

**PROPERTY TYPE:** Commercial Development in Rural Areas

**HISTORIC OCCURRENCE/SURVIVAL:**

Commercial development in rural areas was generally related to growth around a village which was located near a river. The river provided waterpower. Saw and grist mills were built for lumber and flour. If the land was fruitful for agriculture, farming was a source of livelihood. If mills and farming were prosperous, the villages grew in population. Banks, stores, markets were needed to provide services to the villagers; farm stands were set up to sell produce. With the onset of the rr, goods would be sent to Boston.

Early forts for "Indian" trade

Taverns, church yards and grist mills early places of commerce

RR stations, gas stations, creameries, post offices, etc. All these occurred and survived with varying frequency.

Peddlers centers, West Poultney and elsewhere in Rut. Co. (archeol. sites)

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The pts represent the various activities and needs of the villagers who lived in these areas.

Early stores were general stores. Rare today. Mostly went out with rural delivery/mail order catalogues and coming of automobile. Stores have since become much more specific.

Commercial centers often in the village. The heart of the community. Crossroads stores occasionally became the nuclei of villages.

Roadside restaurants, tearooms, roadhouses

**IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Store: some early stores were in a person's home, either in a front room, often with a separate entrance, or often the store was located in a wing or ell of the house.

Mid-19th c. store- often was 2-story building, gable front, large glass windows spanned front with a recessed central entry. Spacious interior often with post office at rear. Upstairs was an apartment for the store owner. (might be hoist in rear gable end, and loading doors)

19th c. lumber mill:

lumber mills had several buildings from the main mill building which was built at the river's edge on a sturdy stone foundation. Framing

timbers were larger than those used for home construction, with posts and beams measuring 14" or more.

Related structure: a shed for drying lumber, a saw dust bin or shed, a building for the manufacture of blinds, doors, sash, broom handles, etc. Mill owner may have a house nearby, often with a wing for mill workers.

Bank- interior- beautiful woodwork, brass bars over teller window, etc.

**VARIATIONS:**

Marshfield Village store still has storeowners apt on second floor. Old ballroom on third floor. 3-story outhouse at rear.

Open Air markets?

**CHANGES OVER TIME:**

Stores- large plate glass windows might be changed over time, esp. now to make them more "energy efficient"; gas pumps added out front early 20th c. with autos.

**NAMES/LOCATIONS OF SPECIFIC EXAMPLES FROM RESEARCH:**

Early store: Theron Boyd House, early store in a person's home

Mid-19th c. store- Marshfield, E. Hardwick

19th c. mill- Seaver Mill in Moscow (stowe). Many of the early mill buildings are intact and the mill is being restored and is in operation. Also provides electricity for villagers.

Stores- Starksboro village had 4 stores, 2 in excel. condition.

Huntington Lower Village (survey)

Middletown Springs

Woodstock

Taftsville Store (brick GR?)

Bristol- all of downtown (NR)

Bank in Orwell

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION:**

Stores usu. in every village. One or more.

Near mill sites or taverns early on

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

What types of rural commerce are not associated with stores and banks? Insurance? Barter?

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:**

Jane Beck Vermont Country Store  
Rut. Co.

**CONSTITUENCIES:**

Jean and John Burnet?- at M Village Store  
Donald Leveille- owner of Seaver Mill in Moscow, VT  
Houghton Cate- owner of a mill called ironically Moscow Mills in E.  
Calais. c.1900 mill? Mr Cate has feed store in the mill building and  
generates electricity for the village. Retired electrician and  
interesting person.

President/director of Orwell Bank  
Vrest Orton of Vt Country Store  
Jane Beck  
Vt Retailer's Assn.

Rutland County Publication Survey Report Town Summary FY89  
(See Survey Report file at start of Rutland County  
in Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey files)

-Castleton

For a general summary of survey findings and related historic context information see "Castleton" in **The Historic Architecture of Rutland County**.

Two historic lakefront camp districts were recorded, as well as a number of individual camps and commercial structures associated with development of Lake Bomoseen.

*commers.  
devel.*

The properties identified in the Rutland County Publication Survey project relate to the following historic contexts identified in the Vermont Historic Preservation Plan: Diversified and Specialty Agriculture (farms); Dairy Farming (farms); Stock Breeding (Bush Farm, Benson); Agricultural Social, Educational and Political Institutions (grange hall, Mount Holly); Ethnic Groups (workers housing in Danby, Proctor, and West Rutland); Education (schoolhouse in Danby); Entertainment and Popular Culture (dance hall in Tinmouth); Growth of Government (town hall in Danby); Military Roads (Crown Point Road tavern in Clarendon); Seasonal Residents (camps in Castleton, Tinmouth, and Wells); Outdoor Recreation Industry (Boy Scout Camp in Benson); Quarrying and Stone Milling (Proctor, Danby, and West Rutland sites); Architecture and Patterns of Community Development (examples of historic styles and historic districts). More information concerning these historic contexts and their property types are available from the Division for Historic Preservation upon request.

Barnard  
Pre-survey

resources for the Town of Barnard and for the VDHP, while also informing residents and owners of the historic character of their properties. (Eighteen phone calls and two letters were received from owners notified by the Survey flyer left at their property; all but one response were positive about the need to document and protect historic properties. Approximately sixty people attended the public meeting in Barnard--remarkable for a town with a population of 800.) Project design and field methods appeared generally sound, although the format of survey results was modified to make it easier for the public to use.

The survey recorded 114 historic sites throughout Barnard and one historic district each in Barnard village and East Barnard. (The original Barnard survey in 1976 recorded 20 sites, 11 of which are now included in the two historic districts.) Most of the sites recorded consist of vernacular one-and-one-half-story houses dating from the first half of the nineteenth century, often with an additional outbuilding or two. Although most of these sites were originally associated with agriculture, there are very few working farms or otherwise well-preserved barns and outbuildings, making those that survive especially significant. Eighteen historic camps were recorded along the south and east shores of Silver Lake, and a number of former farmsteads are significant as the homes of summer residents during the first half of the twentieth century. A community of artists and patrons, affiliated with the writers Sinclair Lewis and Dorothy Thompson, is associated with a number of the summer residences after 1930. Both villages in the town are remarkably well-preserved with few modern intrusions; most homes and commercial and civic buildings appear much as they did about 1900, although many former outbuildings and the water-powered industrial buildings of both villages now remain only as archeological sites. Historic maps indicate a large number of upland hill farms in Barnard, now gone, that by 1850 already had no roads leading to them; and although unrecorded in this survey, they probably remain as intact archeological sites likely to yield information about the life of early settlers. Neither informants or published town histories make mention of any potential aboriginal archeological sites, although some Native American archeological sites, perhaps from both the prehistoric and historic periods, may be expected.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER WORK

Since the PRE-Survey only collects enough information to allow a preliminary evaluation of structures' architectural merit and general historic character, more survey work and research can be done on all of the structures identified in the Barnard PRE-Survey. Full Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey forms should be considered for all identified structures. Also, a PRE-Survey or other site identification work needs to be done for the archeological resources of Barnard. It is suggested that further survey work be done with the objective of nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places and/or, as suggested by local committee members, for setting guidelines for local historic district/landmark design control. The Division for Historic Preservation offers guidance and technical assistance in these areas should community members wish to pursue such activities. At present, the major threats to the preservation of the historic resources of Barnard appear to be the unsympathetic, incremental alterations to historic structures, the "winterization" of summer camp structures, and the slow subdivision of former farms for new "country" homes.

The majority of properties identified in the PRE-survey appear

eligible for the National Register under Criteria A. and/or C., while insufficient information was collected on the remainder to determine their eligibility under Criteria A. and B. or D. Both villages appear eligible as historic districts, a number of the camps on Silver Lake are eligible individually or as a group, and many of the former farmsteads scattered throughout town are eligible within the context of the early agricultural development of Barnard. (A Multiple Property Documentation Format nomination for the town of Barnard would be one way of nominating all of these resources.) In addition several areas are potentially eligible for the State and National registers as rural historic districts composed of farms and former farms, including the broad valley along Vermont Route 12 north of Barnard Village (see Potential Rural Historic District map 1), the area along the old turnpike in the north-central portion of town (see Potential Rural Historic District map 2), and the area to the east and south of East Barnard (see Potential Rural Historic District map 3).

The properties identified in the Barnard PRE-Survey relate to the following historic contexts identified in the Vermont Historic Preservation Plan: Diversified and Specialty Agriculture (farms); Dairy Farming (farms); Agricultural Social, Educational, and Political Institutions (grange hall); Religious Trends (churches); Arts and Literature (Sinclair Lewis and Dorothy Thompson houses); Education (schools); Growth of Government (town hall); Seasonal Residents (Silver Lake camps); Early Roads (inns and taverns); Commercial Development in Rural Areas (village stores); Architecture and Patterns of Community Development (examples of historic styles and village districts). More information concerning these historic contexts and their property types are available from the Division for Historic Preservation upon request.

[The activity summarized in this report receives Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap in its conduct is strictly forbidden. Contact: Equal Opportunity Program, National Park Service, PO 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127]

Liebs, Chester. Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Boston: Little, Brown and Co. (1985)

Limitations of trains: less freedom. Could only get off at designated stops determined by location of track. (3)

Intro of automobile: speed of train, freedom of horse and buggy.

Countless roads were widened and paved. Mass produced cars. By the early 1920s for the first time in history it was possible to cleave through miles of scenery in a single day with the power to start, stop, or change the sequence of onrushing images by merely stepping on a pedal and turning a wheel. (4)

Windsheild moviegoers.

"At first windshield movie goers saw a roadside environment tailored to earlier modes of transport...threading their cars around unforgiving curbs and right-angle corners designed for slow-paced vehicles. In the country, mileage markers, tollhouses, stagecoach inns and other horse-age artifacts popped in and out of view. In either place the thump of tires on steel rails at grade crossings was a constant reminder of the latticework of railroads superimposed on the landscape."

"Soon highway building became the great editor of windshield perception. Trees were cut. Buildings obliterated. Front yards taken. Hills leveled. Valleys filled. Curves flattened. Meanderings straightened. Right-of-ways widened. Bypasses built and traffic re-routed. Features that once appeared to leap into view as a car rounded a curve could now be seen far ahead." (4-5)

"But probably the most dramatic change in the windshield movie was the wholesale injection of "commercials" into the roadside panorama.

The need to sell goods aggressively was a by-product of the industrial revolution. Advertising signs already covered Main street business districts by mid-1850s. Billboards put up beside rr tracks. But not until the auto tht widespread commercialization of the landscape began in earnest.

Shops could be set up almost anywhere the law allowed. Growing roadside marketplace. Gas stations, restaurants, motels, recreation areas. By the early 1950s almost anything could be bought along the roadside. (5)

MAIN STREET - 1st roadside commerce area (1860-1910)

"The coming of the rr created the greatest stimulus for Main street commerce. Through the downtown depot and railway freight house, goods arrived and local products were shipped out, newcomers alighted, visitors tarried, and residents set forth to explore a larger world. Fortunes were made, communities prospered, and by the late 19th century these developments could all be read on the frontage of a community's principal street." (7)

"In villages across New England, modern three- and four-story brick commercial blocks began to crowd out older structures along village greens, while scores of new shop fronts ringed courthouse squares across the Midwest.

Main streets continued to grow and thrive as more and more people were injected into down towns each day with rr and trolley car.

Main streets across the country had certain things in common: "usually the first to be lit with gas and later with electricity, the first to sport a streetcar line or elevated railway or subway, and the first to be paved. They also served as the civic and religious hubs for the communities around them. Main street was not only the home of stores and offices, but also of imposing churches, theaters, banks, hotels, courthouses, city halls, war memorials, libraries and other banners of community well-being. The corridor formed by these varied structures, jammed tight along both sides of the sidewalk, became the ideal setting for speeches, parades, and celebrations." (8)

Most of all, Main Streets were magnets for trade.

With intro. of auto, soon livery owners began repairing cars in addition to boarding horses; bicycle and carriage shops became makeshift auto showrooms, and stores began selling gas along the sidewalk. (9)

"By the 1920s, motor vehicles were not only more numerous, but faster and larger, and it became increasingly evident that Main Street was the invention of a bygone era and had not been designed for the automobile. While streets were widened, buildings demolished to make way for gas stations and parking, gradually commerce began to gradually move away from down town to "greater metropolitan area" to the highway.

Cheaper to buy outside of downtown- lower prop. value, lower taxes.

Electric street cars made metropolitan area possible. As a result of this linking up of city to adjacent towns and hamlets, the size of cities doubled, tripled, etc..



By the late 19th century, alert speculators had begun building commercial buildings along the street car routes. "Taxpayer strips"

Early highway strips- Wayside business returns:

Trade had prospered by the wayside in the days of horse and buggy. With the rr many highways fell into disuse while inns and other wayside services declined or disappeared altogether. Roads went into a "Dark Age" during heyday of rr; not until car became widely available that highways were finally improved. (16-17)

Rise of commercial strip, of suburb, malls. The postwar roadside was now an all -purpose high-speed linear commercial corridor.

Longstreth, Richard. THE BUILDINGS OF MAIN STREET: A GUIDE TO AMERICAN COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE. National Trust for Historic Washington, D.C.: the Preservation Press, 1987.

"Main street, from its inception, has been a creation of industrialization...It served as a magnet for commerce. Fortified by such forces of concentration as the rr, and streetcar, by the turn of this century Main street had become a densely packing intermingling of buildings, buggies, trolleys and people- the civic and commercial heart of the American city. The same era ushered in what would also be Main Street's undoing- the automobile." (forward)

Not until the early 19th century did the design of strictly commercial buildings emerge as a major component of architecture.(12)

"The size and extent of a community's commercial buildings served as an index to its achievements and its potential." (13)

"The ever-expanding scope and complexity of commercial endeavors resulted in buildings that were increasingly specialized in function. Mass manufacture of building products, including ornament, and the creation of new materials, allowed thousands of buildings to attain a distinctive appearance previously reserved for only the costliest edifices. Facades served as advertisements for the businesses within." (13)

Monuments to industriousness of people who built them.

Commercial palaces.

"The two-part commercial block is the most common type of composition used for small and moderate-sized commercial buildings throughout the country. Single story lower zone indicates pub-

lic space; upper zone suggests more private spaces such as offices, meeting halls, hotel rooms. Prevalent from the 1850s to the 1950s. (24)

"The gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes.

Early two-part blocks were erected mostly in the 1840s and '50s.

Technological developments, such as the mechanization of stone and wood cutting and the casting of iron facilitated the widespread adoption of adornments.

Increase in scale during mid-19th century. Five stories more common than 3 or 4. Also occupy more frontage.

Reduced cost of manufacturing glass allows for large plate glass display windows.

Banks, offices, hotels, theatres and fraternal buildings also take on this 2-part form.

"During the high Victorian era, the two-part block experienced further modifications. Principal change is the increase in the amount of ornament and the variety of elements and materials employed. Often a much larger portion of the wall surface is covered with decorative patterns in wood, stone, brick, cast iron or, by the 1880s, stamped iron. Windows are often of different shapes and sizes. Sometimes turrets, towers, oriel windows appear." 35

Classical period brings more balance, unity, symmetry.

"Diverse expressions in design were achieved by a steadily growing array of building materials. Brick varieties, terra cotta, stone facing."

Art Deco, popular during the 1920s and '30s. Characterized by a sculptural use of rectilinear geometric forms, dramatizing more than actually reflecting the structure. Verticality tends to be emphasized by piers spaced at regular intervals to form a jagged silhouette." (46)

The streamlined phase of Art Deco- slick, machine-inspired imagery became a popular means to create a new appearance for businesses during and after the Depression. Emphasis on horizontality. Ornament is rare.

One-part commercial block. "Taxpayers." 54-

## COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES - BIBLIOGRAPHY

## GENERAL

- Bassett, Thomas Day Seymour. "The Rise of Cornelius Peter Van Ness, 1782-1826." Vermont Historical Society Proceedings 10(1942):3-20
- Blow, David James. "The Rise and Fall of Timothy Follett." Chittenden County Historical Society 14(Jan. 1979):1-6; (Mar. 1979):1-6.
- ["Burlington and its history"] Burlington Free Press. Trade Edition, April 14, 1888.
- Burlington Daily News. Industrial Edition. Burlington: 1907 32p. # + "Burlington; its origins and business," 1-2.
- Carpenter, Merritt E., Jr. "The Adventures of Peter Comstock and the Lake Champlain Trade." Chittenden County Historical Society Bulletin 13(Nov. 1978):1-8.
- Cummings, Charles Russell. "Glamour of River Transportation Days." The Vermonter 44(1939):168-169. Elias Lyman's trade at White River Junction.
- De Boer, Joseph Arend, et al. "Greater Vermont Number." The Vermonter 9(1904):170-194.
- Hard, Walter Rice. "Lake Champlain: 350 Years." Vermont Life 13(Summer 1959):1-62.
- Industries and Wealth of the Principal Points in Vermont....  
New York: American Publishing and Engraving, 1891.  
33-217p. # X917.43 V5924 + HC 107.V5 I5
- McDill, Julia Lee. Industry and Trade in Woodstock.  
[Woodstock]: Woodstock High School, 1945. 8p. # X  
974.31 W861m
- Montpelier and Its Resources;... Glen Falls, N.Y.: Charles H. Possons, 1887. 30p. # 974.31 M768p + W2b M768m
- Muller, H. Nicholas, III. "Smuggling into Canada: How the Champlain Valley Defied Jefferson's Embargo." Vermont History 38(1970):5-21. 1808-1809
- "Orleans, Vermont: Supplement." Orleans County Monitor, May 267, 1909. # +
- \_\_\_\_\_. "A 'Traitorous and Diabolical Traffic': The Commerce of the Champlain--Richelieu Corridor during the War of 1812." Vermont History 44(1976):78-96.

Williams, John Andrew. "The Exciting Rediscovery of Ira Allen's Onion River Trading Post and a Brief History of Its Trade with Canada." Chittenden County Historical Society Bulletin 12(Dec. 1977):1-6. Built in 1780s.

Williamson, Chilton. "New York's Struggle for Champlain Valley Trade, 1760-1825." New York History 22(1941):426-436.

#### ACCOUNTING AND BANKING

This Looks Like Business: The Story of Our First Hundred Years. Manchester, Vt.: Factory Point National Bank, 1985. 35p. +HG 2613.M364 FG33 1984.

McCabe, James M. "Early Ledgers and Account Books: A Source for Local Vermont History." Vermont History 37(1969):5-12.

#### BUSINESS

Brown, Randall E. Haymarket Square. [Bristol, Vt.: Bristol Historical Society, 1978. 2p. The businesses on one lot, 1912-1927.

Burlington's Representative Business Men: Points About Their Success. [Burlington, Vt.: 1903?] [30]p. # X 920.0743 B925bu + HC102.5.A2 B9

Conant, John A. "Early Business Men of Rutland County." Rutland County Historical Society Proceedings 1(1881):40-44.

De Boer, Joseph Arend. Montpelier. Souvenir Edition. [Montpelier, Vt.: Vermont Watchman, 1893. 74p. # X 974.31 M768v

Greene, Frank Lester. Picturesque St. Albans... [St. Albans, Vt.: Messenger Press?], 1891. 11p. + F59.S22 G73 1905

Gregory, John. Centennial Proceedings and Historical Incidents of the Early Settlers of Northfield, Vt., 1776-1876, with biographical sketches of prominent business men... Montpelier, Vt.: Montpelier Argus and Patriot Book and Job Printing, 1878. 319p. # R (74.31 N81g + W1b H815g

"Hardwick! . . . business sketches." St. Johnsbury Republican, Nov. 6, 1895... #

"Illustrated Newport: Great Business Town and Railroad Center...." Newport, Vt.: Express and Standard,

Dec.1896.

Mallett, Peter S. The Dutcher Drug Dynasty, 1841-1961.  
Georgia, Vt.: Georgia Historical Society, 1984. 187p.  
Drug store. + W11b4 M296d 1984

Souvenir of Enosburg: history, illustrations, business men.  
Enosburg Falls: The Standard, 1901. 38p. +

Spencer-Wood, Suzanne, and Scott D. Heberling. "Ceramics  
and Socio-economic Status of the Green Family, Windsor,  
Vermont." Northeast Historical Archeology  
13(1984):33-52. 19th century site.

#### GENERAL STORE

Callahan, Robert. "The Closing of Willie McGrath's."  
Chittenden 1(Dec. 1969):[16-17]. Family market for three  
generations.

Chase, Elizabeth. "Ye Olde Bricke Shoppe on Lyndon Green."  
The Vermonter 18(Feb. 1913):41-45. 1910-1913.

Elliott, Suzanne Wood. "Historical Archaeology and the  
National Market: A Vermont Perspective 1795-1920." Ph.D.  
Dissertation, University of Massachusetts, 1977 278p.  
DAI 38 1A 1977 350. Based on a dig at the site of the  
Asa Knight General Store in Dummerston. Building now at  
Old Sturbridge Village. +F59.D8 E44 1977a

#### GROCERY

Crane, Charles Edward. Dewitt's 35th year book.  
Brattleboro, Vt.: Vermont Press, 1924. 30p. Dewitt's  
Grocery Company, wholesalers.

#### HOTELS

Beaman, George H. "The Old Time Tavern." Rutland County  
Historical Society Proceedings 1(1881):77-81.

Everest, Allan Seymour. "Early Roads and Taverns of the  
Champlain Valley." Vermont History 37(1969):247-255.  
1789-1838.

Toussaint, Tennie Gaskill. ["Thurber Hotel"] Burlington  
Free Press, 4 Feb. 1969

#### LAWYERS

Baldwin, Frederick Wilson, et al. Biography of the Bar of  
Orleans Count, Vermont. Montpelier, Vt.: Vermont  
Watchman and State Journal Press, 1886. 303p. # 920 B19  
+ F57.07 B2

Jane  
Beck

Buckham, Matthew Henry. "Life and Public Services of Edward John Phelps: An Address Delivered Before the Vermont Historical Society in the Halls of the House of Representatives, November 7, 1900." Vermont Historical Society Proceedings (1899-1900):37-58

Dale, George Needham. Address on the Life and Services of Benjamin H. Steele... New Orleans: L. Graham, Book and Job Printer, 1874. # B St32d

Downs, Virginia Campbell. "Pioneer Lawyers -- A Tradition Survives." Burlington Free Press, May 25, 1979. Noah Smith and Stephan R. Bradley, 1779.

Fish, Frank Leslie. "Vermont Bench and Bar." Vermont Bar Association Proceedings 16(1933):210-227. Since 1777.

[Kent, Dorman Bridgman Eaton. "Pliny Holton White." Vermont Historical Society Proceedings [1916-1917]:87-92.

Morrissey, Charles Thomas. "The Wayward Bar." Up Country 5(Apr. 1977):38. Lawyers

Phelps, Edward John. A Sketch of the Life and Character of Charles Linsley... n.p. Vermont Historical Society, 1866. 20p.. Legal profession in Middlebury. # B L65 Pam.

Wardner, Henry Steele. "The Gentlemen of the Law." The Vermonter 16(1911):226-229. Since 1765.

Williams, Charles Langdon. Statistics of the Rutland County Bar... Brandon, Vt.: John F. M'Collam, 1847. 31p. # 920.0743 R936w + F57.R9 W7

#### MERCHANT

Barrett, James. "The Early Life of Justin S. Morrill." The Vermonter 2(1896):60-68. 1810-1855.

Blow, David James. "Francis Le Clair, Jr.: Winooski Merchant." Chittenden County Historical Society Bulletin. 6(June 1971):1-2. 1818-1889

Brainerd, Ezra. Sylvester Bird Rockwell, 1813-1884: A Biographical Sketch. [Middlebury, 1945] 20p. Merchant and sheep trader. + W3 R5952B

DeYoe, John Peter. "From Country Cobbler to Middlebury Bookseller: John Hagar's Middle Years, 1799-1820." Vermont History 37(1969):13-29.

Perry, Alice Cone. "A Village Merchant." Vermont Quarterly

20 (1952):201-204. Mark Cone, 1819-1885.

Stevens, Annie M. "Dedication of Lyman Memorial." The Vermonter 40(1935):21-23. Elias Lyman, merchant at mouth of White River, from 1796.

#### PEDDLERS

Alling, Dorothy Parker. "A Vanishing Vermont Custom." The Vermonter 39(1934):125-126. Peddling.

Asselin, Edward Donald. "Man of the Month." Vermont Historical Society News and Notes 13(1961):1-2 Seasonal peddlers

Covey, Elizabeth. "Early Peddlers around Wilmington." Green Mountain Whittlin's. 2( ):55-58. 1890-1925.

#### TAXI

["Wilmont D. White, Taxi Driver for 22 years."] St. Johnsbury Caledonian-Record. Feb 24, 1943.

#### TINKER

Glover, Waldo Frederick. "Tinker Jake [and other reminiscences]." Vermonter 49(feb.-Nov 1944):

## CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

## DRUGGIST

Fritschel, Donald. "Butter Color, Diamond Dye and Kidney-wort." Old Bottle Magazine 6(Nov. 1973):14-19. Made by Wells, Richardson & Co.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Silas Smith and His Green Mountain Renovator." Old Bottle Magazine 10(Dec. 1976):8-10.

Higgins, Albert W. "Presidents Address." Vermont Pharmaceutical Association Proceedings. 9(18778):8-12. Effects of lobbying for drug laws since 1870.

Leonard, Robert W. "Green Mountain Remedy." Vermont Life. 10(Autumn 1955): 46-49. J.H. Guild Company's astmatic compound and cigarettes, since 1868.

## GUNPOWDER

Lawrence, Marion B. "Coopering in Stamford, Vt." Vermont Quarterly 21(1953):242-245. 1854 explosion at powder mill

Peladeau, Marius B. "The Robin Hood Powder Co. and Robin Hood Ammunition Co., Swanton, Vermont." Canadian Journal of Arms Collecting 8(May 1970):54-60.



## PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

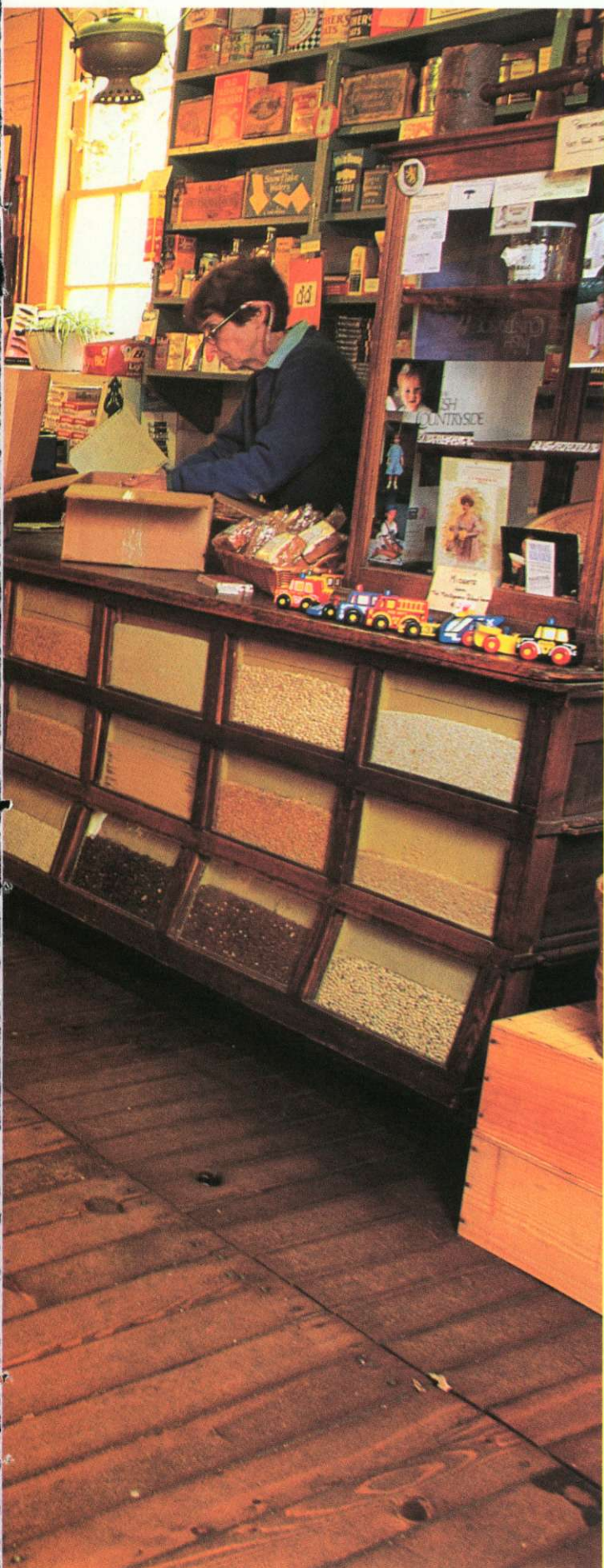
- Brown, Ralph Adams. "The Printing Press is Carried to the Hinterland; An Episode in the History of Vermont." The Vermonter 44(May 1939):112-114. Dresden press.
- Cooley, Elizabeth F. Vermont Imprints Before 1800: An Introductory Essay on the History of Printing in Vermont, with a List of Imprints, 1779-1799. Montpelier, Vt.: Vermont Historical Society, 1937. # R 015.743 C776 +Z4343.C77
- [Forbes, Charles Spooner]. "America's First Printing Press." The Vermonter 2(1897):178-179. The "Stephen Daye press" in Vermont since 1780.
- [Graff, Nancy Price]. Middlebury Printers and Their Presses. Middlebury, Vt.: Egbert Starr Library, [Middlebury College, 1975.] Both sides of broadside.
- Harvey, George B. M. "Glimpse of an Old-time Printery." The Vermonter 11(1906):50 Reminiscences of the North star printing office.
- "Hildreth of Brattleboro: A Fifty Year Record of Fine Craftsmanship." Publishers Weekly 131(Apr. 3, 1937):1518,1520
- Ide, Simeon. ["Reminiscences, 1809-1859."] New Hampshire Publishers, Editors, and Printers Association. Proceedings. (1868):19-23. Experience principally at Brattleboro and Windsor.
- [McCartney, Charlotte]. "The Private Press in the Green Mountains." Rural Vermonter 1(Fall 1962):30-35.
- McCorison, Marcus Allen. "Amos Taylor: A Sketch and a Bibliography." American Antiquarian Society. Proceedings 69(Spring 1959):37-55.
- Mussey, June Barrows. "Book Town: A Historical Sketch of Publishing and Printing in Brattleboro." Vermont History 36(1968):173-185.
- Pingree, David A. "Charles Russell Cummings, Vermonter: Born Newport, Vermont, December 24, 1870; Died Hartford, Vermont, November 25, 1945." The Vermonter 50(1945):365-367+ Printer and publisher.
- Rugg, Harold Goddard. "Isaac Eddy, Printer-engraver." in Bibliographical Essays: A Tribute to Wilberforce Eames. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press., 1924. 313-329. B Ed25r

Rugg, Harold Goddard. "Random Notes of a Book Lover." Society of Colonial Wars. Vermont. Proceedings 14(1925):92-105. Vermont printers to 1815.

Spargo, John. Anthony Haswell, Printer-Patriot-Ballader: A Biographical Study with a Selection of his Ballads and an Annotated Bibliographical List of his Imprints. Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1925. 122p. # Folio X B H279s + Quarto Z232.H35 S7

\_\_\_\_\_. "Early Vermont Printers and Printing." Vermont Historical Society Proceedings. 10(1942):214-229. 1778-1801.

Wardner, Henry Steele. "Alden Spooner, State Printer." The Vermonter 36(Jan. 1931):15-22.



# Snacks, Pies, and Videotape

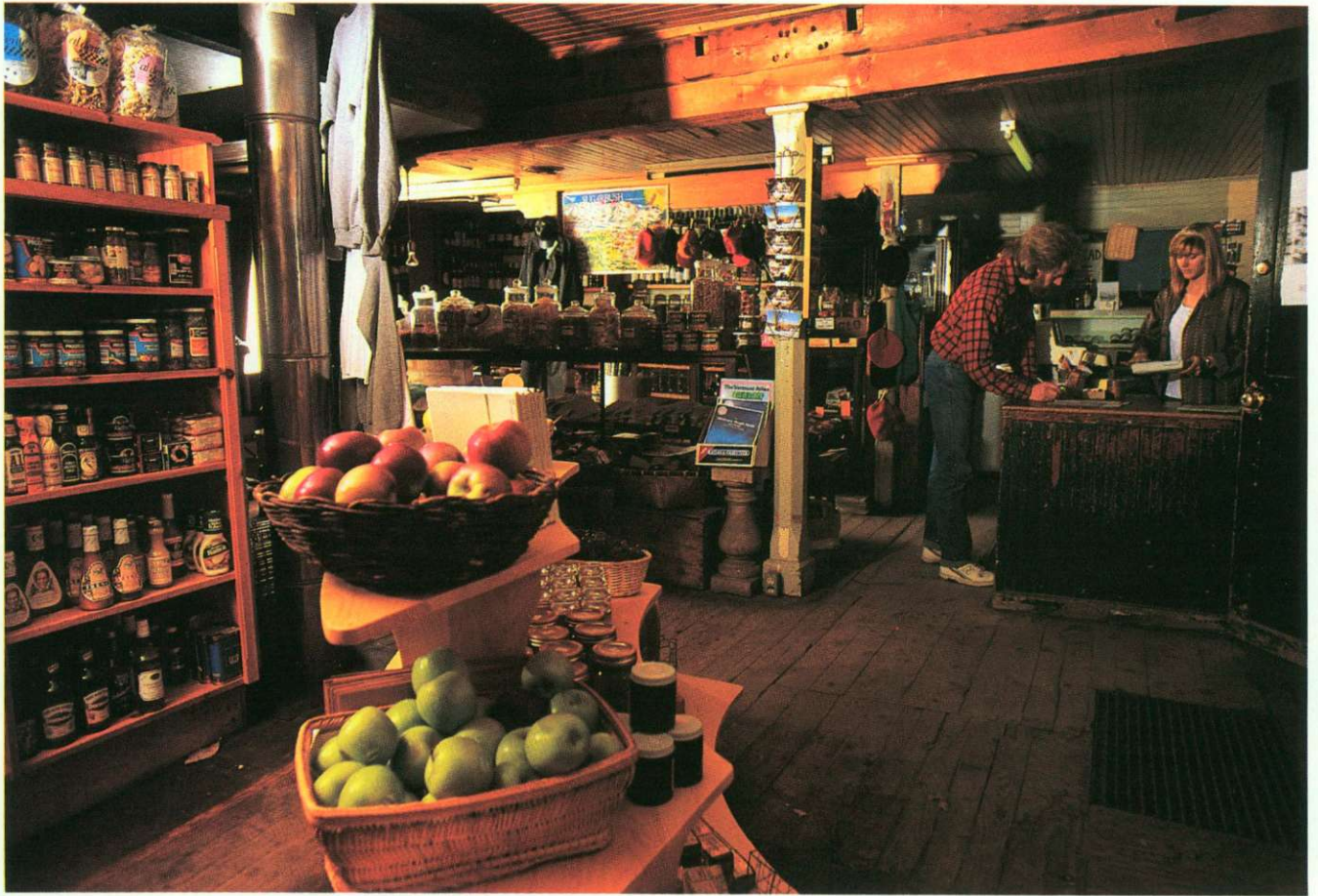
*The Amazing Blend  
Of Yesterday and Today  
At Vermont's Country Stores*

By STEPHEN MEASE  
Photographed by KINDRA CLINEFF

**H**ALF OF WHAT makes Vermont's best general stores successful is that they manage to have the essentials right down the road from home. The other half is the fact that they also have that something you didn't know you needed in the jumbled shelves where toys overlook the fresh vegetable bin and bags of puppy chow hide in the hardware corner.

This bicentennial year is a long way from the heyday of these stores in the 1870s, when the essentials of the times — buggy whips, farm tools, and sacks of flour — brought townspeople together to shop. A store's friendly setting nur-

*Left, Frank Kirkpatrick (loading stove) and his wife, Nancy (behind counter), own J.J. Hapgood's in Peru. Seated is patron Tom Dibble.*



*The Warren Store, top, is a resort emporium noted for its bakery and fine Vermont foods. Desso's, above, in Jericho, has lots of everything, including the local post office and a special 15 Cent Drawer for kids.*

tured a small community's sense of itself. Sitting around a hot woodstove, neighbors traded tall tales, talked politics, played checkers and learned on whom to count in a pinch.

In 19th century Vermont, "The general store linked farmers together and, more often than not, provided the impetus for the growth of a community," writes Jane Beck, director of the Vermont Folklife Center, in her book *The Vermont General Store: An Oral History*.

Times changed and so did many of the stores. Automobiles rumbled down back roads, carrying shoppers elsewhere, supermarkets came to town, and Vermonters started living faster lives. Counters were replaced with aisles, commercial bread replaced the flour bin, and with all the newcomers in town it was hard to keep track of names and faces the way storekeepers did in the old days.

But by the 1960s, country stores were fashionable again. They tugged mightily at the hearts of flatlanders hoping to escape the city for a chance to be their own bosses in the quiet hills of Vermont. And Vermonters who had run them for years found new markets and new interest in their wares.

Not everyone who tried his hand at shopkeeping survived the challenges. A lot of hearts were broken when the work proved too hard, the customers too few and rewards too little. But those who stayed became a modern generation of rural storekeepers. They carry on the traditions of the days when everyone did *all* their shopping at the same place in town.

Here is a sampling of some of Vermont's rich stock of country stores. There are plenty of others, and part of the fun of exploring them is to find your own favorite. Put together a shopping list, and happy shopping!

### CURRIER'S MARKET, *Glover*

Stand outside Currier's Market in Glover for a minute and check out the specials advertised in black lettering on butcher paper. Then listen to the sound of people talking — saying hello, lamenting the school budget increase, and comparing hunting tales.

Currier's is a deer reporting station, the post office, fuel depot (gas, kerosene, diesel and coal), and just about the best place to buy meat for miles around.

Owners James and Gloria Currier have been getting up at 4:30 a.m. for 25 years to open the doors at 6 a.m. "People love to get their mail, drink coffee and talk," says Gloria. Before things got so busy, Jim had time for hunting, as evidenced by the two mounted bear heads, among other trophies, hanging on the wall of the sporting goods department.

Gloria sums up her family's market: "We've got just about everything you can think of." Pausing for a moment, she adds, "I can't think of anything we don't have."

**Best Buy:** Looking for a "wheat penny?" Then peruse the big glass case just inside the front door. Along with coins, the Curriers also sell and buy gold, silver, and baseball cards.

CURRIER'S MARKET is on Route 16 in Glover in northeastern Vermont. Open Monday through Saturday 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (802) 525-8822.

### THE WARREN STORE, *Warren*

If you are of a mind to solve the problems of the world, then stop in some morning and pull up a barrel. Over by the coffee machine, just past the sturdy-looking Beckwith stove, is where the men and women of Warren gather to discuss local, state and, when needed, international affairs.

Owner Carol Lipincott, who recently celebrated two decades of running the store, says her dedication to "all honest Vermont products" is one reason to stop in. So is the always busy bakery/deli, where Mary Andonian daily creates some of the state's best French bread. And it's her bread that forms the foundation for the deli's sandwiches. Most visitors take their lunch out to the deck overlooking Freeman's Brook. It's also a great fishing spot, reserved for those 12 years of age and under.

Upstairs, past the collection of wines, is the "More Store," where Carol stocks an eclectic selection of designer clothes, home decorating accessories and handmade jewelry from exotic places.

**Best Buy:** The Warren Store t-shirt with a strange little bird designed by Jim Hilton, who also makes custom jewelry for the store. There's a new design every year.

THE WARREN STORE, off Route 100 on Main Street in Warren Village in north-central Vermont. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sundays until 6 p.m. (802) 496-3864.

### DESSO'S GENERAL STORE, *Jericho Center*

Lil Desso has been running Desso's, just off the cozy Jericho Center green, for 25 years. The store even inspired *The Storekeeper*, a children's book by local illustrator and author Tracey Campbell Pearson.

If you need order, then don't stop, but if you need just about anything else, it's probably on the shelves — somewhere. There is a logic of sorts. The wall of greeting cards for all occasions leads you right back to the post office. All 145 postal boxes are rented, Lil notes, a touch of pride in her voice.

Every Halloween, Desso's sponsors a haunted house out behind the store, and at Christmas floor-space is cleared for Santa to sit, hand out candy and collect wish lists.

When there's a raffle in town, you can bet that tickets are available at the store. "It's just a part of being part of the community," Lil says.

*Today's country storekeepers carry on the traditions of the days when everyone did all their shopping at the same place in town.*



Bill and Dorothy Humphrey own the Craftsbury General Store.

**Best Buy:** Ask Lil Desso to show you the 15 Cent Drawer against the wall, underneath the hardware section. It's filled with trinkets, toys and one-of-a-kind items perfect for kids' birthday favors. Really, everything costs only 15 cents, and Lil says she's seen kids spend hours there trying to decide what to buy.

**DESSO'S GENERAL STORE**, Jericho Center, east of Burlington. Open daily, 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Tuesdays 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. (802) 899-3313.

### WILLEY'S STORE, Greensboro

About the closest you'll come to a mall in the Northeast Kingdom is under the big roof of Willey's Store. Everything from fax machines to top-cut sirloins can be had here.

The store has been in Ernie and Phyllis Hurst's family since 1900. In the country store tradition, says Ernie, the store has always added to its mix of merchandise, rather than scaling back. Not even a rushing stream adjacent to the store kept it from expanding. Willey's just bridged the gap and connected to the building on the other side.

Whether you live in the area or just come

up to visit, Willey's can outfit you, from a Johnson Woolen Mills' red plaid cap right down to a pair of rubber-soled Sorel felt-pack boots. The hardware section has every possible handle, tool, nut and bolt, and plumbing fixture you could want.

Speaking of plumbing, if you need to use it while shopping, simply follow the green arrows on the floor. In a store as big as Willey's the arrows were needed, says Ernie, because it can take 10 minutes to tell people where the facilities are and another 10 minutes to get there.

**Best Buy:** It's tough to single out one thing when there's such a selection. Phyllis Hurst says the best thing to do is "stop in, wander around — if you need it, it's here!"

**WILLEY'S STORE**, at the crossroads in Greensboro Village between Routes 14 and 16 near Caspian Lake in northeastern Vermont. Open Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays until 7 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (802) 533-2621.

### CRAFTSBURY GENERAL STORE, Craftsbury

The pace is slow in the tiny Northeast Kingdom village of Craftsbury, and William Humphrey says he has never had to worry about getting rich from his country store. But, he adds, you "don't starve either."

Humphrey and his wife, Dorothy, have maintained the folksy appeal of the store, built in the 1860s, since they escaped Cincinnati in 1972. The store is open 365 days a year "since there's not much else to do," Humphrey says, adjusting the bow on the white butcher's apron he always wears.

The bench on the wide porch offers a perfect vantage point to watch the comings and goings across the road at the Craftsbury Inn and at the post office next door. The bulletin board will keep you up to date on local events.

**Best Buy:** Looking for a money saver? Take William Humphrey up on his standing offer to sell Susan B. Anthony dollar coins for the bargain price of 95 cents. Over the years he's sold about 3,000.

**CRAFTSBURY GENERAL STORE**, off Route 14, in the center of Craftsbury. Open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (802) 586-2811.

### BLOUIN'S IGA, Swanton

There are plenty of signs that Blouin's IGA, in the center of Swanton, has its heart in the country store tradition. One of them hangs over the aisles, reminding customers that Blouin's employees pledge to "give you a generous welcome; treat you as well as we would like to be treated; and thank you and welcome you back."

It's the kind of store that sponsors an Oreo

cookie stacking contest for the kids. Its employees carry your groceries out to the car and trim the fat off the meat before weighing it. The Blouin family, in the business since the 1930s, also owns stores in Richford and St. Albans.

**Best Buy:** Look up Doris Leblanc in the produce market for a great deal on a fruit basket. Doris promises "\$35 worth of fruit in every \$20 basket." Around Christmas, customers have been known to drive two hours to pick one up.

*BLOUIN'S IGA, Route 7, Swanton, in northwestern Vermont near the Canadian border. Open Monday through Wednesday and on Saturdays 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays until 8 p.m., Fridays until 9 p.m., and Sundays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (802) 868-3385.*

### STOCKWELL'S VILLAGE STORE, West Brattleboro

Stockwell's is a big red building on Route 9 in the center of town, the kind of place you can't miss. And that was the idea when brothers J.L. and W.D. Stockwell established the store in 1888 on what was then a main stagecoach route.

Today Chet and Dora Dix operate Stockwell's, which they took over in 1980 from Chet's brother Bernard, who had operated it since 1971. They sell the wonderful mix of things that defines the general store, from groceries, including cut-to-order meats, to gloves and medicines. And the Dixes make it a point to offer Vermont products: "That's what we really think is special," says Dora.

They have Vermont-made cheese, maple syrup, honey, wine and beer, Vermont-grown apples and flowers, and more. For Thanksgiving the Dixes offer fresh local turkeys, and — after the first frost, when they're sweetest — the legendary Gilfeather turnip.

**Best Buy:** Try a turnip. The Gilfeather turnip, developed in Wardsboro in the late 19th Century by John Gilfeather and for many years available only in Windham County, is noted for its mild, sweet flavor and creamy white color. Or try any of those other Vermont products the Dixes love to sell.

*STOCKWELL'S VILLAGE STORE, on Route 9 in West Brattleboro, two miles west of Brattleboro, three-quarters of a mile off Interstate 91's Exit 2. Open daily, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (802) 254-9393.*

### THE RIPTON STORE, Ripton

Just down the road from Middlebury College's Breadloaf Campus is the Ripton Store, marked with a distinctive bicentennial flag. The flag and owners Sue and Dick Collitt arrived in 1976.

In its previous life, the Ripton Store tried to cater more to tourists than locals, but the Collitts put the little red store on Route 125 back on track. They even put a lot of money into



*Chester Dix and Janet Briggs, at work at Stockwell's.*

refurbishing the gasoline tanks and pumps so the town would have a gas station. In the summer and fall, a lot of the customers walk right past the gas pump when they come in to replenish their backpacks. This is the emporium closest to the local section of the Long Trail.

**Best Buy:** Ask about the basket full of old scale weights Sue Collitt has collected. She sells them as paperweights for \$2.95. The rest of the antiques in the store aren't for sale.

*THE RIPTON STORE, Route 125 east of Middlebury. Open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekends 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (802) 388-7328.*

### DAN & WHIT'S, Norwich

Dan & Whit's has been in the Frasier family since 1950, when Dan Frasier and Whit Hicks bought it. Dan bought out his partner in the late 1960s and it's been a family corporation ever since. Dan and Bunny Frasier, who allowed themselves a half day off every two weeks, are now taking it a little easier while their sons, George and Jack, handle the day-to-day business of selling a little of everything, from gas to grain and tools.

Dan & Whit's has to be prepared for the occasional Noel Perrin column that may send customers running to the store to buy a hard-to-find tool Perrin has praised.

"We do try to have old-time tools and things like canning jars and lids, kerosene lamps and Aladdin lamps," Jack Frasier explained. In fact, customers' requests have shaped the inventory over the years. Sometimes there's a run on a specialty item or two when Noel Perrin, Dartmouth professor and writer on topics rural, mentions the store as a source for a hard-to-find tool.

"He caught us by surprise the first time and we had to scramble to find those fence post mauls," Jack recalled. But now he keeps an eye out for Perrin and makes sure to ask what he's writing about this time.

**Best Buy:** It's not really a buy, but you might find one because of it. The bulletin board across the front of Dan & Whit's is probably the biggest of all the general stores. If it's happening in the area, a notice is probably tacked or taped up there.

DAN & WHIT'S, in the center of Norwich on Route 5 north of White River Junction. Open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (802) 649-1602.

### F.H. GILLINGHAM & CO., Woodstock

The tradition started back in 1886 when F.H. Gillingham founded this downtown general store with the guarantee "Your money's worth or your money back."

It was a pledge that satisfied poet Robert Frost, who often came over from Ripton for an afternoon of "trading" in the rambling store. And although Woodstock's real estate boom of the past 30 years has brought second-home buyers from New York, Boston and Montreal, Gillingham's is still the place to shop, whether you need a garden hoe or a gourmet spice.

One of the toughest things to find at Gillingham's is a parking space out front, so the store has continued its long-held tradition of delivering grocery orders to local customers. There's even an in-house charge account system.

**Best Buy:** One of the glories of Gillingham's is the store's extensive selection of imported beers, ales, and stouts. Samplers of malt beverages should look over near the store's hardware section.

F.H. GILLINGHAM & CO., in the center of Woodstock at 16 Elm Street. Open Monday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Closed Sundays. (802) 457-2100.

### PELTIER'S MARKET, Dorset

Peltier's Market, on the green, has nearly all the provisions for a gourmet picnic, from Vermont turkey sausage to homemade dips, Hanson's Scottish smoked salmon and a room full of wines and ales from which to choose.

Owner Jay Hathaway likes to boast that "Peltier's has everything." Skeptics might need a few minutes to look around and confirm

that fact, but the customers of Dorset already know that if Peltier's doesn't have it, Jay is happy to order it.

The distinctive store, marked by its green and white awnings, has held court on the wide town green since 1816. A little corner toward the back honors the previous owners and exhibits some of the old record books and photos.

Although Peltier's stocks all imaginable edibles, when it comes to nuts and bolts, you'll need to stop at the H.N. Williams Store down the road. "He's got everything," Jay says. "It's a beautiful sight."

**Best Buy:** Peltier's makes its own dips, pestos, chili and soups, but don't go out the door without trying one of the fresh French bread pizzas.

PELTIER'S MARKET, in the center of Dorset off Route 30, north of Manchester. Open Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. (802) 867-4400.

### PUTNEY GENERAL STORE, Putney

Hot coffee, serve-yourself Danishes, a view of rushing Sackett's Brook and a place to dry your mittens on the radiator by the door — who could ask for anything more on a chilly Vermont morning?

This sprawling store dates to 1790. Since 1974 Ann and Robert Fairchild and their eight children have revived what was a dying mom and pop grocery. Today the Putney General Store has earned the address "Center of Putney" by saving the locals a trip to Brattleboro when they need paint, tools, needles and thread or countless other household items.

And when the housework is done, the store offers one of the best local video-rental operations around. Ann Fairchild has concentrated on going beyond the big-name titles to stock foreign films and documentaries.

And while you're in the neighborhood, check out the fresh, often organically grown foods and vegetables at the Putney Co-op just down the block. The Co-op also offers a range of Vermont-made products and health foods at reasonable prices.

**Best Buy:** This is the place to pick up a jar of kosher dill Putney Pickles and fresh Putney Pasta in its many forms.

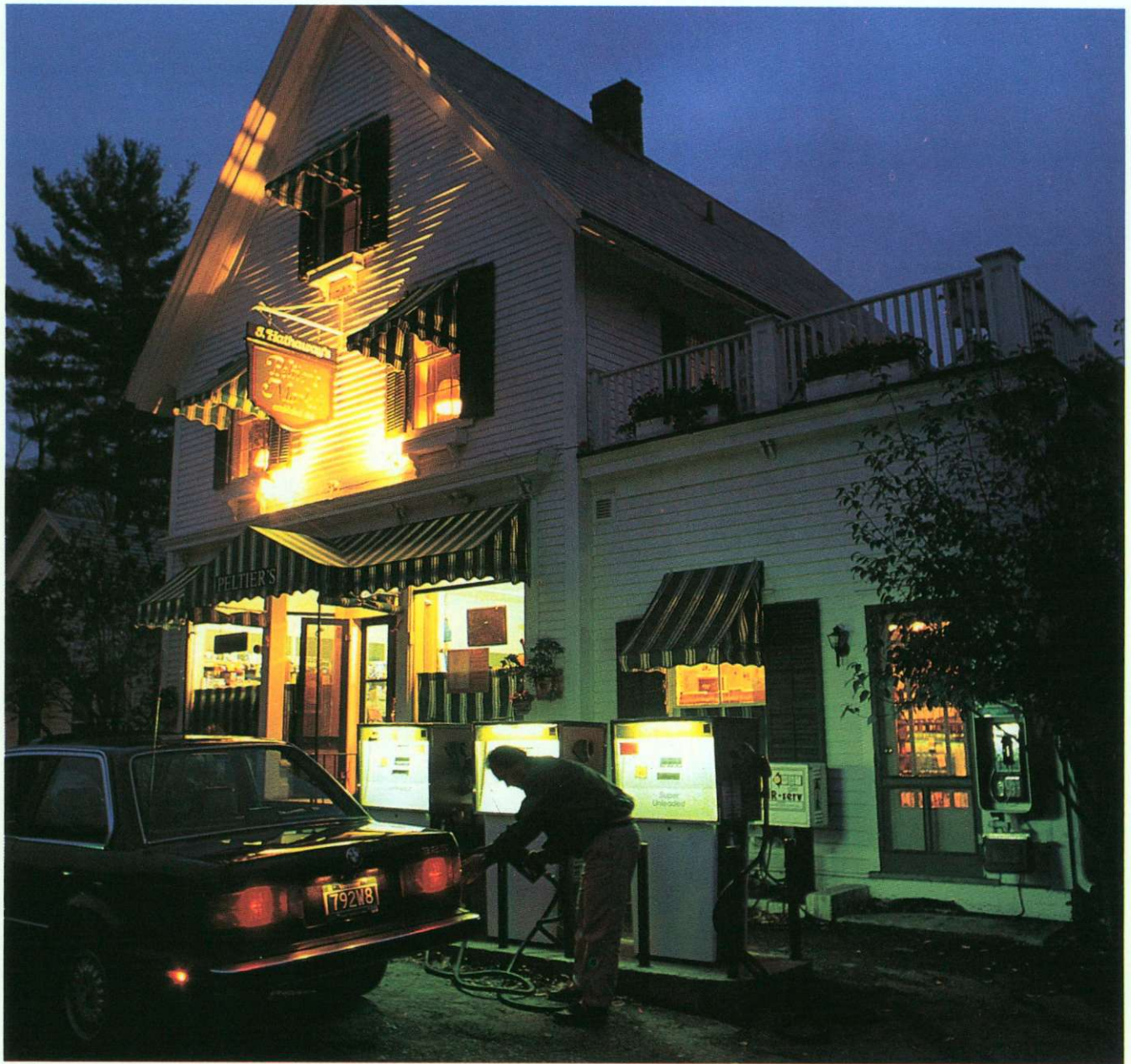
PUTNEY GENERAL STORE, in the center of town, on Route 5 north of Brattleboro. Open daily from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. (802) 387-5842.

### BAILEY'S COUNTRY STORE, East Burke

Jean Bailey, the owner of Bailey's, is a long-time resident of East Burke who five years ago bought what had been H.D. Webster's Store and expanded it into a rambling, many-splendored collection of merchandise.

Bailey's has clothing, pottery, souvenirs, books, tablecloths, placemats, even a respectable wine cellar and fresh baked goods. If you come at lunchtime, there's a restaurant that





*Peltier's, on the town green in Dorset, reflects the tastes of its patrons, which run to smoked salmon and fine wine.*

seats 50 in an elegantly refurbished building out back. Need to wash some clothes? There's a laundromat just across the alley, not to mention a golf shop.

Mrs. Bailey no longer sells tractor parts or livestock feed. But if you're looking for almost anything else, from food to a tasteful gift, a bottle of wine, or a loaf of fresh-baked oatmeal bread, you won't want to miss Bailey's.

**Best Buy:** A cup of coffee at Bailey's is 40 cents — and you can have it in a cardboard cup, your own cup, or a styrofoam cup: you choose, depending upon your tastes and environmental conscience.

BAILEY'S COUNTRY STORE, Route 114, in the center of East Burke. Open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (winter) or until 9 p.m. (summer). Closed only on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas.

### J.J. HAPGOOD GENERAL STORE, Peru

Sure, you've heard the stories about sophisticated but fed-up urbanites who leave the rat race and decide to slow things down a bit by buying a cute little store up in Vermont.

Frank and Nancy Kirkpatrick, owners of the J.J. Hapgood General Store, not only lived the story, Frank wrote the book that helped many of those other dreamers avoid some of the mistakes the Kirkpatricks made back in 1978. Like discovering that owning the "heart of the village" means staying open 365 days a year, not making much money, skipping vacations and getting up in the middle of the night when a neighbor needs a tankful of gas.

The store has been there since 1827, despite a fire in 1973 and the artificial snowstorm a film crew created outside during the making



*Bailey's Country Store in East Burke offers as much variety as it can fit into its rambling premises. Below, customer Holly Savoia shops.*

of the movie *Baby Boom*.

Inside, the pickle barrel is usually full (the pickles come from Brooklyn) and postcards (except for the antique ones) really are for sale despite the sign by the door that says otherwise.

**Best Buy:** This is the only place in Vermont where you can buy a personalized, autographed copy of Frank Kirkpatrick's *How to Find and Buy Your Business in the Country*.

J.J. HAPGOOD GENERAL STORE, in the center of Peru off Route 11, between Manchester and Londonderry. Open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (802) 824-5911.

### W.E. PIERCE GENERAL STORE, North Shrewsbury

The best deal at the W.E. Pierce General Store is one that comes from spending time, not money. Penny candy is still a penny, and if you squint a little in the late afternoon light, it's not hard to imagine a couple of local farmers sitting on the worn wooden benches jawing over the results of the 1918 Town Meeting. It's





At J.J. Hapgood's Nancy Kirkpatrick slices up a country store staple: Vermont cheddar cheese.

the kind of place that ought to be a museum, and probably will be someday

Anyone who runs in and out for a gallon of milk here will miss the chance to pore over the 1880 ledger book with octogenarian Marjorie Pierce or watch her call up her 78-year-old brother, Glendon, on the old crank intercom system by the cash register.

"Business has pretty much gone to pot," says Marjorie, "what with most people going to Rutland to shop these days." Even the Pierces have to go to the city to keep the store's shelves stocked with flour, soup and other staples most often forgotten by the locals.

"We make our living, but we don't pretend

to make money," she smiled, taking her seat in the rocking chair by the stove.

**Best Buy:** Most everything you'd like to buy from the Pierces isn't for sale, it's for looking, but back behind where the post office once was, check out the shelves of books that used to serve as the town's lending library. Marjorie has been known to let a book or two go out the door if "someone really wants one."

W.E. PIERCE GENERAL STORE, North Shrewsbury, east of Rutland. Open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Stephen Mease is a free-lance writer who lives in Williston.

J.J. Hapgood's has been selling in Peru since 1827, through fire and storm, including the artificial snowstorm created during the making of the film *Baby Boom*.



**BARNARD**  
Vermont Sunday Magazine

**GENERAL STORE**

*Since 1832*

**How Not to  
Make A  
Million:**

The Perils and  
Pleasures of  
Owning a  
Country Store

By ANDREW NEMETHY

## Vermont College student profile: June Fisher



"I graduated with a B.A. from Vermont College's Adult Degree Program in 1988. I entered as a hairdresser and emerged as a human resources employment counselor, and more importantly as a woman who had found

her voice. The Adult Degree Program affects people's lives in a way they cannot begin to grasp. I went on to earn an M.A. and am now director of employment at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center."

*Vermont College's Adult Degree Program*  
Personal. Progressive. Powerful.



UNION INSTITUTE & UNIVERSITY

*Vermont College*

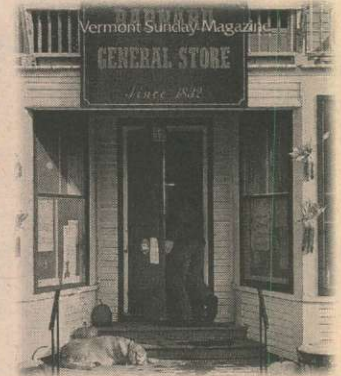
36 College Street, Montpelier, VT 05602  
www.tui.edu/vermontcollege  
800 336-6794 • 802 828-8500

INSIDE: NOVEMBER 17, 2002

## VERMONT SUNDAY MAGAZINE

COVER STORY 8

Vermont's country stores are businesses, yes, but they are so much more than that: gathering spots, local boosters, retailers of everything from milk and nails and work shirts to fancy wine and bird seed. If you can't get it here, you probably don't really need it.  
By Andrew Nemethy.



### ON THE COVER:

The front of the Barnard General Store.  
Photo by Rick Russell.

IN PERSON 3

Battenkill Canoe's Jim Walker makes his living by floating people down rivers all over the world.

LIFE IN THE PAST LANE 5

A new Vermont Historical Society movie docu-dramatizes the state's struggles for civil rights.

|              |    |              |    |
|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| Dave Barry   | 4  | Ask Anne     | 14 |
| Vermont Fare | 6  | Crossword    | 14 |
| Books        | 12 | Natural Look | 15 |

### EDITOR

Dirk Van Susteren

### PUBLISHER

R. John Mitchell

### ART DIRECTOR

David Jenne

### PRODUCTION

Lisa Bora Hughes

### STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Stefan Hard,  
Albert J. Marro, Margo Smith,  
Vyto Starinskas, Jeb Wallace-Brodeur

Vermont Sunday Magazine is a publication of The Sunday Rutland Herald and the Sunday Times Argus, contents Copyright 2002 Times Argus Association, Inc., 540 N. Main Street, Barre, Vermont 05641. The editorial office is located at 27 Wales Street, Rutland, Vermont, 05701. Telephone 802-747-6133. For advertising information, call the Rutland Herald at 775-5511 or the Barre-Times Argus at 479-0191.

## The Feeds

Tales of Agriculture  
for Young and Old

by Jeff  
Danziger



# Jim Walker

**Battenkill Canoe's founder advocates for the famous waterway and the poor of Nicaragua.**

Jim Walker's journey to Vermont might be called meandering. And that's appropriate for someone who earns his living on a river.

But all for his gentle comings and goings, the burly, mustachioed Walker is a man with a strong will. The owner of Battenkill Canoe in Sunderland, Walker has become increasingly visible in recent years as an advocate for the famous trout stream, working to keep the peace between fishermen and floaters.

He has also assumed a role as a community activist, raising money and materials for Somorillo, a poor Nicaraguan town that has become Bennington's sister city.

Walker said his internal compass pointed him toward both causes.

"I truly believe I have a responsibility to make the world a better place," Walker, 55, said recently. "It all comes from childhood."

Born in Wisconsin to a politically conscious family of dairy farmers, Walker left the Congregational Church and converted to Quakerism when he was still a boy. Attendance at a Quaker boarding school in Iowa followed. Although Walker said he chafed at the rules, the school did its job, awakening in him a sense of curiosity and confidence.

"I kept challenging the system there," Walker said.

It wouldn't be the last time. After spending a year at Goddard College in Plainfield, Walker left Vermont in 1966 to return home to Wisconsin. The Vietnam War was escalating and Walker felt he had to take a stand. Although his parents opted to move to Canada when Richard Nixon was elected president in 1968, Walker remained in the United States. In Madison, a center of anti-war activity, he worked as a draft counselor.

When it came time to perform alternative service as a conscientious objector, Walker headed to North Dakota. There on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation he helped establish a commercial pottery.

It was "a grand experiment,"

Walker said, but the pottery consistently lost money. "That was an eye opener. I had to ask myself, what's the relationship of business to social responsibility?"

When the pottery folded, Walker made a living doing construction and odd jobs. That lasted five years, until he visited an old friend in Vermont in 1977. After a month driving around the state looking for a place to live, Walker settled on Arlington, where he moved into a barn at the West Mountain Inn. He made pots by day and tended bar by night.

"It was a good life," he said. But that good life would slowly assume another direction after Walker took a trip to Arkansas and put a canoe in the Buffalo River. He admits he "didn't know anything about it," Walker said of paddling. "I argued with my partner and bounced off every tree and rock in the river."

Determined to learn, Walker marched to the park headquarters and bought the three available books about canoeing, devouring them overnight. "I had a much better day the next day," Walker said.

The experience percolated within him. Walker said he realized the Battenkill was every bit as beautiful as the Buffalo. And with a new generation of canoes being built with materials other than aluminum, shallow rivers like the Battenkill were becoming increasingly navigable.

Although he said he was uncharacteristically nagged by doubts - "If this is such a great idea, why are you the first to think about it?" - Walker and a partner opened Battenkill Canoe in 1983, becoming the area's first canoe outfitter.

The plan was for Walker to remain a silent partner. But that changed in a matter of weeks. Walker assumed responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the business, which consisted of 10 used canoes, a few dozen life jackets and a van.

"We just had to put our head down and say, 'Let's go,'" he said.

Today, Walker runs guided trips to Europe, Canada and Central America and puts as many as 100 canoes a day on the



**Jim Walker of Battenkill Canoes wants to reduce the tension between fishermen and other users of the river.**

Battenkill. "I don't think the river can stand much more than that," Walker said. "It becomes too much of a Coney Island."

Balancing his business needs with the river's capacity has been one of Walker's biggest challenges at Battenkill Canoe. In recent years, the stream has seen a dramatic decline in the number of wild trout taken from it. Some fishermen have attributed the fall off to the increase in canoes and inner tubes on the river. State fishery biologists, however, say there is no evidence to support that argument.

Nevertheless, the fishermen have repeatedly pressed their case, calling for a partial ban on canoes and tubes on the Battenkill. The state Water Resources Board rejected such a petition in 1998, saying the reg-

ulations could aggravate the conflict between fishermen and floaters. Instead, the board's executive director called for greater cooperation between the sides, and that is the direction Walker has tried to encourage.

Battenkill Canoe has joined with the Orvis Co. and Trout Unlimited in posting signs that give pointers on river etiquette. Walker also has volunteered to put canoes on the water no earlier than 9:30 a.m. and have them out by 5:30 p.m., thus allowing fishermen to work the river undisturbed during the best hours for catching trout. "Some of the casual conflict has been eliminated," Walker said. "The real challenge is how do you make that a rule rather than a custom?"

Walker encountered evidence of a more profound conflict during a canoe trip to Costa Rica. At a riverside lodge, he came across a helicopter pad that

Oliver North allegedly had built to support the Contras during Nicaragua's civil war. "From there it was an easy walk to the Peace Resource Center," Walker said.

Founded in Bennington in 1980 as a clearinghouse for information on peace and social justice issues, the center's members now spend much of their time aiding the Nicaraguan town of Somorillo, population 16,000. Walker has made the cause his own, driving a U-Haul trailer about 4,000 miles last year to deliver two ultrasound machines to the town clinic.

"It's kind of a funny way to spend a vacation," Walker said. "But it's a very simple decision. It makes such a difference in their lives."

*Peter Crabtree covers Bennington County for the Rutland Herald.*

STORY & PHOTO BY  
PETER CRABTREE

# When the cows come home - as kangaroos

People always ask me: How come the newspaper prints so much bad news? How come the front page always has negative headlines like: "Freak Espresso Machine Explosion Destroys Crowded Starbucks?" Why don't we print stores with a positive slant, like: "Destroyed Starbucks Was Popular Gathering Place for Lawyers?"



Well, OK, then. You want good news? We got yer good news right here, starting with this: **EXCITING ADVANCE IN LIVESTOCK**

## FLATULENCE

As you know if you have ever stood outdoors in the Midwest, cows give off methane gas. We don't know why. Maybe they're bored. Maybe they're trying to spoil humanity's appetite for hamburgers. All we know is, scientists believe that methane gas is a major factor in global warming.

For the record, I have a friend named Doris who argues, on good authority, that the biggest single cause of global warming is menopause. Also, I recently received a letter from a reader named Ron Houtsma who theorizes that global warming may be related to the alarming increase in the

number of pizza ovens, especially in New Jersey.

But methane is surely a factor, and cows produce a lot of it. That's why we should all be very excited about the recent scientific discovery concerning - I am not making this up - kangaroo flatulence. According to news articles sent in by many alert readers, scientists in Australia have found that even though kangaroos eat the same grasses as cows, they (the kangaroos, not the scientists) produce no methane.

The question that springs to mind, of course, is: How did the scientists conduct this research? It cannot be easy to collect emission samples from a non-domesticated animal that can travel 40 miles per hour, leap 30 feet at a single bound AND punch. I'm guessing the task of gathering kangaroo gas samples fell to some rookie scientist ("OK, Sedgwick: Here's a jar, a helmet and a pogo stick. Now get out there and win one for the planet!").

So anyway, now the Australian scientists are trying to figure out how the kangaroos manage to be methane-free. They think the answer may one of the 40 types of bacteria they have identified in the kangaroo's stomach. I don't even want to THINK about how they collected those samples. ("OK, Sedgwick: Here's a jar, a rope and a snorkel.")

The scientists plan to isolate the anti-

methane bacterium in the kangaroo's stomach, then see what happens when they put this same bacterium into the stomachs of cows. Speaking as a layperson concerned about the future of my planet (Earth), I just want to say to these scientists, in humble gratitude: **ARE YOU INSANE??** What if the bacterium causes the cows to develop other kangaroo characteristics? And what if these modified cows escape from Australia? It would be like the killer bees, only much worse: **"WISCONSIN - Weary National Guard troops continued to battle a rampaging herd of bacteria-enhanced Australian kangaroo cows that have been bounding around this heartland state, soaring over fences with moos of derision and punching their way into grain silos. 'The worst thing,' said one Guardsman, 'is when they get airborne, and suddenly you're facing a hailstorm of incoming meadow muffins. Although I have to say they don't smell as bad as the local cow.'"**

So there is a certain risk involved in the Australian scientists' research. But however it works out, I think we can all agree on one thing: **"The Moos of Derision"** would be a good name for a rock band.

And speaking of good, our next piece of good news, which was sent in by about 19 billion alert readers, concerns a Butler, Pa., company that is making a: **MACHINE-GUN EQUIPPED SUV**

Yes! According to an Associated Press article by Charles Sheehan, a company called Ibis Tek is modifying Chevrolet Subdivisions and other big-momma "sport" utility vehicles to accept machine guns, which are fired via a joystick inside the car. These are mostly sold to foreigners; to have one the United States, you need a permit from the federal government, which requires you to have a good reason. Fortunately, I do: I drive in Miami.

I am tired of having nothing but a puny horn to alert the 258-year-old driver in the Oldsmobile ahead of me that the green arrow pointing left means you can turn left now... c'mon please turn ... **TURN LEFT PLEASE C'MON C'MON HURRY UP IT'S GONNA CHANGE OH NOOOOO.** I think the federal government would have to agree that this is a situation where a friendly warning burst of several thousand .50-caliber rounds would be a big help to traffic flow.

The Ibis Tek people also offer an option for a grenade launcher, but I think that would be overkill, don't you? Unless those cows show up.

*Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.*

## "Look What's Playing at the Rutland Area Theatres"

SCHEDULE FOR FRI. 11/15 - THURS. 11/21

**PLAZA MOVIEPLEX 9**  
Downtown Rutland Shopping Plaza 775-5500

**8 MILE**  
STARRING EMINEM  
EVES AT 6:40 & 9:30  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT. AT 12:40 & 3:30 **R**

**GHOST SHIP**  
**R** EVES AT 7 & 9:30

"A magical fantasy, beautifully acted and beautifully filmed!"  
Jim Neale, EW.COM'S PICK

**TUCK EVERLASTING**  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT AT 12, 2:15 & 4:30 **PG**

**SWEETHOME ALABAMA**  
**PG-13**  
EVES AT 6:50 & 9:30  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT AT 12:50 & 3:30

**EDDIE MURPHY OWEN WILSON I-SPY**  
**PG-13**  
EVES AT 6:50 & 9:30  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT AT 12:50 & 3:30

**jackass the movie**  
**R**  
EVES AT 7 & 9:30  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT AT 1 & 3:30

**"EVEN BETTER THAN THE FIRST."**  
New York Times, TIME MAGAZINE

**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**  
**PG**  
EVES AT 6:50, 8 & 9:30  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT AT 12:30, 1:30, 3:30 & 4:40  
SHOWN ON 2 SCREENS!  
SORRY, NO PASSES, DISCOUNT TICKETS OR COUPONS ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT!

**SANTA CLAUSE 2**  
TIM ALLEN  
EVES AT 7 & 9:20  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT AT 12, 2:15 & 4:30

**the ring**  
EVES AT 6:50 & 9:30  
SAT. SUN. WED. MAT AT 12:50 & 3:30

**WESTWAY 1-2-3-4**  
Rt. 4, West Rutland 438-2888

**HALF PAST DEAD**  
**PG-13**  
EVES AT 7 & 9:15  
SAT. SUN. MAT. AT 1 & 3:15

**AMERICA'S #1 ROMANTIC COMEDY!**  
**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING**  
EVES AT 7 & 9:15  
SAT. SUN. MAT. AT 1 & 3:15

**WHITE OLEANDER**  
**PG-13**  
EVES AT 7 & 9:15  
SAT. SUN. MAT. AT 1 & 3:15

**PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE**  
**R**  
EVES AT 7 & 9:15  
SAT. SUN. MAT. AT 1 & 3:15

**IN BARRE & MONTPELIER NOW SHOWING**

**1:30, 6:30 & 8:45**

**8 WOMEN**  
**R** In French with Subtitles

**WORLD CINEMA SERIES**  
Sunday at 4:00  
Late Marriage (Israel)

www.savoytheater.com

**THE SAVOY THEATER**  
26 Main Street • Montpelier • Vermont • 229-0509

**PARAMOUNT Barre MATINEES Sat. & Sun.**

**HARRY POTTER Chamber of Secrets**  
**PG**  
Fri. & Sat. 6:00 & 9:00  
Sun. Thru Thurs. 7:00 Only  
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:15

**THE SANTA CLAUSE 2**  
**PG** with Tim Allen  
Fri. & Sat. 6:30 & 9:00  
Sun. Thru Thurs. 6:30 & 8:30  
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:30

**CAPITOL Montpelier MATINEES Sat. & Sun.**

**HARRY POTTER Chamber of Secrets**  
**PG**  
Fri. & Sat. 6:00 & 9:00  
Sun. Thru Thurs. 7:00 Only  
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:15

Steven Seagal  
**1/2 PAST DEAD**  
1:30, 6:30 & 9:00 **PG-13**

**AMERICA'S #1 ROMANTIC COMEDY!**  
**MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING**  
1:30 & 6:30

**ISPY 8MILE**  
**PG-13** 9:00 **R** 1:30, 6:30 & 9:00

**JACKASS (R)** 1:30, 6:30 & 9:00

Join Us for Thanksgiving Buffet!  
RSVP - Call J. Morgans at 223-5222

For our Schedule & Movie Information visit us on the Internet at [cinemanorth.com](http://cinemanorth.com)



# The Vermont Historical Society makes a moving picture of the past

BY MARK BUSHNELL

To do history justice, you have to observe it straight on. No flinching. No averting your eyes from the less attractive parts. That's the approach the staff of the Vermont Historical Society is taking in producing a movie about the state's struggles over civil rights.

"Struggle" is the right word. Vermonters are proud of the state's tolerant history, but even here, women, blacks and gays have had to fight for their rights. "In the film, we are looking at that fine line our society is always treading between freedom and unity," explains historical society curator Jackie Calder, who is helping organize the production.

In other words, how does a society grant freedoms and remain unified? The 15-minute movie, which will be part of a permanent exhibit in Montpelier, will explore the 1850s and '60s debates over slavery and women's rights, before zooming to the recent past to examine our debate over civil unions. The exhibit, entitled "Freedom & Unity: One Ideal, Many Stories," will open in the Pavilion Building next summer.

Visiting the State House recently, I found I'd stepped back into those early struggles. Suddenly, it was that October night 150 years ago when activist Clarina Howard Nichols addressed the Legislature, becoming the first woman to do so. Demure-looking women in bonnets walked the halls, their floor-length skirts obscuring their feet and making them seem to float like ghosts. Clean-shaven men, dressed in tall-collared shirts, waistcoats and dark jackets, sat primly in the House chamber. Around them buzzed the T-shirted guys and sweated women of the production company, adjusting lights and checking video monitors.

The actors and extras took their places and we were ready for



PHOTO BY MARK BUSHNELL

**A heckler (portrayed by actor John Griesemer) responds to being rebuffed by early women's rights activist Clarina Howard Nichols during filming recently at the State House. The scene will be part of a short movie shown at the Vermont Historical Society's exhibit in Montpelier.**

Nichols' speech, and the tense moment when a heckler interrupts her. In reality, the confrontation might never have happened. But, says scriptwriter Philip Baruth, "We are probably not too far out on a limb with having a heckler who confronts her with an anti-suffragette argument."

In this scene and a few others, the film's creators took cinematic license with the details to tell a larger truth. Nichols might not have been heckled during her State House speech, but she definitely was threatened and heckled at other talks she gave. Baruth, a University of Vermont English professor, based the heckler character on a real 19th-century minister who traveled the state speaking out against women's rights. Early women's rights activists faced abuse, says Baruth. At a suffragist meeting in Burlington, he

says, someone put cayenne on the woodstove. It was like showering the room with pepper spray, and drove the audience from the hall.

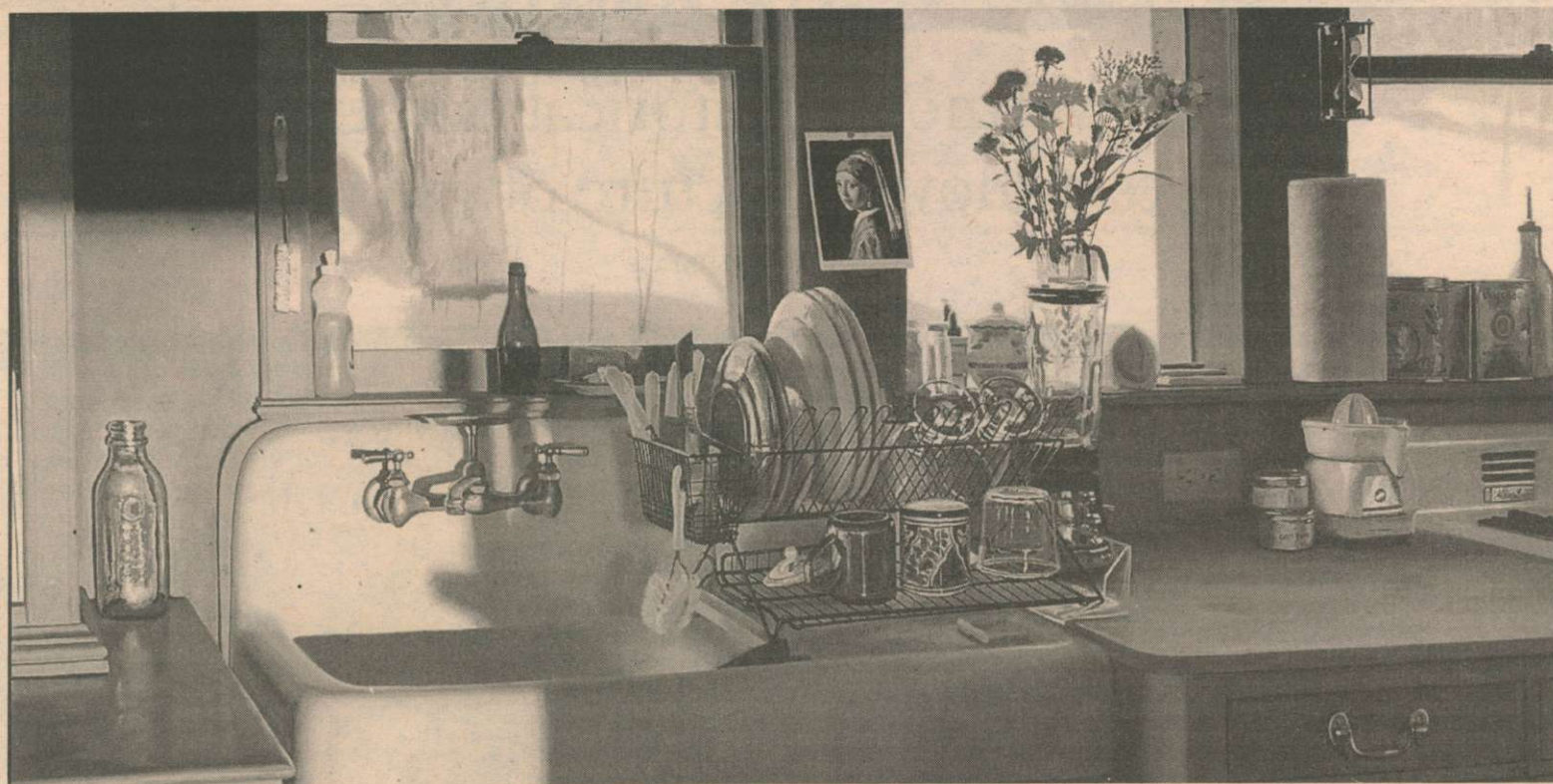
If Hollywood were telling the story, Nichols would finish her speech and, ta-da, women would suddenly have the right to vote. In reality, it was a much more labored process.

After Nichols' speech, the movie will feature shots of historical photographs and documents and the voice of narrator Sam Lloyd to tell the story. The suffrage movement makes advances, but it does not seem unstoppable. A drive in the 1870s to amend the state constitution to allow women to vote fails. Vermont women finally win the right to vote in town meetings in 1917. But in 1920 Gov. Percival Clement refuses to call the Legislature into special session to vote on the 19th Amendment to

the U.S. Constitution, allowing women the right to vote. (If Vermont had approved the amendment, the state would have had the honor of casting the deciding vote.) The Vermont Legislature doesn't officially adopt the amendment until 1921, after it has become national law anyway.

The lesson, says Calder, is that "people come to these beliefs over many, many years." The same is true of Vermont's opposition to slavery. The film shows Gov. Erastus Fairbanks wrestling with the slavery issue in 1852 (coincidentally, the same year as Nichols' speech). In one scene, Fairbanks is accosted by an abolitionist and forced to defend his views. Again, the scene is not based on an historic event, but is representative of the types of confrontations and

Continued on page 13



"Winter Sink," by William B. Hoyt

## Art show features local artist William B. Hoyt

**A**n exhibition of recent paintings by William B. Hoyt will be held in Woodstock through January 7th. Known for their photo realistic style, Hoyt's oil paintings include still life, figurative, and landscape images of New England. The collection consists of more than 20 canvases measuring from 6 x 8 inches to 4 x 10 feet.

Hoyt, who lives in Hartland, has painted professionally for more than 30 years. Four main subjects have been the focus of Hoyt's work. Familiar interior settings, seasonal landscapes, maritime subjects, and a unique interest in the juxtaposition of vehicles and roads within rural landscapes are the recurring themes that attract him.

Windows are frequently a major feature of Hoyt's interior or domestic scenes. Each window tends to draw the viewer out into the landscape that is of such vital interest to the artist.

Hoyt, who grew up in Newport, Rhode Island, is also known for his seascapes as well as the boats and people who populate the Maine coast.

A graduate of Yale University in 1967, he moved to Vermont from Rhode Island in 1970. For the past ten years, Hoyt has done over 250 paintings for MBNA Corporation. His art can be found in numerous private collections, and include portraits of Sen. and Mrs. Claiborne Pell, Admiral Martin and Admiral Richardson.

The upcoming show will take place in conjunction with the Vermont Arts and Lifestyles Gallery, located 1/2 mile north of Woodstock at the junction of Route 12 and Pomfret Road. For information, contact Kathryn Bailey at 802-436-2565 or call the gallery at 802-457-9411.



For a free copy of the brochure *Celebrate Vermont Cheese — A Consumer Guide* and the chance to taste some of Vermont's finest, visit the following:

RETAILERS:

**Hunger Mountain Coop, Montpelier**  
**Al Ducci's Italian Pastry, Manchester**  
**White River Coop, Randolph**  
**Schoolhouse Market, Warren**

RESTAURANTS:

**NECI's Main Street Grill & Bar, Montpelier**  
**Mary's at Baldwin Creek, North Bristol**  
**Mist Grill, Waterbury**

[www.vtcheese.com](http://www.vtcheese.com)

# Italy meets Vermont

BY CASSIE HORNER

A table set up in the visitor center of the Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock was laden with the bounty of Vermont and Italy at a reception that preceded a talk by Maurilio Cipparone, president of the 20,000-acre Regional Park Agency of Lazio/Rome. He had brought some of the fruits of agriculture from the park: extra virgin olive oil, shortbread-like cookies shaped like small pretzels and jars of light-colored honey.

To accompany these Italian products were loaves of bread piled up bakery-style and plates of cheese, all made by hand at Shelburne Farm. There was also cider from Vermont apples and wonderful biscotti made locally. "It's a marriage of Italy and Vermont," said Rolfe Diamant, head of the Marsh-Billings National Park located across the road from the Billings Farm.

What Italy and Vermont have in common is a reverence for the past and a goal of preserving things for the future. Cipparone was visiting Vermont with a group of Italians as part of an exchange program, "New Strategies for Educational Partnerships." The group had spent time at Shelburne Farms, a model of an environmental organization, an educational farm and a producer of high-quality food. They were winding up their visit at Marsh-Billings National Park, home of George Perkins Marsh who wrote his conservation classic "Man and Nature in Italy" in the 1800s.

Cipparone was looking for an exchange of ideas about how to preserve the landscape and encourage biodiversity in parks, in part through encouraging farmers to work the land. "We lose this landscape, we lose species, we lose part of ourselves," he said. Preservation of olive trees, for example, is critical to maintaining tradition.

Even the production of artisanal breads cannot be taken for granted, as Cipparone discovered first hand. After his grandmother died, it took a few days for her extended family to realize that she was the only one who had known how to bake the bread in the big communal oven. The skill had passed on with her death. "No one in our family was able to cook the bread," Cipparone recounted.

"Our parks are really very similar to this one," Cipparone said, referring to the Marsh-Billings Park. "The concept of parks cannot be linked only to wilder-



Bread, honey and cheese are among the staples that have become premium products from both Vermont and Italy.

ness." In photos of the mountains in his park, he pointed out the effect of centuries of grazing and the stone houses, abandoned by shepherds heading to the city over the last 300 years. "The restoration cannot be made without the main actors," he commented. "A farmer is not only a farmer; he is a park ranger."

Shelburne Farms is a model of preservation and education through agriculture. According to Alec Webb, president of Shelburne Farms, the 1,400 acres started out as a series of small farms that were purchased in the 1880s to create a 4,000-acre horse farm. In the early 1900s, the farm turned into a dairy operation and became a non-profit in the early '70s. Today, the farm, much reduced in size, is the site of businesses that demonstrate the links between agriculture and the production of cheese, bread and furniture for hundreds of schoolchildren who visit each year.

The 120 Brown Swiss milking cows provide the raw material for the cheese made on the farm. "We use only our milk we produce from that herd in our cheese," Webb said. Shelburne Farms has won awards from the American Cheese Society for its farmhouse cheddar, named for its similarity to


the English cheese that is made from a single herd of cows. The cheese is sold in the on-site store, as well as through the mail and in specialty shops around the U.S. The bakery was established in the late 1970s. "(Students) go to the fields and see grain growing, then follow that through to the bread," Webb explained.

Billings Farm & Museum, where Frederick Billings tested his advanced farming ideas in the late 1800s, is another good example of merging preservation and agriculture. It is working model farm even today with prize-winning Jersey cows. An important mission is to preserve the New England farm traditions of such things as making cheese and ice cream. The cheese rooms in the 1890 Farm Manager's House were the home of a thriving business producing cheese from Jersey cows used on the farm and sold to markets as distant as Boston.

Sustainable agriculture, Cipparone observed, improves the diversity of the landscape, creates links between the land and economic and social fabric of a country, and preserves old species of plants and animals. He points out that the crisis in the Italian vineyards in the 1800s when they were

destroyed was reversed by the import of American varieties of grapes. "There was no champagne, no Chianti. No bottles for ships, for weddings, for parties," he said.

In the Lazio/Rome park, administrators are looking to create premium products to sell in an effort similar to what is taking place all over Vermont with small producers of everything from cheese to honey and wine. The Italians capitalize on "the tastes and scents of the ancient cooking traditions of Lazio." With the spotlight on food, the park promotes "eco-gastronomic tours" that are like treasure hunts for visitors as they seek and find "gastronomic high spots" in the park.

In the hour before Cipparone's talk, the Woodstock guests thronged to the table to try out the array of goodies. Pouring a thin stream of spring green Italian olive oil or drizzling a thread of golden honey on a crusty slice of Vermont bread, people got a chance to practice a merging of food cultures for themselves. 

Cassie Horner is a regular food writer for Vermont Sunday Magazine.

STORY & PHOTO  
BY CASSIE HORNER



RICK RUSSELL

# How **Not** to Make A Million:

## The Perils and Pleasures of Owning a Country Store

By ANDREW NEMETHY

**I**t's a busy Saturday morning at the Falls General store in Northfield. Philip Laurendeau has weighed in a hefty 114-pound doe on the scale behind the store, carried out a customer's 50-pound bag of Nutrena animal feed to his truck, moved around a few wine cases, and now he's ringing up merchandise at the cash register. Despite the varied chores, he still manages to look natty with his neat black shirt and dark leather vest and pants, his face sporting a closely trimmed goatee and haircut.

He greets all people who come in the door as if he knows them — which in fact he does. That's not surprising, since he and his wife Jayne Nold-Laurendeau have owned and run the place since 1985, except for six years when it was leased in the 1990's. That's time to get to know a lot of folks, a part of being a storeowner he enjoys.

"If you don't like people, this is the wrong business," says Philip.

A customer comes in and asks for two Megabucks tickets. "You only need one to win," Philip quips. Then he adds, "I can't promise anything. That's why they call it gambling."

"How you doin' today," he says to a man who plops down a copy of the "New York Times" on the counter. He gets a question about hunting season so far in return.

The patter is non-stop, as is the work. Running a Vermont country store is a lot more than a job. "It's a lifestyle, and not all couples can do it," says Jayne, who arrives mid-morning after running errands. But for those who run these historic village and town institutions, being at the center of community life for long hours is what it's all about.

"That's the best part of the job," says Philip. "I can always visit with the customers."



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR



JEB WALLACE-BRODEUR



VYTO STARINSKAS

Opposite page: Bucky Joy makes coffee early every morning at the Barnard General Store. Top: Philip Laurendeau of Falls General Store in Northfield. Middle: Jayne Nold-Laurendeau, Philip's wife. Bottom: John and Pam Rehlen of the Castleton Village Store. Right: Carolyn DiCicco co-owns the Barnard General Store with Kim Furlong.

Vermont's general stores once stocked sacks of flour and animal feed, gingham and sewing machines, penny candy, hoes and homeopathic elixirs. Today, they fax, sell Pinot Grigio and fresh-baked bread, carry the "Financial Times" and the "Wall Street Journal," T-shirts and videos, fishing lures and Evian. And that penny candy? Try a dollar for a chocolate truffle or a 60-cent candy bar.

But as they say, the more things change, the more they stay the same. The general (or country) store may have a far different look and product mix from a century ago, but one aspect hasn't changed at all: It remains the hub of the local universe and a crossroad of community life. Mega-malls and discount outlets may hold sway elsewhere, but in rural Vermont, country stores — by most estimates there are over 200 — somehow remain thriving anachronisms.

"It is an amazing thing that these store owners have persevered. Every one of these stores has some sort of challenge," says Dennis Bathory-Kitsz of Northfield, executive director of the Vermont Alliance of Independent Country Stores. He says the stores face suppliers who won't deliver to rural areas, lack of purchasing power, high maintenance costs associated with old buildings and cumbersome regulations, competition from convenience stores and a constantly changing marketplace.

"We've seen about half a dozen close in the past year," he laments. Started in 2000, the non-profit association now has 47 country/general stores as members and an innovative agenda to make sure these historic waystations from the horse and buggy days survive in the era of SUV's and ubiquitous mini-marts. Among them are creating a purchasing alliance so stores can get goods at competitive prices and forming "mentoring teams" of successful owners to go around and help struggling stores. The alliance has developed a web site with tourist information — [www.vaics.org](http://www.vaics.org) — and a fancy logo to go on products it develops.

Others have pitched in to preserve the stores as well, like the Preservation Trust of Vermont, which helped found the alliance with enthusiastic support from Lyman Orton, owner of the Vermont Country Store in Weston.

The Trust has a program to help towns and community members cooperatively buy and re-open closed general stores, leasing them at lower cost to new operators.

Despite the odds, however, many general and country stores are doing well for a host of reasons, not the least being that in an era of rampant homogenization, every country store is unique, reflecting the personality, tastes and talents of its proprietors. They're places where the owner is on the front lines, taking the local pulse every day, a rare real face in a faceless impersonal world of huge corporations.

Twenty-five cents short for that candy bar? Don't worry about it, drop it off next time. Got a video you forgot about that's three days late? How about you just pay half the fine? Will you sell tickets for the local Scouts/snowmobile club/church supper, carry this product or that? Sure.

Intimately attuned to local needs and desires, country stores have always been able to respond and adapt, adjust and diversify to provide what customers want and need. Bathory-Kitsz says they have become drop off spots for dry cleaning, FedEx and UPS packages, diversified into wines, beefed up their delis and added cafes and ATMs. Traveling around to consult with owners and see what works, he says he's constantly surprised.

"Every one I visited of our members has something that 10 years ago they never would have had," he says.

Despite being 80 or 100 years or more removed from their roots, these rural outposts also survive because their bottom line is much more about building the wealth of community than the wealth of the owner. They are a seductive mix of convenience and practicality, neighborliness and nostalgia, the place where we grab a cup of coffee, catch up on local gossip and find out who's sick, pick up the mail and plunk a greenback down for the local buck pool. Flyers advertise babysitters and garage sales and puppies for sale, posters announce upcoming church suppers or community events, and handwritten notes plead for a country home for a responsible couple.

As times have changed, so in many places has the flow of customers. No longer all local, some arrive via bicycle or snowmobile and many have license plates from far



RICK RUSSELL

away. For visitors to Vermont, these rural waystops offer a flavor of country life as rich as the premium ice cream in the cooler. Vermont's country stores serve up surprisingly eclectic stock, and perhaps best of all, a reason to take the lovely road less traveled, since many are in out-of-the-way 19th century villages.

"The tourists come in and they love these stores," says Nold-Laurendeau, who is chairperson of the Alliance of Vermont Country Stores. "They say, 'We don't have any of these!'" Their buildings are often veritable museums filled with fixtures and the decor of a previous era. There are the old wooden oak coolers with lever handles at the Warren Country store, the unusual open two-story atrium at Baileys & Burke in East Burke, the endless cobble-together additions, aisles and wood floors at F.H. Gillingham & Sons in Woodstock and Willey's Store in Greensboro. There's the busy, old-style lunch counter at the Barnard General Store, the tin ceilings and red brick chimney at the Taftsville Country store near Woodstock, and the beckoning flower boxes and old-fashioned striped awnings in front of Peltier's in Dorset.

Here's a country sampler of three stores and the efforts of their owners to keep them alive and vital.

### FALLS GENERAL STORE in NORTHFIELD

Located in an unobtrusive spot and painted brown, it's easy not to notice the Falls General Store as you whiz by on Route 12. But for folks in the college town of Northfield, this utilitarian three-story building built back in 1892 is as prominent as if it was painted in purple polka dots.

Walk inside and you'll find an eclectic selection of stuff that reflects the interests of Philip Laurendeau and wife Jayne, not to mention stuff they've collected, or even stuff customers have collected — and shot — and offered to display in the store, sort of a home away from home with an endless parade of visitors.

There's the prominent antlered head of a Northern Plains Caribou, a mounted coyote, a nice buck Philip bagged one year, a pair of old wooden skis, an ancient buck saw and old snow sled. There's even a model train suspended from the ceiling whose clickety clack grabs the eye of young and old alike.

Also hanging from the ceiling are popular wooden adult and kids rockers that Jayne sells, and in the back of the store an old barrel with a checkerboard on it and two rockers for the players. There are Warren Kimble prints and hand-painted pottery and nifty backpacks for picnics. Not your usual 7-11, in other words.

"This year we expanded the wines and we're bringing in a whole different clientele. You've got to keep upgrading to stay in business. I'm adapting to what people want," says Jayne. "You've got to find your niche, and your niche keeps changing," she adds.

Philip, who used to work for Calmont Beverage, takes his visitor over to rave about some Australian wines, a Yellow Tail Merlot and Chardonnay. Descriptions and wine ratings mark most of the bottles on the big display, and customers who have discovered his collection now come in and buy a case at a time. The year before they upgraded their deli to keep up with competition. They also run a successful catering business that does everything from weddings for 150 to small gatherings at Norwich University, and Philip has a milk delivery business.

For her enthusiastic work on the board of the Vermont Grocer's Association and her accomplishments on behalf of all the country stores in the alliance, Jayne was chosen Grocer of the Year for 2002, quite an honor.

There's no doubt she's earned it. "For the first five years, we never had a day off," says Jayne. "Seven days a week is really hard." Now they cut themselves some "slack" — Sunday is an off day, though they may be working at home. They do take vacation however, and this is where you realize that a community general store really is about community: to help make their vacations possible, their former employees come back to run

the store. You won't find that at Cumberland Farms.

Jayne's roots are in retailing. She was a bookkeeper at several Grand Unions in the region and also worked at Howard's Market in South Barre. But general stores are a whole different business. The UPS driver comes in to ask for directions, tourists come in asking where the three covered bridges are (right up the road), hunters come in for licenses or buck scent and beef jerky. "You have to do lots of things. You have to branch out. If you don't, you stagnate," she says.

She remarks humorously about her new public restroom, which ended up costing \$9,000. Old buildings are "money pits," she says, noting the high cost of maintaining and renovating such places. "Nothing in an old building is simple. You can always guarantee that something will go wrong," she says.

As for making money, well, she says, "I never know until the accountant tells me at the end of the year."

But for Jayne and Philip, it's more about keeping such places vibrant community hubs, which is key to the essence of Vermont. "People need to be educated on why an independent, whether it be a bookstore or hardware store or a country store, on why independents are important. Some people don't realize how much we support the community, how much our money stays right in the community," she says.

The stores pay local tradespeople, pay taxes in town, use the local bank adding to its pool of borrowing capital, support local projects and needs, buy ads in the local paper. Buy at a chain mini-mart or an out-of-state store, "and that money gets sucked right out" of the community," she says.

### CASTLETON VILLAGE STORE

John Rehlen purchased this institution in the heart of this state college town "on a whim."

"And I had absolutely not a clue as to how to run something like this," he admits frankly.

That was almost 30 years ago. Today, he's clearly got it

figured out but says he's still learning, trying to evolve his business to meet the needs and tastes and demands of changing times.

One thing he hasn't learned is to leave well enough alone. Six years ago, he "rescued" the Benson Village Store after it failed, deciding it was too important not to remain open in that pastoral Champlain Valley community. "I'm a double glutton for punishment," he quips.

Walk into the Castleton store and you'll find an excellent wine department, coffee, pastries and gift items along with standard convenience store items. But there's also the traditional community bulletin board and information for tourists, a public restroom and the cozy feel of an old building with wood floors and tin ceilings.

Rehlen recalls more than a few rough days when he took over this town treasure. "It was painful for a community to have to put up with a turkey like me running it," he jokes, noting that he was in his 20's when he bought the store, which dates back to 1890.

Rehlen came to own it thanks to his wife Pam, a native of this handsome small town near the New York border west of Rutland. The two met at Middlebury College. She went to law school, he went into oceanography and, while doing that, started dabbling in trading commodities. After five years of trading pork bellies, cattle and soybeans, they had the wherewithal to stroll into Castleton and make their fateful decision to buy the store as

well as other rundown properties in town. He's never regretted it.

"I like it and I like it a lot. It's not an easy business. I somewhat jokingly liken it to farming. There's high startup costs, there's long hours, it's a seven days a week proposition, there's a lot of responsibility involved," he says. "You have to have a real interest in community, and certainly making a lot of money cannot be your primary reward."

There are rewards, however. All four of their kids worked at the store — "did they ever," he jokes — but enjoyed it and learned from it. He likes seeing kids grow up and families grow and being a big part of creating a sense of place.

"Another satisfaction we get, I get, is with mentoring of young people," he says. Such local country stores often offer the first job for many local teens and their first taste of working with the public and being responsible. "We've had some wonderful experiences," he exclaims.

Like all country storeowners, he's tried things that didn't work. He tried carrying meats for a while and lost money big time; he also had a deli, which he's now shifted next door to a pizza place he also owns. Rehlen recalls that when he started, there were three stores between Castleton and Fair Haven; today there are nine, but the population hasn't changed much. The proliferation of mini-marts and convenience stores all selling the same things is "the greatest threat to our survival," he says. Today's highly mobile population also "doesn't think twice about driving an



VYTO STARINSKAS

A customer emerges from the Castleton Village Store.

hour" to save a few dollars.

"We have carved out somewhat of a unique niche," he now notes. The store has become known for its upscale wine selection, for which he credits the expertise of Robert Staudter, a longtime employee. It also draws tourists who wander along scenic Route 4A or come to Lake Bomoseen and St. Catherine in summer. Open seven days a week 8-10 p.m., both he and Pam spend a lot of time at the store doing a lot of everything, trying to stay one step ahead of the competition and changing times.

It's a long way from pork bellies and ocean waves, but it's what Rehlen has come to love and how he defines himself. "I say I'm a store owner, that's the first thing that comes to mind, and what I've been doing the longest."

### BARNARD GENERAL STORE

If it weren't for the Barnard General Store at a bend in Route 12, you might not even know

there was a village or town here. Since 1832, this rural store between Bethel and Woodstock has been the commercial signpost of town and the heart of the community, not to mention the only place you can get groceries and a good diner lunch or breakfast at the classic 8-stool counter, a popular throwback to another era.

Carolyn DiCicco, who co-owns the store with Kim Furlong, knows that she's not just running a business but is preserving a treasured town institution and way of life.

"I've always felt we were more the caretaker of the town store rather than the owners of the store," she says. "It's got such an ownership by the community."

Spend some time here and it's easy to see why. Located on pretty Silver Lake, just about all roads lead to the General Store in this quiet town high in the hills. It's a haven for campers at Silver Lake State Park, for summer visitors at the camps around the lake, for

cyclists who stop at the store, get takeout and walk across the street to the picnic tables by the Silver Lake Dam. As the only store in town, it's where to get meats and groceries, feed grains and dog and cat food, fresh baked goods, and cash — from the ATM machine. The store has a welcoming porch, wooden floors that creak, a tin ceiling and a table by a toasty wood stove in winter where folks gather to gab.

DiCicco, who lives upstairs above the store, bought it with her husband in 1994 when they were looking to flee the suburban sprawl and way of life in Massachusetts. She had never touched a cash register before, though her husband, from whom she's now divorced, had a background in accounting. She's never regretted the move, saying it has been the perfect way to raise two kids, make a living and experience old-fashioned community. "The people walking in the door — that's what

keeps us going all the time," she says.

One of the first people to walk in the store many mornings is Bucky Joy. She didn't know it when they bought the store, but the man she calls the "ambassador for the town" came with the place, a regular fixture who makes coffee at 6 in the morning, greets visitors and works as an employee three days a week.

He'll be 90 years old in February, and he symbolizes how old-fashioned country stores are knit into the community fabric.

Her children are now in college but both work at the store when they come home, and three of Furlong's four children work there too, a "perfect blend of business and raising a family," not to mention ready source of employees. Community, she has found happily, cuts both ways. The store is now in the "painful process" of expanding its septic capacity. Because there's not enough land on the store property, the Silver Lake Association has offered to let the store use property it owns. "That reflects the way the community wants the store," she says.

Still, making ends meet is

hard. Paying salaries, real estate taxes, maintaining the store — "it's amazing how unchanged the building is" — while trying to keep prices competitive is a challenge. The store constantly is trying new things that folks want. It's doing a lot more prepared foods, even baking apple pies for take out and take home. "So many times, they're sold before they're even out of the oven," DiCicco jokes.

She says Furlong is a "merchandising wizard" who has added tourist items, gourmet Vermont foods and maple syrup in fancy bottles, along with souvenirs. The store's ATM machine, put in two years ago, and sale of phone cards are two of the ways in which it has adapted to the needs of 21st century customers. But its survival is very much based on embracing 19th century Vermont values.

"A week never goes by that people don't say (to me) how important a part we are of the community," DiCicco says. "Owning a general store is definitely a way of life. It's far more than a job." VSM

*Andrew Nemethy is a freelance writer who lives in Adamant.*

CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS  
VERMONT  
HAND  
CRAFTERS  
INC.

800.373.5429

www.vermonthandcrafters.com

\$1 off

admission

coupons

available

at the following  
locations:

Frog Hollow  
Craft Galleries

Burlington

Middlebury

Manchester

The Paper  
Peddler

Maple Tree Place

Williston

Ben Franklin

Crafts & Framing

Shelburne Rd.

S. Burlington



Sheraton  
Burlington

HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

art work by VHC

member

Roy Newton ©2002

## 50th Annual Vermont Hand Crafters Holiday Craft Show

# November 21, 22, 23, 24

### At the Sheraton Conference Center

Williston Road - Exit 14 West off Route 89  
S. Burlington, Vermont

### Shop early for best selection!

Convenient Show Hours:

Thurs. Nov. 21 ☆ 10 am to 8 pm

Fri. Nov. 22 ☆ 10 am to 8 pm

Sat. Nov. 23 ☆ 10 am to 6 pm

Sun. Nov. 24 ☆ 10 am to 4 pm

\$5 Adult admission, good for all 4 days

### \$1 off admission with this ad

★Demonstrations★Door Prizes★Good Food★Live Entertainment★

Complete your Holiday Shopping with  
180 of Vermont's finest artisans & specialty food producers.  
Over 50 NEW members!

## ATOP EVERY GREAT LAMP IS A BEAUTIFUL SHADE

### 20% OFF All Lamp Shades!

Visit The Area's Largest Selection  
of Lamp Shades.

Bring In  
Lamp For  
Perfect Fit.

THE LIGHTING  
HOUSE

Furnishing Homes Since 1977  
RT 7 SHELburne ROAD  
985-2204 • 800-649-2204  
www.thelightinghouse.net

20%  
OFF  
ALL SHADES

# In Mayor's latest, Willy Kunkle comes into his own

BY MELISSA MACKENZIE

**THE SNIPER'S WIFE**, by Archer Mayor. (Mysterious Press/Warner Books, 312 pp., \$23.95)

Detective Willy Kunkle, the taciturn, unorthodox sidekick of Vermont Bureau of Investigation chief Joe Gunther in Archer Mayor's popular mystery series, gets star treatment in the Newfane writer's latest thriller.

When Willy, a former New York City patrolman, Vietnam veteran and recovering alcoholic, is informed by New York police that his ex-wife, Mary, a Vermonter from Brattleboro, has died of an accidental heroin overdose on the Lower East Side, he goes to New York to identify her body. But Willy soon suspects that Mary's death was not an accident, but a homicide.

"The Sniper's Wife" narrates Willy's unwilling journey into his troubled past as he seeks to find evidence to support his murder theory. As he visits Mary's old haunts and contacts people in her life, he must also deal with his wartime experiences, his dismal record as a hard-drinking, abusive husband, and his dysfunctional family.

Joe Gunther, the dependable hero of Mayor's past 12 mysteries, is present, as is Willy's girlfriend, Detective Sammie Martens, but the spotlight of the novel remains on Willy as the fast-moving plot unfolds.

"The Sniper's Wife" has been chosen as an alternate selection of both the "Mystery Guild" and the "Literary Guild," and has

received considerable praise from publishing trade and library publications. "Publishers Weekly," in a starred review, called attention to the author's expertise as a novelist: "Mayor's understanding of human behavior makes his tortured protagonist an unforgettable character ... A riveting plot and exceptional writing will surely enhance Mayor's reputation." "Booklist" similarly hailed Mayor as "a master of the slow-paced, relationship-driven small-town mystery," which is a nice compliment except that there is nothing small-town about "The Sniper's Wife."

Written in third person, (the previous books in the series are written in first person), Mayor's solidly crafted, taut prose, ("The twilight season between winter and summer was hard to call spring in a world of concrete and steel."), eases the narrative compellingly along the dark personal alleys Willy must explore.

Descriptions of the Big Apple are particularly telling. For example: "Willy stepped out into the city at night - huge, enveloping, teeming with life, extending for miles beyond reason. He looked around at the vaulting, gloomy, light-studded buildings looming over him like haphazardly placed monoliths, their black profiles outlined against a sky whose stars had been blotted out by the dull other stain of the city's reflected glow."

Mayor, 52, has been writing about Willy's boss, Lt. Joe Gunther of the Brattleboro police department, since 1988. A book or so

ago, he enlarged Gunther's fictional territory, making him a member of a newly created, statewide agency called the Vermont Bureau of Investigation, with five regional offices, including Brattleboro.

Before Joe Gunther, Mayor wrote history books, worked as a scholarly editor, a researcher for Time-Life books, a lab technician and a medical illustrator, among other jobs. At present, when he is not working on his next crime novel, (he writes one a year), he works as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the NewBrook Fire Department, acts as Newfane's town constable and as an assistant state medical examiner.

Mayor is also a popular, humorous speaker who gives talks and workshops on writing (and forensic science) at places such as the Bread Loaf Young Writers' Conference in Middlebury. A few weeks ago he appeared in Chester to give a reading from "The Sniper's Wife," hosted by Misty Valley Books, and to answer questions about his work from the sizable audience of loyal fans - everyone present had read at least one mystery, according to an informal show of hands.

The discussion was dominated by one question: why Willy?

"I began to think I was shortchanging Willy. Willy carries a lot of baggage. The guy is a pill but he's not a liar. I rather like writing about desperate people," said Mayor, adding that the expansion of Willy's character allows "a new wind" to come into the series.

"I also didn't want to run the risk of

becoming repetitive and boring," he said. Hence his decision to write most of Willy's story on site in his native New York rather than in his adopted town of Brattleboro.

Mayor, who modestly describes himself as "the sheet rocker of literature," said he doesn't write for a particular audience. "I write for educational reasons. I love research. I pick my subjects based on what I don't know," he said. "Following a recipe doesn't work for me. I write by the seat of my pants. An outline mechanizes the process for me."

Research gives him a "saturated sense" of what he is going to be writing about. He likes to analyze maps, memorizing the roads he thinks his protagonist is likely to follow. "When I'm writing, I can keep going. I'm comfortable with any of those roads because I know my way," he said.

Knowing his way in crime procedure and sense of place has trademarked Mayor's work from the beginning. All of Mayor's mysteries are in print, an increasingly rare treat for a mid-list author. Now "The Sniper's Wife" is showing signs of becoming the "breakout book" that boosts his crime novels from mid-list ranks to first tier. "The New Yorker" recently put it this way: "Mayor's skills are equal to the vigor of his imagination, and we take his word for every twist, every turn, every thunderbolt."

Melissa MacKenzie writes about books and authors for Vermont Sunday Magazine.

**A Love Affair**  
with the cuisine and customs of  
the Italian Countryside



Proprietors of the  
unique Italian café/bakery  
in Woodstock (Pane e Salut)

**DIERDRE HEEKIN**

AND

**CALEB BARBER**

share their secrets of Italian  
cooking the country way.

As seen in their new cookbook

**Pane e Salut**  
Food and Love in Italy

- In the tradition of travel and food  
writing, this book combines  
recipes from the Italian country



Not just a cookbook but  
a love story between  
a man and a woman, a couple  
and two countries, a chef and a  
writer and the food they love.  
- Author Julia Alvarez

November 17, 2002 NEW ENGLAND INDEPENDENT BESTSELLER LIST

## BestSellers

### HARDCOVER FICTION

- 1 THE LOVELY BONES** by Alice Sebold (Little Brown, ISBN: 0316666343) A Top Ten July/August 76 Pick. A child watches from heaven as her family deals with her absence.
- 2 THE LITTLE FRIEND** - Debut, by Donna Tartt (Knopf, ISBN: 0679439382) Top Ten Book Sense 76 pick; we missed you, Donna!
- 3 QUENTINS** - Debut by Maeve Binchy (Dutton, ISBN: 0525946829) Maeve's pals share pints at a Dublin restaurant.
- 4 Q IS FOR QUARRY** by Sue Grafton (Putnam, ISBN: 0399149155) B is for bestseller.
- REVERSIBLE ERRORS** by Scott Turow (FSG, ISBN: 0374281602) Turow takes on the death penalty.
- BLESSINGS** by Anna Quindlen (Random House, ISBN: 0375502238) New novel from the ever-popular Anna.
- YOU SHALL KNOW OUR VELOCITY** by Dave Eggers (McSweeney's, ISBN: 0970335555) You can judge a book by its cover after all.

### HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1 MY LOSING SEASON** - Debut Pat Conroy, 0385489129, Doubleday, \$27.95 76 Pick; indie favorite novelist revisits the many place and people that inspired him.
- 2 LEADERSHIP** by Rudolph Giuliani (Miramax Books, ISBN: 0786868414) From someone who knows.
- 3 STUPID WHITE MEN** by Michael Moore (Regan Books, ISBN: 0060392452) The director of "Roger And Me" and the author of Downsize This! rants about the current administration, among other things.
- 4 LONGITUDES AND ATTITUDES** by Thomas Friedman (FSG, ISBN: 0374190666) Smartest writer on the Mideast today; he more than deserved the Pulitzer.
- 5 THE CONQUERORS: ROOSEVELT, TRUMAN AND THE DESTRUCTION OF HITLER'S GERMANY** - Debut by Michael R. Beschloss (S & S, ISBN: 0684810271) Roosevelt, Truman, and the defeat of Germany.
- 6 ABRAHAM** Bruce Feiler, 0380977761, Morrow, \$22.95. Major new work by the author of Walking



debates that were happening during the period.

It also gives the Fairbanks character a chance to espouse the governor's beliefs, which were considered moderate at the time. Fairbanks was a member of the colonization movement, which called for the gradual freeing of slaves and their return to Africa. To Southerners, the movement seemed extreme. To abolitionists, it didn't go far enough.

The film then moves forward to 1861 and the start of the Civil War. President Lincoln wires Fairbanks, asking if he can count on Vermont, and the governor dictates his famous reply that Vermont will do its "full duty."

"We took what was essentially a slow-building, legislative drive to get involved with the Civil War," Baruth says, "and picked the 10 minutes out of that debate that were film-worthy."

The telegraph messages were probably received and dictated in private, Baruth says, but for dramatic effect he scripted the events to happen in front of the Legislature. After Fairbanks says that Vermont will do its "full duty," lawmakers jump to their feet in applause. "We added pizzazz beyond what probably really happened," he says.

In drafting the script, Baruth says,

"I tried to be really faithful to the 19th century syntax and structure (of language)." But he modernized the script at the suggestion of a production committee, which wanted to ensure the movie was accessible to its target audience, mostly schoolchildren and tourists.

The movie's last segment, which covers civil unions, needed no such modernization. For that part, the producers turned to actual news footage from 2000 of State House testimony on the issue. The production company did shoot a series of crowd scenes in case it can't find appropriate images from television footage.

If history is any guide, Calder says, the civil unions segment might rankle some viewers.

"During the abolition period in the 1830s when (abolitionist) Samuel May came to town, there was a riot in Montpelier," she says. "He had to be escorted out of town (for his own safety)."

Baruth also knew the civil-unions law would be a sensitive issue. "My own tendency was to link (the issues)," he says, but in the film, he leaves it up to viewers to decide whether civil unions is related in other ways to abolition and women's rights.

Introducing the segment, Baruth



PHOTO BY MARK BUSHNELL

Top hats sit on a desk in the House chamber at the State House during a break in shooting of a new film for the Vermont Historical Society.

wrote: "In that debate, the state reached back to the best of its civil rights tradition, the public debates that marked the abolition and suffrage movements."

It is too early to say whether Vermont's experiment with civil unions is the beginning of a national trend or an historic anomaly, he says.

"I tried to make clear that these are muddy issues and they don't clarify for years," Baruth says. "And no one knows which way it will go."

Mark Bushnell's column on Vermont history is a regular feature in the Vermont Sunday Magazine.

ask **anne** Making CDs, desktop publishing

DEAR Anne: I am looking for a CD in which you asked if I have a house that could transfer over and over to CDs. I was unable, by your site, to track my own personal assets of interest and asked you to "help" me.

Of course, as soon as the "help" was submitted I had a copy of the CD. I am looking for a CD in which you asked if I have a house that could transfer over and over to CDs. I was unable, by your site, to track my own personal assets of interest and asked you to "help" me.

Of course, as soon as the "help" was submitted I had a copy of the CD. I am looking for a CD in which you asked if I have a house that could transfer over and over to CDs. I was unable, by your site, to track my own personal assets of interest and asked you to "help" me.

"SOUNDING FISH" By 43 Big parties  
 144 Maritime only  
 115 Columbus in  
 116 Columbus in  
 117 Columbus in  
 118 Columbus in  
 119 Columbus in  
 120 Columbus in  
 121 Columbus in  
 122 Columbus in  
 123 Columbus in  
 124 Columbus in  
 125 Columbus in  
 126 Columbus in  
 127 Columbus in  
 128 Columbus in  
 129 Columbus in  
 130 Columbus in  
 131 Columbus in  
 132 Columbus in  
 133 Columbus in  
 134 Columbus in  
 135 Columbus in  
 136 Columbus in  
 137 Columbus in  
 138 Columbus in  
 139 Columbus in  
 140 Columbus in  
 141 Columbus in  
 142 Columbus in  
 143 Columbus in  
 144 Columbus in  
 145 Columbus in  
 146 Columbus in  
 147 Columbus in  
 148 Columbus in  
 149 Columbus in  
 150 Columbus in  
 151 Columbus in  
 152 Columbus in  
 153 Columbus in  
 154 Columbus in  
 155 Columbus in  
 156 Columbus in  
 157 Columbus in  
 158 Columbus in  
 159 Columbus in  
 160 Columbus in  
 161 Columbus in  
 162 Columbus in  
 163 Columbus in  
 164 Columbus in  
 165 Columbus in  
 166 Columbus in  
 167 Columbus in  
 168 Columbus in  
 169 Columbus in  
 170 Columbus in  
 171 Columbus in  
 172 Columbus in  
 173 Columbus in  
 174 Columbus in  
 175 Columbus in  
 176 Columbus in  
 177 Columbus in  
 178 Columbus in  
 179 Columbus in  
 180 Columbus in  
 181 Columbus in  
 182 Columbus in  
 183 Columbus in  
 184 Columbus in  
 185 Columbus in  
 186 Columbus in  
 187 Columbus in  
 188 Columbus in  
 189 Columbus in  
 190 Columbus in  
 191 Columbus in  
 192 Columbus in  
 193 Columbus in  
 194 Columbus in  
 195 Columbus in  
 196 Columbus in  
 197 Columbus in  
 198 Columbus in  
 199 Columbus in  
 200 Columbus in

LIFE IN THE PAST LANE  
 How a set of paw prints riled up Vermont in '34

By Mark Bushnell

I had it in the days I think, William Ballou would just keep quiet about what he would say up. He had no way of knowing that he was placing himself at the center of a controversy that would divide the state into two camps: those who were in favor of the animal and those who were against it.

Ballou reported that he had been following a range of 300-year-old tracks in the woods near South Hill, a 2,300-foot peak in Chester, when they had revealed upon some large animal tracks in both camps. Free tracks in the woods and on the ground, the tracks revealed Ballou's own tracks and those of his dog.

Ballou reported that he had been following a range of 300-year-old tracks in the woods near South Hill, a 2,300-foot peak in Chester, when they had revealed upon some large animal tracks in both camps. Free tracks in the woods and on the ground, the tracks revealed Ballou's own tracks and those of his dog.



The Rev. William Ballou poses with three great-grandsons of Joseph Streater, who killed the Westchester panther in 1937. The boys revealed the stuffed carcass of the first meeting of the Pantheers in Chester in 1934.

Vermont Sunday Magazine

Informative & Entertaining

Every Sunday in The Times Argus & The Rutland Herald

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL  
 The Rutland Herald at 1-800-498-4296 or The Times Argus at 1-800-776-5512

# ask anne

## Where to find potassium sorbate

DEAR ANNE: I am having trouble finding something called potassium sorbate for a craft recipe that I would like to make for Christmas. It is a recipe that uses liquid potpourri, gelatin, and potassium sorbate all placed in jelly jars. You place a piece of lace over the jar and put a lid on it. It's supposed to be an air/room freshener. However, the recipe calls for potassium sorbate, which is added to prevent molding. The recipe states that it can be bought in drug stores; however after quite an extensive search in the drug stores around here, not one person knew what I was talking about. I'm not even sure what form it comes in, powder, liquid, etc. Perhaps it is under some other brand name. Can you or any of your readers point me in the right direction?

NANCY T.  
Cornish, N.H.

DEAR NANCY: It beats me why your recipe says potassium sorbate (by the way, it is a powder) can be bought in drugstores, or why drugstores would ever carry it. As far as I can gather, it's used almost exclusively by processed food manufacturers, beer brewers and wine makers to prevent the growth of mold, yeast and some types of bacteria.

However, don't despair. Many home brewing/wine making suppliers do carry it. The HomeBrew Company, 1335 West Main Street, PO Box 862, Kent, Ohio 44240 (1-888-958-2739) offers it in their catalog. It's order #6355; a one-oz. package is \$1.49. It's also available in one-pound quantities (probably much more than you'll ever need) for \$13.99. Shipping and handling are not included in the above prices.

DEAR ANNE: Is there any possible way to get the blue print out of an embroidery pattern? Something that won't fade the embroidery thread too?

L. MASTERS  
Burlington

DEAR L.: My "embroidery guru" says, "Just wash the piece, and the blue pattern marking will come right out." She added that she always washes her embroidery when it's finished, as oil from one's hands inevitably gets on the fabric while it's being worked, and this can result in spotting and/or discoloration in the future. For washing, she always uses green Palmolive dish soap, though she noted

*Ask Anne is a reader service column designed to answer your questions on a variety of topics. Letters or postcards should be sent to: Ask Anne, Box 240, Hartland, VT 05048.*

that another "gentle" dish soap might work as well. She did caution against the use of either Ivory or Woolite, as they tend to make the embroidery floss/thread colors run.

DEAR ANNE: Maybe you can help me. I am looking for the book "Blessing in Disguise" by Eileen Goudge. I am saving all her books, and I lent that one out and didn't get it back. I know this is a trivial matter compared to some of the things people ask you, but it is very important to me. Thanks for all the help you give to so many.

JUDI FREEMAN  
Ludlow

DEAR JUDI: It isn't a trivial matter at all, so don't worry. "Blessing in Disguise" is still in print and still available from the publisher. I gave a call to the Misty Valley Bookstore on the Green in Chelsea, just up (down?) the road from you, and they'd be happy to order it. Give them a call at 802-875-3400.

Just a note: There are a number of large, chain bookstores opening around the state (and across the river), but unless a book is listed on their database, the chances are they don't have the resources to search for it, much less order it. Our small, local bookstores are a treasure and a terrific resource. If you're looking for a book, and it's still in print (and sometimes, even if it isn't) the owners and staff will do everything they can to first find, and then order it for you.

### STUMPED

**Housecoat:** A reader is looking for a housecoat with a Velcro front fastening for her mother, whose hands are so crippled with arthritis that she is unable to work with buttons, snaps or a zipper. I thought this would be a cinch to find, but I've looked in all my catalogs for the elderly and handicapped, and not a housecoat with a Velcro front fastening anywhere. Readers, can you help?

**Looking for a Special Apron:** Helen Smith of Fair Haven writes: "Could you tell me where I can find an apron which pulls over the head, has two armholes and a sash that ties in the back? I recall my mother wearing them, and they used to come in pretty prints. I've tried several stores to no avail. All they have is the "cobbler" style. I would so like to have one, especially with the holidays coming and all the cooking that entails!" All I could find was the "cobbler" type as well. Anyone have any ideas?

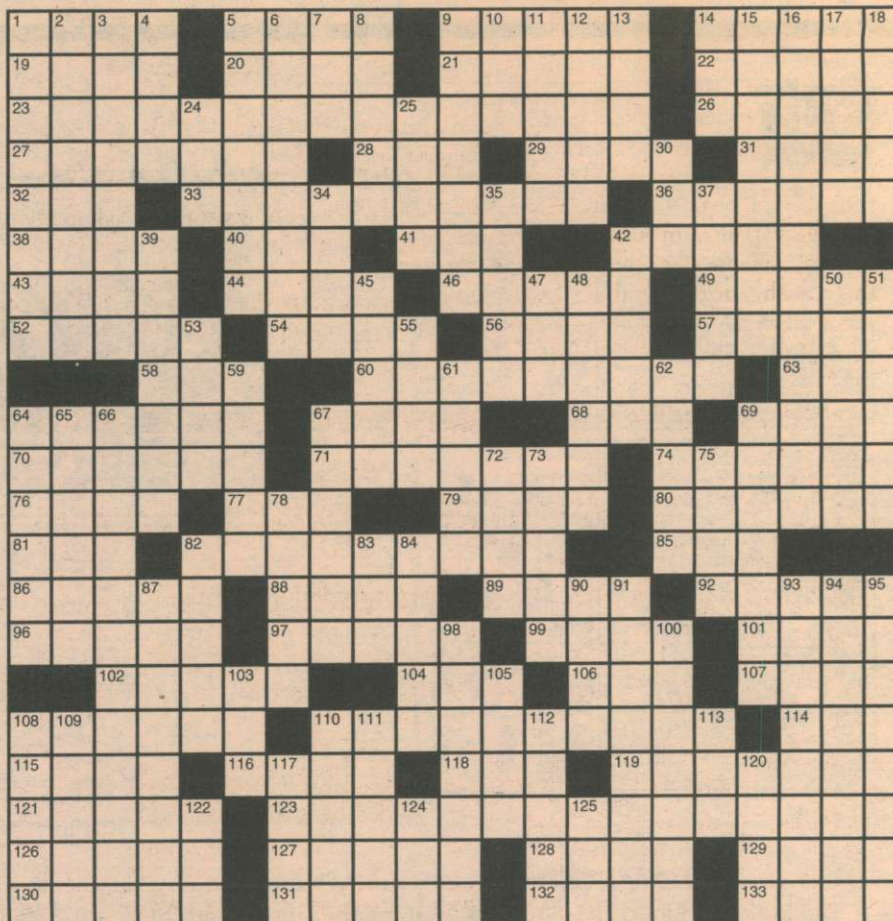
### "STAG PARTY" By GIA CHRISTIAN ACROSS

- 1 "\_\_\_ chance!"  
5 Elhi support gps.  
9 Hits  
14 Met VIPs  
19 Kind of round  
20 Waikiki locale  
21 Book before Joel  
22 "I Got \_\_\_": Croce hit  
23 Witch's treasure map notation?  
26 "Opus Majus" author Roger  
27 Sloppily, perhaps  
28 Capek play  
29 Gadget's title: Abbr.  
31 Raves' opposite  
32 Bankrupt carrier of 2001  
33 Business with only bosses?  
36 Lunatic group?  
38 Rikki-tikki-\_\_\_  
40 Jazz gp.  
41 LAX posting  
42 Hound's trail  
43 Start of an Andy Capp toast  
44 Cutie  
46 Old Greek theater  
49 Post-workout sensations  
52 Doesn't own, maybe  
54 Calendar period  
56 Author Ferber  
57 "And you, Miss, are no lady!" speaker  
58 Ad \_\_\_ committee  
60 Screen romance?  
63 "The Thin Man" actress  
64 Certain driver  
67 Lacking  
68 Dockers' gp.  
69 Aluminum product  
70 Conductor Toscanini  
71 Succeed  
74 John or Paul  
76 Needlefish  
77 \_\_\_-night double-header  
79 Prado works  
80 Burdens  
81 Brian of rock  
82 Young Swiss dictator?  
85 Miss., for one  
86 Evans of "Dynasty"  
88 Gumshoes  
89 Geometry or trig  
92 New Look creations  
96 Pudding starches  
97 Tough trips  
99 In order (to)  
101 Tub  
102 First name in one-liners  
104 Prefix with system  
106 Radar gun meas.  
107 Fashion  
108 Carol opener  
110 Saw capacity?  
114 Once known as  
115 It's outstanding  
116 Cosmetics counter vessel  
118 DDE's command  
119 Tough words  
121 Nintendo brother  
123 Uncivilized Greek philosopher?  
126 Foe  
127 Hard to reach, in a way  
128 Part of NBA: Abbr.  
129 Choral part  
130 Staircase support  
131 Window alternative

- 132 Dirt road features  
133 Pen filler

### DOWN

- 1 Pitcher's dream  
2 Baker's supply  
3 Cayman Islands, for one  
4 \_\_\_ mater  
5 Foreshadow  
6 Acknowledge applause  
7 Sounds of relief  
8 Kama \_\_\_  
9 Fare question  
10 Santa syllables  
11 Gelatin garnish  
12 Indiana's state flower  
13 Coll. entrance criteria  
14 Dollop  
15 At the crucial moment  
16 Inane ancient Laconians?  
17 Surrounded by  
18 Perceive  
24 Volcanic output  
25 Really big  
30 Lance cpl. underling  
34 Depression  
35 "Unsafe at Any Speed" author  
37 Equip with new weapons  
39 Panama formation  
42 Spiral-shelled mollusk  
45 "The Merry Widow" composer  
47 Mass. summer hours  
48 In flames  
50 Prima ballerina  
51 Methods  
53 Fly like an eagle  
55 Its numbers range from 1 to 90  
59 100 smackers  
61 Indian state  
62 Work  
64 Part of a coffee break spread  
65 Astronomy muse  
66 Samson, e.g.?  
67 Web master?  
69 Matisse's movement  
72 Like schoolmarms  
73 Lab burners  
75 City west of Tulsa  
78 Quick  
82 Lacks  
83 Make sure of, slangily  
84 Off-center  
87 Uses a cell  
90 A David of the U.S. Ryder Cup team  
91 Most joyous  
93 Singer Helen  
94 Arrived at on horseback  
95 Tree also called the sugar apple  
98 It's not always exact  
100 Tribal magicians  
103 Reno's st.  
105 Not tricked by  
108 Slogan creators  
109 Patriot Silas  
110 Aristide's land  
111 St. \_\_\_ fire  
112 Be successful  
113 After-tax number  
117 "\_\_\_ lie!"  
120 Discoverers' cries  
122 Olive \_\_\_  
124 It's struck in fields  
125 Taiwanese dissident \_\_\_ Hsin-liang



▶ LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD  
SOLUTION ON PAGE 15

# "Fall overturn" is a life-or-death event for lake flora and fauna

BY TED LEVIN

Lake Fairlee, just in from the Connecticut River on the Vermont side, looks like a giant tadpole, its tail swung north to meet Blood Brook, its head southwest, feeding the unnamed fork of the East Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

There is a certain day each autumn, usually in November on 427-acre Lake Fairlee and other large lakes hereabouts, when "fall overturn" takes place - an event not usually marked on human calendars yet absolutely crucial for aquatic life. Without fall overturn, it is quite possible that life on earth would be vastly different from what it is today.

But first, jump back three months. In summer, the waters of Lake Fairlee are stratified into three distinct zones: the top, or epilimnion; the middle, or metalimnion; and the bottom, or hypolimnion. These three zones remain as distinct as oil and vinegar; the winds of summer which agitate the surface do not mix them together. Diving through the epilimnion into the metalimnion is always a shock to any swimmer; the temperature suddenly drops ten to fifteen degrees Fahrenheit along an invisible boundary less than ten feet below the surface.

Of the three layers, the epilimnion - always in contact with the air - is richest in oxygen and lowest in nutrients, which tend to settle to the bottom of the lake. The hypolimnion gains all the nutrients that rain down during the summer, where they become food for the catfish, suckers, and all the decomposers that respire in the sediments.

With the cooler days of autumn, how-



ever, the boundaries between the three layers become less distinct. As surface waters cool, they become denser, which causes them to sink in the lake. The warm epilimnion shrinks as the lake gives up heat. If it weren't for a unique property of water, this process would continue until the water at the bottom of the lake reached 32 degrees Fahrenheit and froze. Our ponds and lakes would freeze from the bottom up; fish would perish in lake-size blocks of ice, and human colonization of the higher latitudes would undoubtedly have been greatly slowed.

But water reaches its maximum density not at 32 degrees but at 39.2 degrees. Sometime in November, Lake Fairlee reaches a nearly uniform 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit, which triggers fall overturn. The slightest wind stirs the lake from top to bottom, distributing nutrients and oxygen through the depths. Life in the lake responds unseen below the surface. Fish normally restricted to the top visit the bottom. Bottom dwellers rise throughout the lake.

As cold autumn weather continues to cool the lake below 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit, the overturn comes to an end. The lake stops circulating. The ever-colder surface water is now less dense than the rest of the lake, and this cooler water floats. Ice finally forms, generally by late December, and the lake is sealed off from the wind.

If fall overturn hadn't already taken place, this skin of ice would be fatal to many animals that depend on the surge of oxygen and nutrients from fall overturn to make it through the long winter ahead.

In the spring, when the ice melts and the lake water warms to a uniform 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit, spring overturn begins. Once more, nutrients and oxygen are distributed throughout the body of water. Then, when April grades into May, the surface of Lake Fairlee warms, mixing of the waters ceases, and lake is again stratified into its three distinct layers.

We cannot see overturn happen, of course, but I imagine that the flock of bufflehead I saw last November, which

had just arrived from central Canada en route to some mid-Atlantic estuary for a winter respite, found plenty of aquatic insects and small fish dispersed at nearly all depths. Ducks idled in the middle of the lake that day, and when I paddled my kayak toward them, they dove, powered by their large hind feet. Not far off, they surfaced - three males, mostly white, and four dull-colored, either females or young of the year.

With twilight closing in I turned back north toward Lake Fairlee's public landing. A skittish blue jay bathed, while noisy crows soared above. Four herring gulls and an immature black-legged kittiwake - a very rare inland visitor from the Arctic - eddied against a cranberry-colored sky.

*Ted Levin is a naturalist and freelance writer living in Thetford Center.*

*Illustration by Adelaide Tyrol. Support for this article series is provided by the Upper Valley Community Foundation's Wellborn Ecology Fund: [wef@nhcf.org](mailto:wef@nhcf.org) or (603) 653-0387.*

**Prime Location...**  
for your advertisement!

Please call the Times Argus or the Rutland Herald for information on how you can advertise in this prime location



802-479-0191  
toll free in VT 1-800-649-0285



802-747-6121  
toll free in VT 1-800-498-4296

*It was din and kin that drove him from Vermont*



**LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD**

|          |         |         |          |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| PACS     | APLUS   | TSKS    | DIP      |
| ASAP     | SEENO   | RIIS    | JEEERS   |
| SPRINKLE | OF      | SUGAR   | OLLAS    |
| TEAROSE  | STEINS  | FLAUNT  |          |
| ANTILOG  | TAS     | SUING   |          |
| TAO      | STORM   | OFF     | PROTEST  |
| ECCE     | TROOPS  | POI     | TROPE    |
| GILDS    | BUY     | JEANS   | AFAR     |
| ONO      | HAILO   | BULLETS | FIR      |
| SQUEAL   | STEAD   | TAMMANY |          |
| DADAS    | ARRAS   | SLOAN   |          |
| JUSTONE  | VOICE   | AROMAS  |          |
| ORO      | WINDS   | OF      | CHANGE   |
| ASL      | LIFT    | STEER   | EVA      |
| SUITE    | TALON   | FAA     | REMEND   |
| PLOW     | SHOWERO | FLAIVES | ERR      |
| CLUER    | IZE     | FLAIL   | LAT      |
| FRUITY   | SELENA  | LONGAGO |          |
| AISNE    | GALES   | OF      | LAUGHTER |
| UTTER    | OGLE    | FRATS   | TENT     |
| XES      | TEEN    | FOSSE   | SRAIS    |

# It Takes a Village

by Kirk Kardashian

**If you go way back to** the foggy beginnings of an average Vermont town, the building blocks of the community stack up something like this: First came the church, and then the town hall, the one-room schoolhouse, the tavern, the harness shop, the blacksmith, the itinerant traders and, last but not least, **the general store.**

**T**he presence of a store in those days meant that the townspeople were doing something right. Either they were shearing enough wool to sell to the big cities, or they were cutting enough wood to employ hundreds of loggers, or farming enough land to feed a burgeoning population. It meant that the town was important enough to be connected to a decent road, which acted as the vital supply link between wholesalers and retailers. Two hundred or more years later, the existence of a country store

suggests a different story — one of survival amid such commercial competitors as supermarkets, convenience stores, big-box stores and the Internet. The country store offers a tale of retail alchemy, in which the proprietor concocts the right mixture of household staples, hardware, artisanal cheeses, gifts and groceries to serve diverse and idiosyncratic customers. It is a feel-good story about local residents banding together to maintain the vibrancy of their village centers. Until very recently, nobody had taken the time to explain how

Vermont country stores got from there to here. But in his new book, *Country Stores of Vermont: A History and Guide*, author Dennis Báthory-Kitsz does just that. His sturdy, pocket-sized volume deduces the origins of the Vermont village mercantile through a spirited recounting of the commercial development and growth of the state, since he found very little direct history of the establishments themselves. The book also contains 60 historic and contemporary photographs showing such things as men lowering barrels of molasses into a store basement;

then-and-now comparisons of Vermont streetscapes; the 22-inch wide, first-growth pine boards still sheathing the H.N. Williams store in Dorset; and a regiment of old-timers harvesting ice blocks from Joe's Pond in West Danville. It's rounded out with a present-day assessment of the business model, and 10 tours that allow a sampling of Vermont's 300-odd country stores. Báthory-Kitsz concludes that Vermont's country stores are struggling and prospering at the same time.

**A NEW BOOK ON VERMONT COUNTRY STORES REVEALS WHY THEY'RE HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL**

never reality. It is a poor, secular culture with scenery and church steeples."

**B**áthory-Kitsz, 59, lives in what he calls Gouldsville, which is the former name of Northfield Falls. He's a high-energy character who doesn't hide his passion for the topic of his new publication. To get to his place from Route 12 you have to cross not one but two covered bridges within about a tenth of a mile. It feels like a good spot for a history buff. More than that, though, Báthory-Kitsz is a student of Vermont culture — it still enralls him 30 years after moving here from New Jersey.

"The idea of a village culture is astounding," he declares, sitting at a picnic table on the edge of his overgrown gardens, while the rain-filled Cox Brook spills loudly behind him. What's the big deal? For one thing, he offers, village culture is civil and neighborly; even your worst enemy would help you change a tire. For another, it has encouraged him to pile up a list of avocations worthy of a modern Benjamin Franklin. Aside from being an author, he's also an editor, composer, photographer, technologist, music engraver and amateur carpenter. "In order to survive in Vermont," Báthory-Kitsz explains, "you have to do a lot of things."

In 2001, one of those things turned out to be country stores. Just down the road from his house, the owners of the Falls General Store were involved in launching the Vermont Alliance of Independent Country Stores (VAICS), and they needed someone to work on publicity. Báthory-Kitsz whipped up a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of old stores and a seven-minute narrative. The dozen or so founding members of the fledgling organization were so impressed that they asked him to be its director.

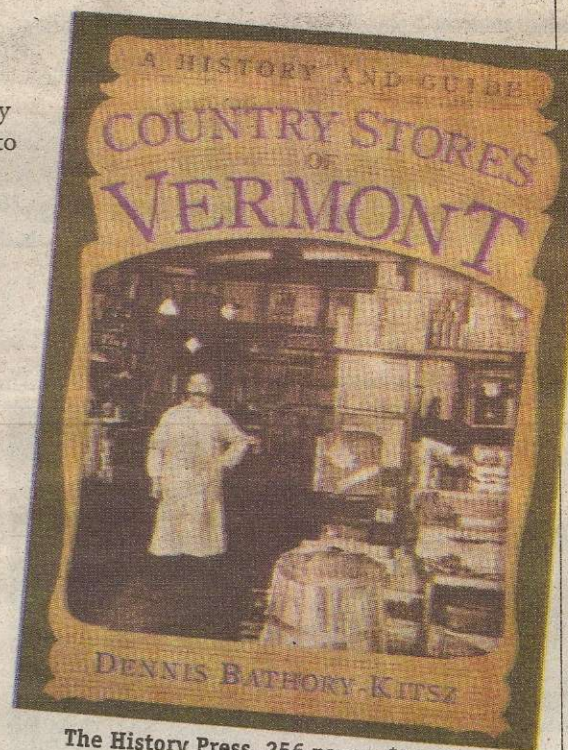
Shortly thereafter, Báthory-Kitsz created a website and a newsletter and did a media blitz. *The New York Times* and *Boston Globe* both ran stories on the Alliance, and the NBC Nightly News did a segment in 2004, asking whether the "corner store can

hang on in the face of corporate convenience."

VAICS' 55 members certainly hope so. The group's mission is to "promote and enhance country stores, while preserving their unique heritage and contributions to their communities." Members pay annual dues of \$50, and also have to join the umbrella organization, the Vermont Grocers' Association, for an annual fee of \$100. In order to qualify as a member, a store has to date to 1927, or at least have been around long enough to be considered a landmark in town. In addition, the store must be open year-round, independently owned and not part of a chain, and located in a rural area or village.

An informal criterion, Báthory-Kitsz says, is that the store must have enough basic necessities to sustain its customers in the event of a natural disaster or weather catastrophe. "So they can't just be a gift shop," he says. Those criteria leave about 100 eligible stores in Vermont, and the membership numbers tend to rise and fall with the stores' profits.

What VAICS members get for their money, along with the visibility from the website and a cheery, wholesome logo, is a sort of collective wisdom.



The History Press, 256 pages, \$14.99.

tax laws, operate the lottery machine, or even toss the pizza dough.

Another benefit, says Maggie Hatch, 46, who owns the Newbury Village Store with her husband Gary, 55, is like-minded camaraderie: "It's nice to commune with other people who do what you do," she offers. The couple's store, which faces the Newbury green and Route 5, has been open since 1840 and has clean, white, vernacular architecture with tasteful maroon trim. Inside, the place looks

**The country store offers a tale of retail alchemy, in which the proprietor concocts the right mixture of household staples, hardware, artisanal cheeses, gifts and groceries.**

At their quarterly meetings, members can share observations of consumer trends and trade tips on store management. Those new to the business have an instant support network: more experienced store owners who show the rookies how to comply with state

like a contemporary convenience store. Except for the antique advertisements at the front, it has none of the trappings of many other old general stores — squeaky floorboards, a potbelly stove or rambling additions that seem to go on and on.

>> 30A



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK DENTE, BARRE



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL GILMAN, CHELSEA



PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLY BROWNLEE, DORSET



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS BATHORY-KITZ



PHOTO: THOMAS ROCKWELL; COURTESY OF RAYMOND SMITH, W. ARLINGTON

## Human Body Wisdom

9 alternating Saturdays from 1 – 5pm starting Jan. 24th, 2009



Suzanna Gray Bliss, M.Ed., Clinical Herbalist/Nutritionist will share the wonders of human anatomy & physiology. Learn fascinating information about how natural therapies can enhance your health.

Fee includes instruction, thorough text, supplies and treats.

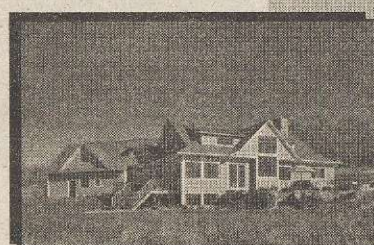
**Rooted Wisdom** Wellness Shop & School  
399 Center Rd., Middlesex, VT  
(1.85 mi. up from exit 9 of I-89)  
[rootedwisdom@yahoo.com](mailto:rootedwisdom@yahoo.com) / 802-229-6910  
Call or email for shop hours and directions.

## REALTY VT

Lang McLaughry Spera

True Stories Behind Vermont Homes

**\$250,000 Price Reduction**  
— Owner Ready for Offer

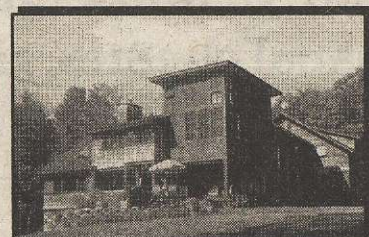


Looking for a top quality home? Try looking at this home in Westford — before you stop reading — southwest Westford is only 10 minutes to shopping and I-289 (15-20 minutes to the airport) — Taxes are better then Chittenden South — \$6,800 — the documented construction costs on this house are \$1.18 Million — the

price is \$849,000. Muddy Dog Run is a lovely country neighborhood with a small number of quality homes. The house is handsome and abuts 27 acres of conserved land facing west southwest for mountain views, timber framed great room, real hardwood flooring, custom tiles, gourmet kitchen, master suite with Kohler waterfall shower system plus more, 4 bedrooms. 51 Muddy Dog Run in Westford — just off Chapin Road — very close to Essex.

### Timber Framed & Energy Rated & Top Quality Construction

Finely crafted Vermont home on 15 beautiful acres! This home offers superior construction — the owners bought this land and actually extended the road on West Sleepy Hollow to accommodate their house!



The house is at the end of a cul-de-sac on very private acreage and abuts land with hiking and walking trails. The land has tremendous maple trees — the owner sugared this past season and had a blast! Sadly — these owners are being transferred out of Vermont and will miss our state very much. The builder was Red House Construction and architect was Bird's Eye Architect & Construction — both excellent and top quality firms. Energy rated with timber framing to give it a true Vermont feel! Adirondack Great Room, white oak flooring, all trim was milled from trees on the property!, high end windows, 5 bedrooms can be multipurpose — 2 are currently being used as offices, porch with mahogany floors, decks, hot tub and more! Located at 235 West Sleepy Hollow Road in Essex - 10 minutes to Interstate 289. \$759,000



**Kathy O'Brien**  
Direct: 802-846-7835  
Cell: 802-343-9433

Spruce's Top Producing Team with over 5,000 loans closed

Nancy Seidel  
Heidi Hayward Urish  
Ingrid Antrim Serafini  
Denise Vignoe

Spruce Mortgage a locally owned mortgage brokerage specializes in exceptional service and the lowest rates possible.



Please call us for a complimentary rate lock, good faith estimate, and pre-approval.  
802-846-5050

## It Takes a Village

<< 29A

The Hatches purchased the store five years ago, after both of them left careers in software sales. At the core of their impromptu foray into small-business ownership was a desire to preserve the community

This even though the Hatches' live three miles away, across the Connecticut River in Haverhill Corners, N.H. "We've adopted the town," Gary says warmly, "and they've adopted us."

That's the only way the store

the store. If you take that away, I think a lot of people know they'll lose something precious."

Loyal patron Roger Chaffee agrees. He's been coming to the Newbury store for 40 years — since he was a little kid — and he's here almost every day to pick up the newspaper or a sandwich, or to see who he'll bump into. A local logger and cattle farmer, Chaffee says, "Without these stores, people would be in tough shape. It keeps the money in the area. There's a lot to these old stores, and you don't want to see them go out."

The Hatches want to stick around, too, but they acknowledge some challenges ahead. The major one: "We're a small store on the bottom side of the supply chain," says Gary. "Getting goods distributed to our store at a fair price is getting more difficult."

Every delivery to his store now comes with a \$7 surcharge. At 12 deliveries per week, that adds up, and the Hatches haven't incorporated that cost into their prices. Furthermore, heating fuel this year may cost twice as much as it did last year, and minimum orders are increasing.



ethic that they saw disappearing around the country. "We both came back [to New England] with kind of the same sense that we were disheartened everywhere we went," recalls Gary, a friendly and earnest New Hampshire native. "Every Interstate exit was like the last one; they all

could survive, because competition is close and formidable, and Newbury is not a tourist destination. There's a Wal-Mart Supercenter eight miles away in Woodsville, N.H., and just over the state border, beer and cigarettes are substantially cheaper due to lower state sales

**Without these stores, people would be in tough shape. It keeps the money in the area. There's a lot to these old stores, and you don't want to see them go out.**

ROGER CHAFFEE, NEWBURY STORE PATRON

had their Hampton Inns and Cracker Barrel Restaurants and Wal-Marts."

In 2003, he and Maggie drove by the Newbury store and saw a "For Sale" sign in the window, like the kind someone would put on an old lawnmower. The place was run down, they remember, and the former owner was burned out after 20 years. The forlorn-looking building on the picturesque village green sparked the couple's nostalgia.

"When we saw this," says Maggie, a youthful and ebullient woman with brown hair, "we thought, 'This is dying in our country.' People don't know each other; they're all anonymous. And everywhere you go, the food is the same, because it comes from one great, big factory somewhere."

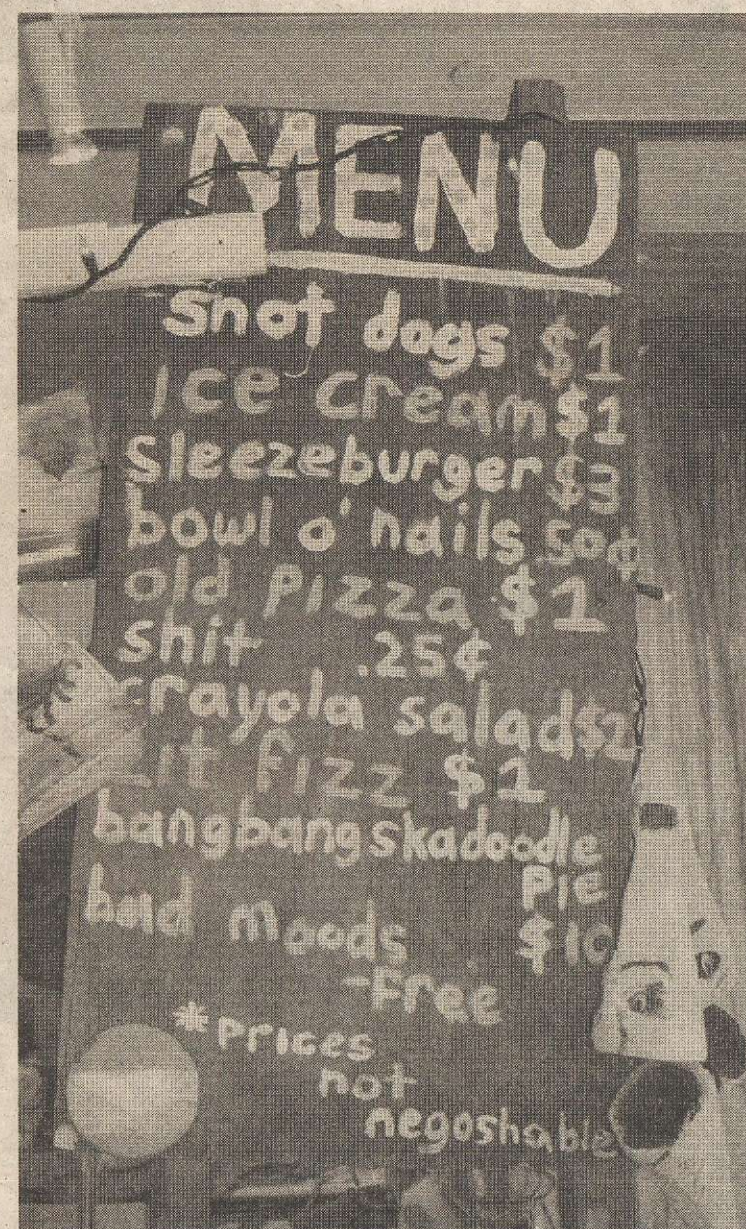
Not surprisingly, the Hatches feature homemade food prominently at their business. They also offer a long list of local food and crafts, including syrup, honey, corn, blueberries, eggs, vegetables, beef and soap. "Pretty much any local thing," says Maggie, "if someone comes in and says, 'Hey, you want to peddle this?' we're like, 'Yeah, sure, we'll buy 10 of them.'"

Gary says the town residents notice that the store supports the community, and so the community supports the store.

taxes. "To compete with bigger stores," Maggie tells, "we have to watch every penny."

The Hatches also go out of their way to accommodate customers' requests (there's a request notebook by the front door), gladly ordering, say, a pilsner beer made in the Czech Republic, or ricotta cheese from a farm in Bennington. "We need them," Gary says of the local customers, "but in many ways, they need us. They need

For instance, International Baking purchased a slew of local bakeries last year and stopped delivering to the Newbury store, telling Gary he could still buy the bread at BJ's Wholesale Club, and East Coast membership warehouse. Hatch laughed at that suggestion, and found another supplier.



## TINDERBOX ARTISTS' STATEMENT

*You are by far my favorite at your chosen artistic pursuit. Let's be famous to each other.*

*There is a line on the sidewalk in Burlington where somebody sprayed paint out of a water bottle. It runs right into the heart of downtown, and then it stops. That gesture is important to us in the most fundamental way. That line of paint is on the path that people walk every morning to go to work or buy a beer.*

*We come from a place in Brattleboro called the Tinderbox. Some people call it a "collective" — we call it a friendship, or a friend shop. Perhaps it could be explained as an advanced obscenity and affection boot camp: double major in hugs and full-body tackles. Extra points for gross and ridiculous. Snot rockets a plus. It's way too late to grow up!*

*Have you ever read an anthology book about an art or music scene that overwhelmed you with nostalgia for the actions and lives of people you've never met? Nostalgia is a small sort of death, the sensation of your conception of what is possible diminishing: If someone else already did everything cool, then what's left for us?*

*A lot of people throw around the term "do it yourself." Everything is do it yourself. You do it yourself daily, or else somebody is telling you what to do. That is why the paint on the sidewalk is so important. It reminds us that the people who dare to leave their mark on reality never left town to live in the pages of art books or magazines, that they still live down the block and take the same path to the pizza place as us.*

*We hope you will take our art installation as an invitation. You are cordially invited to make the most heartbreakingly beautiful things in the world. All you will need are your friends. The best art has never been in a museum at all — it's the stencil sprayed in a total of ten places ever, the one-shot present for your sweetheart that you worked on late into the night. It's the phrase scrawled on the back of your friend's hand that gave you the gut-busting laugh that saved your life.*

*Our lives are already more fun than we ever imagined, but it isn't because we've found a magic word you'll never know. Perhaps start here, if you feel like it:*

*Don't be afraid to feel weird. Don't be afraid to not have very much money. Don't be afraid of yourself. This process will expose you to other people who are undertaking it, and you will begin to help each other succeed at it. After that the world will remain a terrifying struggle — but one you won't have to face alone.*

The Tinderbox  
17 Elliot Street  
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Banks explains, "so there's nothing to, like, define it by."

**Abby Banks and the Tinderbox Collective** may resist talking about their exhibit, but that doesn't mean the show is hurting for topical relevance, according to curator Thompson. Standing at the Firehouse Gallery entrance two days before the show's opening, wearing a black T-shirt and jeans, he says "Punk House" illustrates a growing nationwide appreciation for anti-careerist, collectively produced art. It also reflects a move away from the "slick" art of the 1990s toward art made with "humble materials" — such as garbage.

By living cheaply and working together, artists in collectives "blur the line between life and art," Thompson suggests. At a recent biennial exhibit at New York City's Whitney Museum of American Art, he recalls, art collectives were featured to an unprecedented extent — a sign that establishment types are beginning to celebrate, and even canonize, the phenomenon. But the average gallery visitor is still unfamiliar with collectives such as Tinderbox. Hence this exhibit "is a really important window into this whole other way of doing art that people don't give enough credence to," Thompson says.

Of course, lack of acceptance by the establishment comes with the territory: Collectives like the ones Banks chronicles in *Punk House* thrive on their adversarial stance toward mainstream culture. Thompson says Tinderbox's aesthetic is much more "cynical" and "ironic" than the ones that emerged from 1960s communes. While the Brattleboro group's shack village does riff, '60s-style, on themes of "neighborhood" and "community," he says, it also pokes fun at consumerism and challenges rosy nostalgia for communal living.

Thompson says the show's cheeky grotesquerie makes him think, "Small world gone bad."

As Thompson returns to his chores — "MOVE TRUCK, PAINT MAP, WRITE TEXT," according to his clipboard — Banks and her comrades drill and hammer away at the rear of his gallery. The "Dream Shack" has already been outfitted with a furry white mattress and a disemboweled Pooh bear. Kyle Tomzo is adding sickly slices of pizza to his

unappetizing "Snack Shack." Another Tinderbox artist puts the final touches on an 8-foot-tall mouth that will eventually "eat" Abby Banks' punked-out red truck. On a far wall, Assistant Curator and Gallery Manager Amanda Sanfilippo is tacking up an exhibit poster next to photographs from Banks' *Punk House* book. One iconic image shows a hand-written sign reading, "I'm so Goth I'm dead."

"It's satire," Sanfilippo observes of the show, as Ozzy Osborne emanates from a distant boombox. "American culture is all about representation now," adds Thompson. "We're looking at a representation of a representation."

Banks still isn't sure what to think of this nascent exhibit. Plopping down beside the "Dream Shack" in a pile of paint-flecked stuffed animals, she stresses that it's easy to fall into rhetorical traps when discussing any kind of art. "Overused terms like 'punk' aren't the best way to describe what's happening here," she says. "I just want to make up what it is without falling back on some rhetoric or something that's over-talked about." She refers a reporter to the artists' statement Tinderbox members wrote for their Burlington exhibit (see sidebar).

Kyle Tomzo puts down his paintbrush and sits down outside the "Dream Shack." He has long hair, a black Mickey Mouse T-shirt and a tattoo of the word "hope" on his left arm. "The thing is, we haven't really been reading too deeply into it," says the 25-year-old musician. "That's why we don't really have answers."

Banks giggles. Tomzo smiles as Ozzy gives way to the Beatles' "I'm Only Sleeping." He and Banks are joined by Sam Phillips, a scruffy 21-year-old wearing skateboarding shoes.

"That's always the most interesting part about art," Tomzo continues. "People can go as far into it as they want, but maybe the artist wasn't thinking about anything when he made it?"

"Yeah," says Banks, dangling a sewing needle above the stuffed animals.

"Art should be accessible. You can use crap to make something beautiful!" Phillips declares after a pause. "It'll make your life better if you make stuff with your friends." ☺



**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE**  
**WILLIAM COIL**  
 NATIONALLY CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST



Deep Muscle Therapy • Sports Massage  
 Chronic Pain Management • Stress Management

Practice limited to male clientele.  
 Gift Certificates Available: \$40/1 hour • \$60/1 1/2 hours

**802.658.2390 • 800.830.5025**





**LASER THERAPY**  
 OF VERMONT

PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE 1 ON 1 CONSULTATION

**Dr. Noelle C. Thabault**

For the hair & skin  
 of men & women

**SPECIAL 20% OFF**  
 With this ad on  
 1st Laser Treatment or Package

802.862.7555  
 368 Dorset Street Suite 2,  
 So. Burlington, Vermont 05403  
[lasertherapyvermont.com](http://lasertherapyvermont.com)

- Skin Rejuvenation
- Wrinkle Reduction
- Permanent Hair Reduction:  
 bikini/legs/face/arms  
 underarms/back/chest
- Leg Vein Removal
- Acne Treatment



Mary Cassatt, *Bathing the Hair* (detail), ca. 1891. Oil on canvas. Collection of Donna and Marvin Schwartz.



"An important show... and one of the best recent presentations of Cassatt paintings, prints and drawings."

Tom Slayton, Vermont Public Radio

**Mary Cassatt: Friends and Family**  
*Now on exhibit*

Over 60 works by Cassatt and Edgar Degas, including monumental mother-and-child portraits and works from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian, and private collections.

MAJOR SUPPORT:  

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS:  

Donna and Marvin Schwartz, The Courtney & Victoria Buffum Family Foundation, The Oakland Foundation, The Mill Foundation, and the Robert Lehman Foundation. Planning support is from The Lintilhac Foundation.

**SHELBURNE MUSEUM**

Vermonters half-price admission, every day,  
 all season!  
[www.shelburnemuseum.org](http://www.shelburnemuseum.org)



<FIRST PERSON>

# Life After Jail

A former prisoner shares her tale of incarceration and redemption

**J**

une 2008, somewhere in central Vermont

Bob answers his cellphone in the backseat. *My wife*, he mouths. "Yep, we're going to jail," he tells her, then snickers.

I run a furtive sign of the cross over my face and chest.

STORY  
 ALEXIS  
 PAIGE

IMAGE  
 STEFAN  
 BUMBECK

We are, in fact, going to jail on this lovely summer evening; the kind of evening on which I'd rather be eating ice cream and counting fireflies. As a matter of fact, I would rather be doing — hmm, let's see — *anything* than going to jail. Bob, Jay and I are headed to the Southeast State Correctional Facility in Windsor, the women's prison, to talk about our personal experiences with drugs and alcohol to the inmates there. Our 12-step credo holds that we share our recovery experiences to those still suffering from addiction.

I was just telling them the story of how I came to serve two months in a Texas jail last winter, and explaining why I feel compelled to take this unpleasant trip down memory lane. I remember the moment I was released the way some people remember precisely where they were when J.F.K. was shot, or their cinematic moments of 9/11.

It was 2 a.m. on Easter Sunday, 2007, when I was let back into what inmates wistfully call "the free world" — or "the free" for short. I emerged from a gritty loading dock into the pre-dawn, downtown streets to discover that the city was an ethereal snow globe, flashing yellow

with the traffic lights. The temperature hovered around 32 degrees; the guards in out-processing had warned those of us huddled in the holding tank — a cinderblock box with the acoustics of a dog pound — that it was "colder 'n hell" out. We met that weather report with gasps and groans. It never snows in Houston, let alone on Easter Sunday, and most of us wore little more than jeans and T-shirts after having mercifully changed out of our orange jumpsuits.

I had on the same plaid trousers and pink cashmere sweater I'd been wearing in court on the day I was sentenced, an ensemble that earned me the nickname "teach" in the holding tank. The pants, which had fit perfectly then, now hung lank over my hipbones. I had lost 15 pounds, the one perk of being incarcerated. My roots had grown in, revealing increasing numbers of wiry, silver strands. A witch-like tuft of hair was growing out of the beauty mark — OK, mole — on my chin.

Stepping outside for the first time in months, the city seemed different to me with snow falling on it. My fiancé, who was waiting to pick me up, lit me what was probably the only cigarette I have ever deserved. When we got home to our apartment about a mile south of the jail, he heated up some tomato soup while I used the bathroom . . . alone! Then I sat at our kitchen table and marveled at how strange the quiet was, how thick it felt in my ears.

expected it to cover our own expenses and maintain the store."

After a year and a half in business, those expectations weren't realized, and Stallsmith went back to the financial-services industry at National Life. A variety of factors contributed to the store's closure, he says. The most influential one is that Marshfield is a bedroom community for Barre and Montpelier, so many residents shop in those cities before coming home after work. The owners also had a lot of overhead — a sizeable mortgage to pay down every month and a team of employees. The previous owners, who were there for 28 years, did well, but it was a family operation and had no mortgage, so expenses were greatly reduced.

What did Stallsmith learn from the experience? That "you aren't going to get support or accommodations from the state or any local agencies," he asserts, and that he should have been better prepared to make the store a seamless part of his life, rather than just a business. "It becomes all-consuming when you live in a small town," he says. "You don't get away from it."

The store is now open on weekends to liquidate the inventory, and Stallsmith has the property listed for sale or lease. But he still hasn't given up completely. With Groton State Park close by, summer is the busiest season. "If I could figure out a way," he says, "I will reopen for the summers."

If Stallsmith can't make the Marshfield store work, chances are someone else will. That's the impression Báthory-Kitsz gained while combing history tomes — such as Abby Hemenway's 1400-page *Vermont Gazetteer* — and scouring the state to research his book. Country stores, he found, belong to a resilient, determined species of the commerce kingdom. "These small stores have weathered wars, the bitter winter of 1816, the monetarist crisis of the late nineteenth century, the Great Depression," he says excitedly — not to mention fires, floods and a technological revolution.

To understand what makes the country store such a hearty breed, just show up at one when the wind, rain or snow has closed every other business in town. Last winter, for example, Báthory-Kitsz visited Bailey's & Burke in East Burke on the day the East Branch of the Passumpsic River exceeded its banks. The store was inundated with water and chunks of ice, but it was open. Local residents, after all, needed their morning coffee.

"The idea is that small entrepreneurs will always be there to fill a need," the author surmises. "That's why they won't die." 7

# ANTIQUES

## COLLECTIBLES & MORE!



### VERMONT'S ANTIQUE FURNITURE BARN

10,000 + sq.ft. • Early American 18th & 19th century

802-644-5577 • www.hogsbackvintage.com

### 50% OFF Whistlestop Antiques & Co.

SELECTED ITEMS

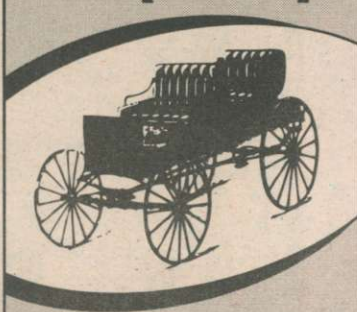
207 Flynn Ave., Burlington VT, 05401 (Below "Upstairs Antiques") • 863-1168 • Open Daily 10-5



**Reuse  
Recycle  
BUY  
Local!**



### The Buggyman Antique Shop



Widely known and acclaimed for our Vermont farmhouse furniture, fancy oak and formal period furniture, buggies and sleighs and everything in between!

Buy where the dealers buy!

(802) 635 2110

Rt. 15, Johnson, VT 05656

1 mile west of the village of Johnson

Open 7 days 10am - 5pm

### 5 CORNERS ANTIQUES

We Sell Old-Fashioned MILK PAINT



Save big on antiques, furniture, jewelry, collectibles and one-of-a-kind items.

11 Maple St. Rte. 117, Essex Junction, VT

Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5, Sunday 11-4

802-878-6167

### ARCHITECTURALS & ANTIQUES

Great Prices Since 1991

Clawfoot Tubs  
Antique Doors & Hardware  
Wide Pine Flooring  
Stained Glass

Estate Furniture  
Reclaimed Building Materials  
Vintage Lighting



### MASON BROTHERS

(802) 879-4221

11 Maple St. • Five Corners • Essex Jct., VT 05452

www.vintagehouseparts.com

Buy • Sell Trade



### Speaking Volumes

Books • Vinyl Records • Art

NOW BUYING TEXT BOOKS

377 Pine Street • Burlington

Next to Myer's Bagels • Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 9-3

540-0107 oldie\_stuff@yahoo.com

### Showcase your business in our NEW Antique Section!


Call your ad rep today:  
**802-864-5684**

# Keep Vermont Green: BUY ANTIQUES!

EMP presents the 1st annual  
**LIBERATE**  
 Music & Arts festival  
 The Bundy Center | August 23rd  
 Waitsfield, VT  
[www.liberateVT.com](http://www.liberateVT.com)



**Gallery in-the-Field**  
 Pat Musick July 19-August 16  
 Opening Reception  
 Artist Talk & Book signing  
 July 19 5:00 pm Free admission  
 Gallery hours  
 Saturday & Sunday 1-5  
 Weekdays by appointment  
[www.galleryinthefield.com](http://www.galleryinthefield.com)  
 685 Arnold District Rd. Brandon, VT 247-0125



**Sweet Dreams...**  
 \* comfy designer pet beds \*



HUNDREDS OF  
 DESIGNS TO  
 MATCH ANY  
 DECOR!



[WWW.PAW-BELLA.COM](http://WWW.PAW-BELLA.COM) || OPEN 7 DAYS || 194 COLLEGE ST, BURLINGTON 864-9100

**THE MacDOCTOR**  
 HOME OR OFFICE

- Debugging
- Repairs
- Upgrades
- Sales
- Training
- Data Recovery
- Remote Support
- Service Contracts

Over 18 Years of Experience  
 Apple Certified Help Desk Specialist  
[www.themacdoc.com](http://www.themacdoc.com)  
 802-453-5570  
 Consultants Network



**DARTMOUTH DEPARTMENT OF THEATER AND HOPKINS CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

**NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP**  
 SPECIAL PRICE ALL STUDENTS  
 SAY YOU SAW IT FIRST AT THE HOP!  
 WORKS-IN-PROGRESS  
 Warner Bentley Theater

*"ESSENTIAL" The New York Times*

**Saturday, August 9 • 5 pm AMERIVILLE**  
*UNIVERSES* (Mildred Ruiz, Steven Sapp, Gamal Abdel Chasten and William Ruiz a.k.a. Ninja), writers • Miriam Weisfeld, dramaturg  
 Fusing poetry, politics, hip-hop and jazz, a multimedia scrutiny of attitudes about race and poverty post-Katrina.

**Saturday, August 9 • 8 pm PUNKPLAY**  
 Gregory Moss, writer • Les Waters, director  
 A mix-tape tribute to adolescence and a tale of two teenage boys rebelling against '80s suburbia by becoming punk rockers.

**Saturday, August 16 • 8 pm DAWN**  
 Thomas Bradshaw, writer/performer • Anne Kauffman, director  
 A father's narrative of redemption, reconciliation, recovery—and dark revelations—after leading a life of alcoholism.

**Friday, August 15 • 8 pm & Saturday, August 16 • 5 pm IRAQ REFUGEES PROJECT**  
 Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, writers/directors  
 Based on interviews with Iraqi refugees, powerful documentary theater putting a human face on "collateral damage." **RARE OPPORTUNITY!**

**Tuesday, August 12**  
**NYTW MEET-THE-ARTISTS BROWN BAG LUNCH PRESENTATIONS**  
 12 noon • Warner Bentley Theater • Free  
 Bring your lunch and hear the artists, writers and directors of the upcoming presentations in an informal setting. Q&A follows. For more info, call the Dartmouth Theater Department at 603.646.3691. Beverages provided courtesy of **After Hours**.

Programs may contain adult language and themes and are subject to change. Cosponsored by **VPR**

603.646.2422 • [hop.dartmouth.edu](http://hop.dartmouth.edu)  
 Dartmouth College • Hanover, NH **HOP**

## It Takes a Village

<< 32A

**Y**ou might think that members of VAICS would attempt to corral buying power with their strength in numbers. But that's a lot harder than it sounds, says Charlie Wilson, 57, who owns the Taftsville Country Store and chairs the VAICS board. An articulate, spunky guy with sandy-colored hair, Wilson purchased the Taftsville store in 1991, after dropping out of an

Those amenities may seem like excuses to get people in the door, and they are, but they're also motivators for people to do business in the village center, and that's less about commerce and profit than it is about community building. In this regard, Wilson is somewhat of a legend, for his efforts to keep the Taftsville Post Office in the store, where it's been since at least the mid-1800s.

suburban big-box stores, the loss of an essential service like the post office contributed to business districts drying up; people simply had fewer reasons to go there. Taftsville resident Nancy Nye, aware of Wilson's struggle with the USPS, wrote a letter to the editor at *The New York Times*, saying, "The Postal Service needs to reassess its strategy for growth."

The next day, a USPS representative showed up at Wilson's store and said they could work something out. Wilson spent \$90,000 of his own money to design and build the new office in the back of his store, which is the only public building in this hamlet of Woodstock, with a population of about 150. The bright lights, Formica and linoleum of the post office contrast starkly with the brick and wood at the front of the building, but it brings people in every day, and the rental payments are a good buffer when business is slow. "I'd love to say I was responsible for it," Wilson says with a chuckle, "but I wasn't. It was a neighbor."

PHOTO COURTESY OF LISAI'S MARKET, CHESTER



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS BATHORY-KITZ



executive position at a department store in Los Angeles.

"The trouble is," he says, "we don't have buying power. What we have are about 50 stores that are all independently operated." So, Wilson explains, he can't approach Coca-Cola and say VAICS will buy a certain number of cases of soda and put them in an exact location, with a particular display, in each store. Every store is different, with unique needs and budgets, so it's impossible to unify for the purpose of purchasing inventory. The "independent" in VAICS is the key word, Wilson says, "but it's a drawback, too."

That puts pressure on each store to find its particular niche in the community it serves. Wilson's business comes about equally from local residents, tourists and mail order, and he needs all three to remain viable. He puts out a colorful catalogue every year featuring custom gift baskets full of maple syrup, Vermont smokehouse meats and specialty cheeses. Wine now comprises 15 percent of his business, a component Wilson grew from nothing. "That's something that's almost universal," he says of wine's recent popularity in country stores.

Indeed, Báthory-Kitsz found that vino is just one of the "imaginative solutions" country stores have implemented as demographics shift and tastes change. Other major ones are ATMs and pick-ups for FedEx and UPS.

In the mid-1990s, the United States Postal Service was "upgrading" all of its small branch offices around the country, but instead of keeping them in downtowns, it began moving them into bigger spaces miles away, sometimes in strip malls. Along with the proliferation of

**N**ot all tales about country stores end so happily. Just ask Steve Stallsmith, one of three owners of the Marshfield Village Store, which closed its doors in January. Stallsmith and his partners bought the store in 2004, all of them moving here from Michigan to chase the dream of a general store.

"We had hoped it would be a self-supporting venture," Stallsmith, 46, says during a recent phone call. "Not that we expected to get rich, but we

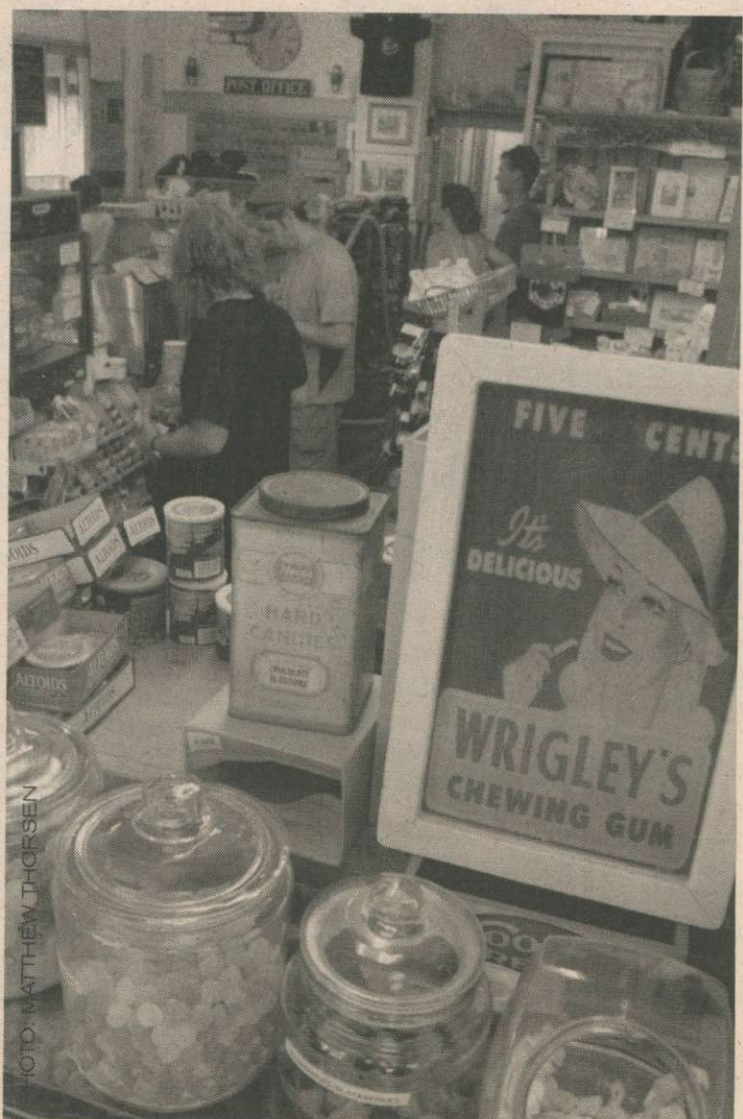


PHOTO: MATTHEW THORSEN

JERICHO CENTER COUNTRY STORE



## The Community History Project in Marlboro

**Work in Marlboro, Now and Then** is an oral history project being conducted by the fifth and sixth grade students of the Marlboro Elementary School. It seeks to examine the ways in which the nature of work within the town has changed with the passage of time. Student interviewers of adults who live and work in town will establish the many facets of work today and over the past several decades. Then, through study of archival materials, students will examine the variety of past occupations. In the process, the students will be composing a snapshot of how people today make their living within the town. Future historians will have access to these materials through the Marlboro Historical Society's archives.

The process, thus far, has been intentionally student-centered and the learnings multidimensional. We began last spring with the help of the Vermont Historical Society's Cynthia Tokos and former Marlboro School students Robin MacArthur, Jesse Kreitzer and Roney Boyden – all currently working in film. We determined what oral history equipment, hardware and software would be required in addition to the two IBM computers donated through the VHS Community History Project. Spirited fundraising enabled the students to buy a digital video camera and audio recording equipment. Then we had to learn to use the equipment and write up procedures, job descriptions and interview questions. And we had to practice, practice, practice. By the end of the school year we had conducted our first interviews with two teachers who have lived and worked in town for twenty years and were retiring from teaching (see right).

The joint project with the Marlboro Historical Society's Jean Boardman, Barbara Parker and Gussie Bartlett and Marlboro Elementary School teachers Christine

Moyer, Lisa Jaramillo and David Holzapfel opens the current academic year with the major portion of our field work before us. For every interview a crew of four students will go out, each with a specific job: interviewer, videographer, audio technician, and still camera photographer. The work of compiling, editing, composing and comprehending what we've undertaken lies ahead of us still. Thus, while we hold our focus on the past, we look to the future.

### *Generous funders of this project include:*

IBM, the Verizon Foundation;  
The A.D. Henderson Foundation;  
Josephine Paul Bay and  
C. Michael Paul Foundation, Inc.;  
Vermont Community Foundation;  
Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust;  
Turrell Fund; and International  
Paper Company Foundation.



*John Esaul is interviewed by Shadee Tabasi and Zoe Reighsman.*



*Joanne Esaul is interviewed by Sara Lepkoff.*

# New Acquisitions

## Making Do During the Depression

VHS's museum staff is always interested in hearing stories and collecting materials that illustrate Vermont's history. Sylvia Dole of Plainfield recently donated photographs, advertisements, a truck model, and written reminiscences that tells the story of her how her father's family survived the Depression.

Noyle Johnson was the oldest of three brothers and two sisters ages six to sixteen living in North Danville. The family's general store went into bankruptcy when Route 2 was diverted through Danville in the 1920s and many North Danville residents moved away. The Johnsons lost almost everything and relocated to Lyndon. In the early 1930s the family decided to start a traveling grocery store. Using a 1927 International truck chassis they built a large wooden body with sliding doors on each side. The Johnsons then convinced a wholesale grocery company to front them \$150 worth of groceries. They began by traveling from door to door and in a few years were so successful that they had 1,000 customers. The entire family worked long hours to stock three large and three small trucks that went out on routes twice a week traveling on the eastern side of the state from Derby Line to Wells River. Many of their customers had no cash and traded eggs, chickens, potatoes or cordwood that the Johnsons would then sell or trade to others.

Responding in 1983 to his grandson's questions about the Depression, Noyle Johnson wrote:

*"I did wonder how long I could last at 18 hours per day (work), but if others could get along I guess I could. As long as we all worked together - we'd make it. We didn't have everything we wanted, always, but we always had enough to eat and wear."*

The Johnson's traveling grocery business, like their general store, was put out of business by circumstances beyond their control. Because of rationing during World War II they couldn't buy enough gasoline or tires to run the business. Noyle worked in defense plants in Vermont and Connecticut during the war and then moved to Northfield with his family where he was a carpenter. In 1951 he began working in his father-in-laws insurance office eventually succeeding him and turning it to the successful agency that carries his name to this day.



Above: Johnson's Traveling Grocery Truck. and model of the original truck built by Noyle Johnson's grandson, John Joseph Vasko, in 1983.

Right: A sampling of the groceries offered by the Johnsons.

G. N. JOHNSON & SONS

## TRAVELING GROCERY

A WISE BUYER JUDGES NOT QUALITY BY PRICE FOR HERE IS QUALITY AT LOW PRICES.

APRIL 26 - 27 - 28

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  BAKER'S COCOA<br>2 FOR 23c | 2 - 4 pt. cans<br>HORSE RADISH<br>25c   |
| STRICTLY FRESH—ALL NATIVE  |   |
| EGGS 3 Doz. ONLY 52c   |   |
|  CHASE SANBORN'S COFFEE   | WHILE OTHER COFFEES GO UP<br>CHASE and SANBORN GOES DOWN TO<br>FRESH COFFEE GIVES FRESH NERVES For 8 Days 29c |
|  Big Ben                  | BUY! WHAT A PRICE<br>6 CAKES BIG BEN SOAP 23c   |
| 10 lb. STAR HAMS ONLY 20c lb. WHOLE OR HALF  | 25 lb. HAMS 16c lb. WHOLE OR HALF   |
| ORANGES The best of FLORIDAS   | 10 TO 11 INCHES CIRCUMFERENCE 35c DOZ.  |

# Vermont's Treasure: Country Stores With Everything, Including Personality

By SARA RIMER

RIPTON, Vt. — Walk into the Rip-ton Country Store here, and you can only be in Vermont. The tiny store, with its wood plank floor and pot-bellied stove, sells bread, beer, beef jerky, locally grown organic tomatoes, People magazine and, on a shelf near the door, beneath the Vermont maple syrup, poetry by Robert Frost. Why Robert Frost? The poet spent summers in Rip-ton.

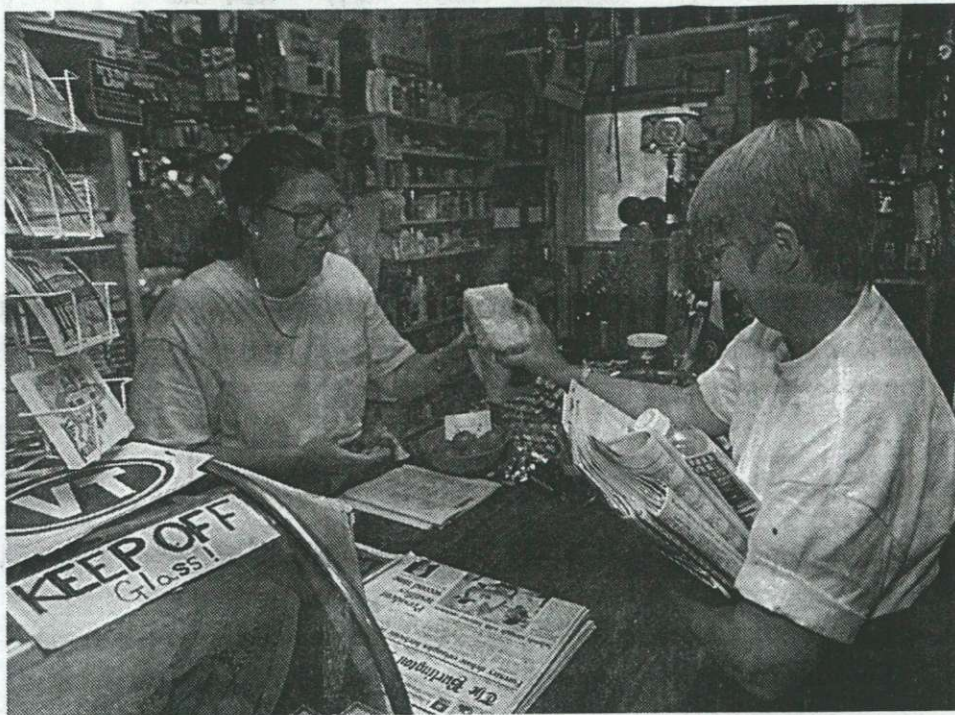
The American landscape is dotted with chain convenience stores, offering the same mass-marketed mix of cigarettes, beer, soda and chips. The Rip-ton Country Store, and dozens of other stores like it in this state, on the other hand, are generally out of touch with modern mass merchandising. But they are not out of touch with Vermont.

The legendary Dan & Whit's, owned by George Fraser and his brother, Jack, in Norwich, sells milk, meat, Ben & Jerry's ice cream, goat cheese, fresh roasted coffee beans, homemade French bread and Dan & Whit's special-label wine, at \$6 to \$10 a bottle. It also sells work boots, horse and sheep feed, woolen pants and snow rakes. The hardware section, with 100 kinds of nails, takes up four rooms.

"You just cannot believe how often you need a can of Liquid Wrench, 3-in-1 oil, or some wood screws, or stove bolts," said Tom Powers, a writer who lives in Vermont. When he was not working on his last book, "Heisenberg's War, The Secret History of the German Bomb" (Knopf, 1993), Mr. Powers could often be found prowling the hardware arsenal at Dan & Whit's.

Barbara Buchanan, who runs the Lake Parker Country Store, in West Glover, with her husband, Craig, gives customers free doughnuts made by a local baker, Nancy Rodgers, with their coffee. Free homemade doughnuts. Every day.

Mrs. Buchanan also sells licenses for hunting and fishing, as well as for snowmobiles. And she is the town postmistress. Not only that, she can



ters parties and weddings (with abundant food, for \$14 a head). She knows the names of all the regulars. One man, Johnny Mahar, rides to the store on his horse. Mrs. Buchanan even knows the name of Mr. Mahar's horse, Ace.

Some years back, Mary Barrosse told her husband, Bob, that Ray Petry, the generous proprietor of the East Dorset General Store, had once again given her free coffee with the Sunday papers. "My husband told me Ray gives free coffee to everyone on Sunday's," Ms. Barrosse said.

Mr. Petry, a former hospital administrator, had a slight clarification of Ms. Barrosse's report. "Nearly everyone," he said. "I probably don't

give to someone who looks too yuppified." The overly yuppified, he said, are not from East Dorset.

But increasingly they are from other parts of the state, as Vermont becomes populated more by exiles from New York and other cities for whom brie cheese is more of a necessity than a 10-penny nail. Some country stores have kept pace, broadening the mix of products they sell.

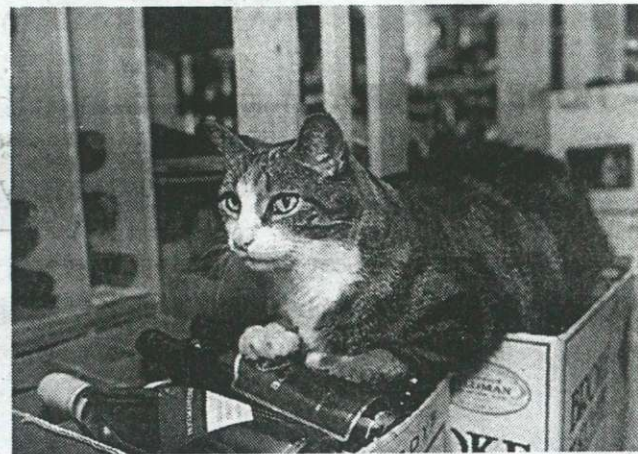
So now, at Gillingham's in Woodstock, tins of caviar are a shelf away from Marshmallow Fluff, and \$28 bottles of bath oil compete for customer attention with bags of organic cow manure. At the Warren County Store, which many of its customers consider to have one of the finest

penny-candy selections in the state, also features made-in-Vermont dog biscuits for 75 cents a piece.

At the Moscow General Store, in humble Moscow, an old mill town near the ski resort of Stowe, Alex and Sarah LeVeille have introduced flavored coffees. The old timers won't touch it, Mr. LeVeille said.

The products on the shelves are only a part of what a country store offers. Ms. Barrosse said she also gets tips on municipal bond funds, the local news and references for handymen from the owners and other customers.

Earlier this summer, Susan Chase nominated the Moscow store for a grant from the Preservation Trust of



Paul O. Bolvert for The New York Times

Stores in Vermont are not from the same mold used for most of the country. At left, in the Rip-ton Country Store, Susan P. Prager takes a package from the owner, Sue W. Colitt, left. At F. H. Gillingham & Sons General Store in Woodstock, Henry, above, keeps an eye on things.

Vermont and Vermont Country Store, which recently announced that it would donate a total of \$20,000 to six stores for capital improvements. In a letter making the nomination, she wrote, "When I dislocated my shoulder in the driveway, we didn't call 911 first, we called the store, and Alex was at my side in less than two minutes." Mr. LeVeille is a volunteer on the rescue squad.

When Curtis Ingham, in Brookfield, was helping to find a new principal for the elementary school there, she went to the school in nearby Calais, to ask about their former principal. "We talked to all the teachers," she said, "then we said, 'Let's go to the store.'" They went to the Maple Corner Store to ask the owner, Bob Cleary, for guidance.

Some stores have changed little over the years. The 156-year-old H. N. Williams Store, in Dorset, with its sloping wooden floor and leather harnesses hanging from the ceiling,

still does not have a cash register. Ruth Brownlee, who runs the store with her husband, Dennis, and is the great-great-granddaughter of the founder, makes change out of a battered leather purse she wears around her neck.

Every available inch of space in her store is crammed with inventory: scarecrows, bags of grain and bird seed, nails, screws, washers, paint, overalls, duck hunting camouflage clothing, woolen shirts, work boots.

Mrs. Brownlee was sitting on a scratched wooden chair in the front of the store the other afternoon when Fred Hancock, a local Christmas tree grower, came in looking for a three-pronged hand cultivator.

"I've tried all the way from here to Maine," he told Mrs. Brownlee. "I've been to Aubuchon's, Ames, K-Mart, and Wal-Mart."

Of course Mrs. Brownlee had a three-pronged hand cultivator.

NY Times 7/22/96

# Preserving Vermont's Country Stores

By MATT ANTONACCI  
Register Citizen Correspondent

KENT — The architectural and cultural charm of northern Vermont will be showcased in an art exhibit entitled, "Flatlanders in Vermont" beginning July 8 at the Rose Gallery of Kent.

The show will present the work of Barkhamsted artist Carol Wallace and Harwinton-based writer and author Jean Sands. Wallace is a nationally respected watercolorist who has elegantly depicted New England's weathered splendor for over two decades.

Sands is a free-lance journalist whose words have graced the pages of some of Connecticut's most respected newspapers, journals and periodicals.

Wallace's affinity for regional culture was established back in her home town of Bucks County, Pa.

"I always loved regional history," she said. "Painting rural heritage helps preserve it for future generations."

Despite prodigal quality artistic abilities as a youngster, Wallace pursued a travel industry career with one of the nation's largest airlines.

"I worked in Hartford for two years before I met my husband Richard," she said. "I always knew art would eventually become the focal point of my professional life."

Wallace's art career has included commissions from patrons such as Ruth Henderson, Ivan Lendl, The Gunnery and a variety of commercial accounts. Her introspective pen and ink drawings have also appeared in high-profile advertising campaigns and regional travel council materials.

Wallace was also one of the guiding lights behind Connecticut's wildly successful tourism campaign entitled, "Better Yet Connecticut."

"It was fun working with people such as Susan Saint James and Art Carney among others," she said. "They all donated their time and talents to make that campaign a success."

The Kent Gallery exhibit was spawned by Wallace and Sand's love of Vermont.

"We thought a special part of Vermont's landscape was the

country stores," said Sands. "They're becoming an endangered species."

Wallace and Sands spent almost a year researching and photographing many of the state's most picturesque dens of antiquity.

"It was fun talking with store owners," said Sands. "Some of the histories dated back hundreds of years."

Kent gallery owner/director Nancy Murello said "Flatlanders is the term Vermont residents apply to all non-Vermonters."

"Vermont's hills make the rest of New England seem smooth," she said with a chuckle. "We thought the title also described the travels of Wallace and Sands."

The centerpiece of the exhibit is a full color, pen and ink poster that depicts 30 of Vermont's most historic country stores.

"The poster includes capsulized store histories written by Jean," said Wallace. "The poster was a labor of love for both of us."

The histories unearthed by Sands are laced with whimsy, pot

belly stoves and heartfelt emotion.

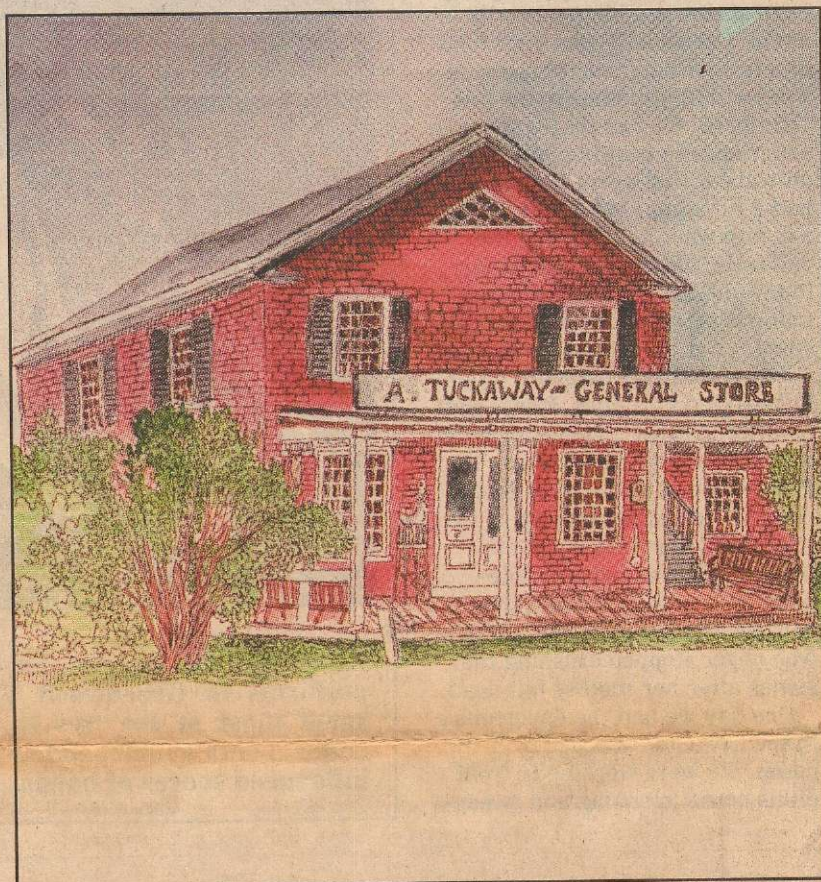
"Those stores represent a way of life that is slowly passing into history," said Sands.

Wallace's warm pen and ink drawings and Sands' lyrical prose seem tailor-made for each other. The duo's teamwork is not the result of a long working association.

"We actually met at a Litchfield Art walk in 1992," said Sands. "It seems we were destined to work together."

The exhibit will also feature a variety of Wallace's subtly hued works.

The Flatlander's exhibit will include an opening day reception for Wallace and Sands from 3 to 6 p.m., July 8. The exhibit will run through Aug. 6. Show information is available by calling the Rose Gallery at 927-4772. Gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays through Tuesdays. Poster signings by Wallace and Sands will be held at the July 8 opening.



John T. Acerbi/Staff Photographer

Carol Wallace's rendering of the A. Tuckaway General Store in Shelburne, Vt., part of the Shelburne Museum.



John T. Acerbi/Staff Photographer

Writer Jean Sands, left, and artist Carol Wallace joined talents to produce this poster celebrating the old country stores of Vermont. The poster, along with Wallace's paintings, will be on view at the Rose Gallery in Kent beginning July 8.

# Artist and writer celebrate flavor of country stores

By Joyce Peck

*Republican-American*

HARWINTON - Artist Carol Wallace of Barkhamsted and writer Jean Sands of Harwinton, friends for many years, both fell in love with Vermont.

What attracted them was Vermont's simpler way of life, its freshness and its rural lifestyle.

But what really appealed to them was Vermont's abundance of old-fashioned country stores.

"When you go to Vermont, it's like going back to the 1940s and '50s," said Sands. "It has a slower pace of life. In some areas, the country store is the only place for miles and miles around," she said.

The artist and the writer thought about how they might help preserve a way of life that's becoming obliterated. "Perhaps we could give something back to the state," Sands said.

Wallace said she once listened to a tape recording of a woman interviewing people about country stores. What she realized, Wallace said, was how much love there is in the concept of a country store. "The country store appeals to all senses," she said.

The idea the two friends came up with was a 24-inch by 36-inch two-sided poster. One side reflects Wallace's touch, a series of watercolor line drawings of stores surrounding a center watercolor montage of actual items found in these stores.

Sands' part of the project was a series of anecdotes about each of the 30 stores chosen, stores with such names as Desso's General Store in Jericho Center and Hero's Welcome General Store in North Hero.

"We wanted to give the total feeling of each store," Wallace said.

The Hastings Store in West Danville is 150 years old and has been in the Hastings family since 1911. The Marshfield Store in Marshfield is known as The Indian Store because of its front door wooden warrior.

At the C.P. Dudley Store in East Montpelier, the owners open the door for customers by pulling a cord from behind a counter. The smell of gourmet foods wafts through the Peacham Store in Peacham, Vt., as the Hungarians cook their specialty foods. You can also buy antiques, Hungarian clothes and crafts there.

The project took many trips to Vermont, Sands said. The women visited each store and took hundreds of photographs. Wallace drew her sketches from these. And Sands talked at length with each store owner to compile her descriptions.

Each storekeeper was asked to pick something that represents his or her store, what set it apart from others. That item was included in Wallace's montage and mentioned in Sands' anecdote.

Wallace and Sands also decided to market the poster the way it's done in Vermont. Each storekeeper was asked to sell a specific number of posters to at his or her store.

The deal was struck on a handshake, Wallace said. If the storekeeper asked for a contract, that store wasn't included in the project, she said.

When ready, the posters were rolled and packaged by hand and personally delivered in paper bags to each store.

Wallace will have an exhibit of the original watercolors used for the poster at the Rose Gallery in Kent, from July 8 through Aug. 6.

**POOR QUALITY**

**ORIGINAL \_\_\_\_\_**

THURSDAY EDITION

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

05M-016.0095-03/3  
ELSA GILBERTSON

RD 2 BOX 3550  
BRISTOL

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, July 2, 1992 ♦ 24 Pages



MARK YOUNG, HEAD of The First National Bank of Orwell, sits behind his antique roll-top desk at his bank office. Young took over operations at the bank when his father retired in the 1970s.

Independent photo/Ray Heitman

## Young banks on small town tradition

Orwell's 130-year-old bank focuses on personal service and a handshake

By PETER CONLON

ORWELL — There are no free electric screwdrivers, no drive-through windows, no automatic teller machines, no branches and the nearest commercial center is at least a 20-minute drive.

Still, the First National Bank of Orwell continues to trade small-town character, a solid commitment to basic banking services and decades of family tradition into an ever-growing list of customers.

"Our specialty is personalized service," says

Mark Young, who like his father before him and his father's father before that, heads up this bank, which only six years ago assigned numbers to its checking accounts.

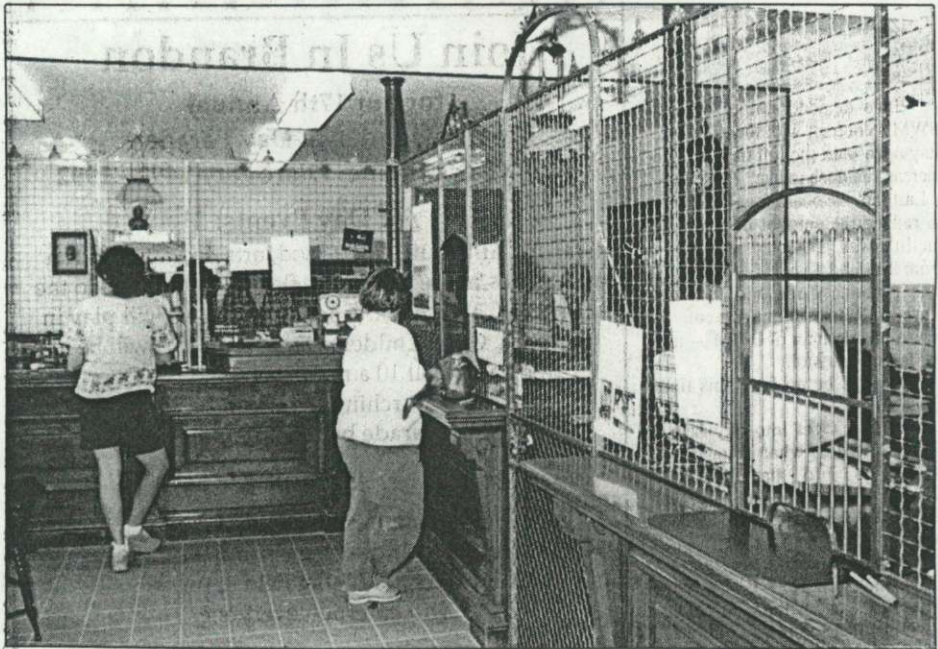
What customers of the "Orwell Bank" give up in so-called modern conveniences, they trade for special attention — from loans where reputation can be as important as assets to basic transactions at the teller windows that includes small talk.

Young's refusal to be like other banks keeps his customers coming back and continues to draw plenty of new business.

"It's our way of life. We've been small enough where we know the vast majority — and I mean vast majority — of our customers by first name," Young says, sitting at his antique roll top desk with a computer blinking behind him. "The impersonal nature of the bigger banks only seems to increase our business."

A look inside the Orwell bank is a look at the past. Computers abound, but they sit atop desks that once held ink wells and huge ledgers. In the original portion of the bank, tellers work behind

(See Bank, Page 12A)



CUSTOMERS OF THE First National Bank of Orwell enjoy the friendly, personal service they receive. The bars on the windows date back to the bank's beginnings in the 1860s.

Independent photo/Ray Heltman

## Bank

(Continued from Page 1A)

bars that once offered protection, but mostly remain for decoration. A quick peek inside the front door is an often recommended stop for tourists passing through.

In 1989, the bank more than doubled its size and added three more windows. While a cornerstone gives away the addition's date, the traditional brick architecture and continuation of the original features inside clearly advertise the bank's commitment to its roots.

The First National Bank of Orwell was created in 1863 after the closing of the Farmers Bank of Orwell, which served the area during the boom years of wool.

In 1880, the bank hired its first employee, D.L. Wells, a young telegraph operator and Young's great grandfather. Wells' daughter, who later worked at the bank, went on to marry another bank employee, Russell Young, and the rest is Young history.

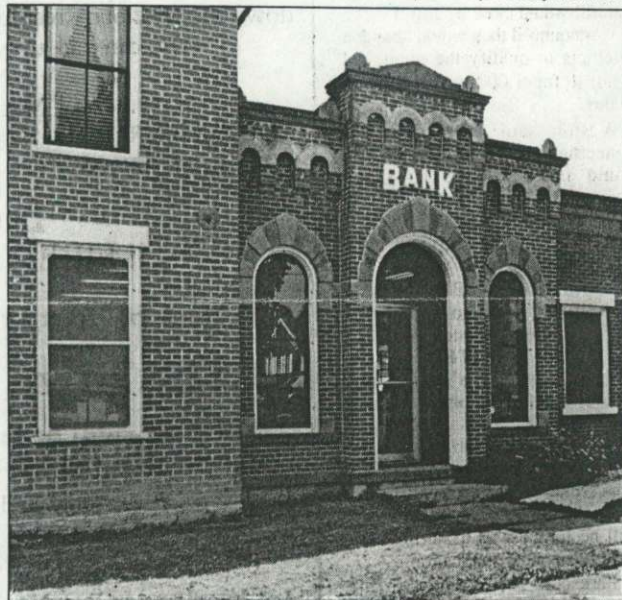
Mark Young, like the Youngs before him, occupies the large home adjoining the bank. He came to work for the bank in 1973 and took over for his father, Robert, in 1978.

Father and son own 42 percent of the bank stock. The remaining 58 percent is spread between 20 families that have owned the stock for generations. Young said those shareholders are spread throughout the Northeast.

The bank has paid a dividend every six months for at least the last 100 years.

The Orwell bank has changed little in its money-making strategy. Home mortgages and personal loans dominate the bank's assets. Short-term agricultural loans still play a major role, but have diminished with the shrinking of the farming economy.

"We have historically had a great deal of agricultural



THE FIRST NATIONAL Bank of Orwell, established in 1864 as the successor The Farmers Bank, has maintained its classic appearance over the years both inside and out.

Independent photo/Ray Heltman

occasionally meets with potential loan customers on weekends.

Also, the addition of individual checking account numbers printed on checks has stopped the practice of people borrowing each other's checks or stores keeping extras for customers who forgot theirs.

Young has resisted the temptations of bank deregulation that allowed the nation's banks to greatly expand their services in the '80s. Instead, the Orwell bank has concentrated on improving its traditional services.

"If you are good at banking, you shouldn't be in insurance or in (real estate) brokering. (Deregulation) has allowed the big banks to get too spread out. If I offered all of those services, who would I be competing with? My own customers," Young says.



**POOR QUALITY**  
**ORIGINAL** LIGHT

PGS. 1-6

VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION: THE STATE PLANCONTEXT: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

- 1) How it developed - geographic; cultural; social; other influences):
- Shift from sitting aside a storeroom in a house to purpose-built stores as economy strengthened after the Revolution
  - Shift from itinerant merchants to stores (early 19th c.?)
  - Shift from barter economy to cash-based economy (later 19th c. ?)
  - Stores as social centers-also post offices, stagecoach stops/livery stables
  - 1850's - railroads brought the travelling salesman and manufactured goods from more distant sources
  - 20th c. -prepackaging, chain supermarkets, automobile larger towns developed specialized stores, in converted buildings or in commercial blocks
  - automobile allows customers to travel to urban shopping districts
  - boom of the country store - very wide variety of goods

## 2) Limitations of development:

## 3) known geographic distributions and patterns:

- at crossroads in village centers - all settled areas of the state
- banks on main streets - often focal corner lots. Larger towns.

## 4) Historic highlights (i.e., significant events (natural and social), people, technological advances, laws, social trends, etc.):

- 1st bank - Chelsea (1826), White River Junction (1882)
- 1818 - Corwin's store in Chelsea (one of the 2 brick Federals)
- 1820 - Dana's drygood's store in Woodstock (now Elm Tree Press-Federal)
- 1808 - E. Corinth store

5) Time frame: 1790-1940 justification :

## 6) Property types known and/or expected:

- Banks
- Stores - Federal, many Greek Revival
- small markets, early chain markets
- Farm stands

CONTEXT: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

Page ..

7) Information gaps/research questions:

- early labor relations

8) Biases:

9) Relevant constituencies:

- folklorists
- store owners
- tourists
- chambers of commerce
- residents
- historians

10) Selected bibliography:

Jane Beck - The General Store in Vermont: An Oral History  
 Town histories - County histories  
 Vermont Historical Society postcards etc.

-Aleine Martin, ... Penn State University Press, 1981

- National Register ... for the Howe and Thompson Paper Mill complex

Prepared by: Leslie Goat

Date: 8/85 8/85

7) Information gaps/research questions:

8) Biases:

9) Relevant constituencies:

- folklorists
- store owners
- tourists
- chambers of commerce
- residents
- *historians*

10) Selected bibliography:

Jane Beck - The General Store in Vermont: An Oral History  
 Town histories - County histories  
 Vermont Historical Society postcards etc.

*Wes Cate*



CONTEXT: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN URBAN AREAS (1790-1940)

PAGE -

7) Information gaps/research questions:

8) Biases:

What is the definition of urban for Vermont?

9) Relevant constituencies:

- Chambers of Commerce
- Local business associations
- Rotary Clubs
- property owners
- commercial archeologists
- local governments, planning commissions

10) Selected bibliography:

Smith; county Histories for specific towns; local town histories (Swift, Samuel History of the Town of Middlebury Midd: T.H. Copeland, 1859, is terrific for Midd, and has a brief discussion of the State Bank).

Prepared by: Elsa Gilbertson, Nancy E. Boone  
Weston Cate, Marshall True

Date: 8/85

CONTEXT: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT in URBAN AREAS

1. How it developed geographic; cultural; social; other influences:

Stimulated by good transportation routes, by coming of the railroad (although in some places the R.R. didn't stimulate business as was hoped for).  
Developed in county seats, which had a central location, and where people in surrounding area congregate to do their court and governmental business).  
Developed at important milling, quarrying, industrial centers etc. to serve the many people working in them.  
Urban commercial centers in 19th c. within easy walking/trolley distance of large populations with spendable income.  
National and regional chain stores locate in downtowns in early 20th century.

2. Limitations of development:

Limited by recessions, depressions, topography, small population in area surrounding a town or city.

3. known geographic distributions and patterns:

- county seats
- milling centers
- industrial centers

4. Historic highlights (i.e., significant events (natural and social), people, technological advances, laws, social trends, etc.):

- 1806 - Legislature sets up 2 state banks: 1 in Middlebury, 1 in Woodstock  
- first state banks - chosen to balance 2 sides of mountains
- 1796 - 1st store in Addison County opens in Middlebury.

5. Time frame: 1790-1940 Justification:

1790 might be too early since there were no "urban" areas in Vermont then

6. Property types known and/or expected:

- stores -commercial blocks
- banks -Historic Districts
- mills -individual sites
- shops -examples of corporate architecture (e.g. Montgomery Wards
- offices stores) in early 20th century
- homes of entrepreneurs