latin, jazz, and funk rhythms with her new band,

the Tessellations.

Derby Line is a local barbershop quartet that specializes in Tin Pan Alley and Victorian-era classics. The foursome may also break out in doo-wop, show tunes, and ballads when the spirit moves them.

Mark Shelton will finish the evening with his late show of Vegas vocal impersonations, including the King.

And the Catamount Arts theaters will be showing two films continuously--the first run of the offbeat comedy *The Men Who Stare at Goats* and the very on-the-beat concert film *Soul Power*. That's just the new stuff. First Night welcomes back an array of returning musicians: the rockabilly beat of the Burke Mountain Bandits, the rhythms of the St. Johnsbury Drum Ensemble, bluegrass by Banjo Dan the Mid-nite Plowboys, folk tunes by Not the Best and the Moore Family, folk rock by the Bob Amos Band, jazz by the Maple Leaf Seven, close harmonies by Windrose, the Donahue Family Singers, and Bobbie & Me & Dr. D, solo piano with Pina Antonelli and Cody Michaels, solo pipe organ by Paul Connelly, and solo harp with Bill Tobin.

In between acts and shows there are demonstrations of fire dancing on the street and art exhibits at Gatto Nero and the Catamount Gallery, this year featuring the Kirby Quilters' traditional yet timeless craft. The complete schedule for First Night St. Johnsbury is posted on the web at www.firstnightstj.com.

First Night buttons are on sale at most area banks and a number of other businesses and also at Trendy Threads/Trendy Times in Woodsville, NH. Given the current economy, organizers are pleased to hold the pre-New Year's Eve price to \$10. The price for adults does jump to \$15 on December 31, but the student price remains at \$10. And pre-schoolers never need a button.

First Night volunteers who work a shift hosting at a venue on New Year's Eve can get free buttons. To become a volunteer, complete the form on the First Night website or call 802-748-2603.

Back By Popular Demand: Fiddler Patrick Ross



BETHLEHEM — When fans eager to hear fiddler Patrick Ross at a family-style holiday concert at the Rocks Estate last week had to be turned away, the organizers quickly decided to put together another “Evening of Holiday Tunes with Patrick Ross” to take care of the overflow crowd and encourage others who would like to hear this young musician to be able to

do so. The second concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Profile High School on Route 18 in Bethlehem.

Patrick is no stranger to Profile, where students there enjoyed a session with him several years ago, said Principal Mike Kelley.

Patrick will welcome old friends and new to the December 17 concert, where he promises to play lots of toe-tapping fiddle tunes with a holiday flavor.

The program, presented by the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, is one of a series of informal events celebrating the holiday season.

Patrick is a native of Canaan, Vermont and a fifth-generation fiddler. He and his fiddle have traveled around

the world making music and friends along the way. After fiddling through Ireland, Italy, Hungary and Nicaragua, Patrick now makes his home in Groveton.

His newest CD, “In De Good Mood,” traditional French Canadian tunes that he recorded with Jean Nil Theroux of Canaan, Vermont, will be available, as will older recordings.

Anyone needing additional information can call 837-2275 or email Eileen@aannh.org. There is plenty of space at Profile, and there is no need to make a reservation for this concert. The suggested donation is \$7.

Profile High School is located at 691 Profile Road, Bethlehem, near the intersection of I-93 and Route 302.

Bath Village School Honor Roll



These are the honor roll students for “Bath Village School” 4th – 6th Graders for the first Trimester.

ALL A's

6th Graders: Derek Maccini, Danielle Martin, Melenie Peters, Griffin Romprey

5th Graders:

4th Graders: Peter Mulcahy, Emma Sulham, Asher Solnit

A's & B's

6th Graders: Hannah Barnhart, Jaret Bemis, Skye Savage, Alyssa Bach, Joshua Rollo

5th Graders: Alyssa Jellison, Eric Thornton

4th Graders: Isaac Barnhart, Alexis Clark, Billy Green, Kaylah Hill, Madison Lewis, Kyleigh Lamarre

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The Maine Reason To Return

By Carolyn Bigelow

This picture is of my husband, Robert (Bob) Bigelow of Passumpsic, Vermont, with the buck he harvested on November 11 around 8:30 a.m. in Moscow, Maine. The deer was a 9 pointer and weighed 220 pounds dressed. Based on the Biggest Bucks in Maine Club the live weight

calculation is 264 pounds. Bob had hunted the first week of Maine's rifle season and came home for his grandson Dylan's 17th birthday. He told us of this cut he had been hunting and all the deer sign he had seen. We all encouraged him to go back up to hunt some more

so he headed back up Monday morning. Bob and I have been hunting partners for several years now, but unfortunately I was unable to go up with him so he was hunting solo when he got this bruiser. I can only imagine the excitement he felt when he talks about watching two does come out of the swamp and forty-five minutes later this guy came down the trail following their scent. Bob is a retired state employee with 40 plus years of service and missed out on a lot of deer



hunting. I can't think of anyone who deserves to get such a beautiful trophy like this than him. I am very proud of his patience and perseverance because that is what you need to hunt the big woods in Maine.



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LETTERS

(and even some real words)

From The Editor

In the December 8th edition of Trendy Times there was an article that struck a nerve of at least one of our readers.

First let me apologize if any article written by a contributor or myself has offended anyone. That was certainly not the intent.

However, I believe that everyone deserves a voice. Whether I agree or disagree with a viewpoint, that view-

point has the right to be heard, or in our case written and able to be read.

One of the unique aspects of the written word; everyone has a choice whether or not to read it. A reader can read it at their own pace, and possibly most uniquely, they can interpret the words as they wish. But written words are permanent and what you write is what you write. It is there in

black and white. And my interpretation may well be different from another. The perspective, which is different for virtually every one of us, will tilt your view one way or another. In fact some articles can be vastly different depending on your view. Because of this, and the fact that I can only look at any submitted article from a limited number of those view points, some articles may be printed that will affect some readers in a manner unforeseen by the writer or myself.

I must say that Trendy Times is not by any means trying to dodge our responsibility to edit and on rare occasions reject an article that is submitted. But at the same time, we should not, and will not suppress the views and opinions of our contributors.

So again, apologies if written words in Trendy Times have caused ill feelings. I strongly believe it was not intended as such.

And finally, let me invite those with opposing views to take the time to write your words down, send them in and let your voice be heard. It is one of the main missions of Trendy Times.

Gary Scruton
Owner/Editor

December 15, 2009 Volume 1 Number 11

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Merry Christmas from Trendy Times

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