

Mountain View



A newsletter by and for the Randolph Community, published by the Randolph Foundation

The Randolph Church: 125th Anniversary Service, August 9, 2009

By Avery D. Post

On this 125th Anniversary Sunday I want to tell you a story. It is a story that we ought to tell here in public worship every twenty five years or so. Many of us know bits and pieces of this story if we have read George Cross's Randolph Old and New, the 80th and 100th brochures and possibly a chapter in the history of Coös County. ...

It was surely wintry weather when, on the 14th day of January, 1883, members of the Randolph community left their homes and farms along the Moose and Israel rivers and on the hills above the rivers to meet at the home of George Wood and his family. They met in the house in the valley that some of us remember as the Randolph Post Office until it closed thirty or more years ago. The farm, long known as Broadacres, is now the home of Nancy Penney. There that little company of settlers voted to organize a religious society and named it, Union Congregational Society of Randolph and Gorham Hill. Twenty-eight residents voted with their signatures. The record of the event is to be found in a precious little book of history. There was a whole lot of history behind that founding event, not to speak of the decades of history that have followed.

After the Civil War and through the seventies and early eighties in the nineteenth century, there was a great deal of encouragement for the gathering of a church in Randolph. It came through the friendship and support of the Gorham Congregational Church, the Congregational Missionary Society in Concord and particularly through two faithful ministers from the Gorham Congregational Church, the Reverend Arthur J. Benedict and the Reverend J.C. Jerome, who climbed Gorham Hill to preach, teach and provide pastoral services in Randolph.

I discern that those who signed the corporate document at the Wood farm, hoped not only to live a covenanted life as a church, but also to have a church home built somewhere in town. Happily, not long afterward, there was a gift of land. The record shows that Deacon Ithiel Scates "brought to Mr.



Benedict a deed of tract of land on the top of Gorham Hill, an ideal spot for the site of the church." So, after years of worshipping in kitchens and parlors and in the schoolhouse located in the pasture above the Wood house, the congregation moved ahead to build.

After a winter of "exceptional severity, high winds, intense cold, furious storms and deep snow in the mountains," ground was broken in the spring of 1883 with an organizing plan focused on three issues: money, labor and lumber. Money came from the missionary societies, friends of Mrs. Benedict from Philadelphia, butter and egg money and children's mite boxes. According to George Cross, one woman set hens in the spring, 'watched over the goodly brood all summer and in the fall placed the proceeds of her flock in her mite box.' According to the subscription list of givers and expenses, it appears that with much labor contributed, the church building cost \$903.19.

Again, recorded in the fine prose in George Cross's book: "From all over town and Gorham Hill came men, tools in hand, ready to work. The planning, framing and direction of the work were placed in the hands of Sylvester Wilson, of Gorham Hill, an experienced carpenter. The hilltop was a busy place.

See "Church", page 4 ...

Meeting notices, inquiries, comments, and ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please send materials for the *Mountain View* to Diana Aube, Nekel Lane, Randolph, NH 03593 or daube@ne.rr.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication (publication is quarterly: September, December, April & June). The *Randolph Weekly* is published weekly in July & August. Send notices by Tuesday of each week to Gail Scott at 603-466-5498 (call or FAX); or mscott1@ne.rr.com; or PO Box 160, Gorham, NH 03581. The *Blizzard* is published the first of each month except July and August. Please send all notices for the *Blizzard* to Barbara Arnold, 466-2438; barnold@ne.rr.com or 403 Randolph Hill Road, Randolph, NH 03593. *Blizzard* materials by the 24th of the preceding month. If you are not receiving the *Blizzard* and wish to, please let Barbara know. A grant from the Randolph Foundation makes all these publications possible.

Mountain View Publications
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Laurie Archambault , Publisher
Diana (Dede) Aube , Editor
Barbara Arnold, Design / Production

Town Directory

- AMBULANCE 911**
- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** (Chair, Ted Wier) 466-3970
 meets at 7 PM the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- BOARD OF SELECTMEN** (Chair, Ken Lee) 466-2392
 Secretary, Rodney Hayes; Treasurer Connie Chaffee
 Meets at 7 p.m. at Town Hall 2nd & 4th Monday 466-5771
- BUILDING PERMITS.** See Board of Selectmen
- CEMETERY TRUSTEES** Jim Baldwin, Suzanne Santos & Steve Hartman
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION** (Chair, Jim Meiklejohn) 466-3818
- DOG LICENSES** See Town Clerk. Obtain or renew by the end of April.
- FIRE DEPARTMENT - ALL ALARMS - CALL 911;** Randolph Chief, Dana Horne
- FOREST FIRE WARDEN** (Rebecca Boothman) Call for Burning Permits 466-2332
- GRS COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD** Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; location alternates between the 3 towns. Contact the SAU Office 466-3632
- LIBRARY** trustees meet the 3rd Mon. of each month; Librarian, Yvonne Jenkins 466-5408
 Open Mon. 10 – noon; Wed. 3 -8 p.m., Thur. 3-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 –noon;
- LIFELINE** (Jean Malick) 466-2547
- PLANNING BOARD** (Chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
 Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the first Thursday of the month.
- PLATFORM TENNIS ASSOC.** (President, Craig Malick) 466-2547
- POLICE** (Randolph Chief, Alan Lowe) 466-3950
- RANDOLPH CHURCH** (Moderator Avery Post)
 Sunday morning services July & August (10:30 a.m.).
- RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST COMMISSION** (chair, John Scarinza) 466-5775
 Meets at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall on the 1st Wednesday
- RANDOLPH FOUNDATION** (President, Cathy McDowell) 466-5105
- RANDOLPH LIFE SQUAD — Call 911 in an emergency**
 Co-Directors Bill & Barbara Arnold 466-2438
- RANDOLPH MOUNTAIN CLUB** (President, Michelle Cormier) 466-5841
- ROAD AGENT** (Mike Gray) 586-7840
- SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST**
 Denise Demers, Michael Sewick & Angela Chakalis-Pfeffer
- TAX COLLECTOR** (Scott Robinson) by appointment; call the Town Hall 466-9856
- TOWN CLERK** (Anne Kenison) 466-2606
 Town Hall hours: Mondays 9 - 11 a.m. ; Wednesdays 7 - 9 p.m.
- TOWN HALL** (Secretary, Rodney Hayes) Mon. - Fri.; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 466-5771
- TRASH COLLECTION** Must be at roadside by 7 a.m.
 Trash - every Tuesday; Recycling, sorted & bagged - 1st Saturday of every month.
- TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUND** Judy Kenison, Michelle Cormier, Michael Sewick

Community Calendar

(NOTE: For recurring meeting schedules see "Town Directory" on the left)

December

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 12 Town Christmas Party, 6 PM at the Town Hall
- 18 Caroling Party at the Scarinza's , Route 2; 6:45 PM for Carolers; 8:30 for Non-Carolers
- 11 Hanukkah begins
- 21 First Day of winter
- 24 School Vacation
- 24 Christmas Eve Carol Service at the Randolph Church, 4 PM
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Kwanzaa begins
- 31 New Year's Eve

January

The Opera Series starts this month and runs through April; see page 8 for the schedule

- 1 New Years Day
- 2 GRS schools re-open
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; GRS Schools closed
- 19 The Supervisors of the Checklist meet from 7-7:30 PM
- 24 Rajmund Klehot performance, 4 PM at the Randolph Town Hall

February

- 14 Valentine's Day
- 22-26 School Vacation

March

- 9 Town Elections
- 9 Town Meeting
- 13 Sledding and Snowshoeing, 4 PM, Bonfire and Chili, 5 PM. All at the end of Pasture Path Road. Contact Sarah Clemmitt with questions -723-3222.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day



Real Estate Transactions

August 22, 2009

From: Phyllis M. Curcuru

To: Phyllis M. Curcuru, Trustee of the
FISE-T Trust
Warranty Deed

September 22, 2009

From: Scott A. & Kathleen B. Stimpson

To: David E. & Doreen G. Roy
Warranty Deed

September 25, 2009

From: Harold L. & Elaine R Eichel

To: Richard P. & Elaine M. Fournier
Warranty Deed

September 29, 2009

From: U.S. National Bank Association

To: Douglas O. Beach & Catherine A.
Zirpolo
Quitclaim Deed

October 14, 2009

From: Stever Risley Company, Inc.

To: Jeffrey T. Bean
Warranty Deed

Building Permits

08/24/09 Stephen Harris & Jean
Chambers will build a new residence

08/24/09 William & Barbara Arnold will
build a storage shed

09/14/09 William Parlett & Sarah
Clemmitt will complete a deck on their new
house

09/14/09 John K. Scarinza will build a
garden shed and a chicken house

09/28/09 Larry & Yvonne Jenkins will
remodel a garage into an apartment

11/02/09 John K. Scarinza will build a
sugar house

REMINDER

Randolph property owners are responsible for ensuring that they or their builders receive any necessary permits before beginning any construction. Building permits must be approved by the Selectmen. The Selectmen need time to review all permits, so please remember to submit them early enough to allow that process.

Changing of the Guard

By Ken Lee

On November 9th, the resignation of Sara (Sally) Glines as Selectman was accepted with regret and thanks. But we understand that with her retirement from employment, the opportunity to spend winter in a warmer place, and with her grandchildren, is more than we can compete with. Sara has served as Selectman for 10 years ... THIS TIME. Sara served multiple terms in the 80's and 90's and returned to the Board of Selectmen in the year 2000.

The town of Randolph is grateful to Sara for her service. The board will miss her experience in town and business affairs as well as her energy, and knowledge of the town, its history, and its residents.

When a vacancy exists on the Board, it is filled by appointment of the remaining selectmen until the next town election. Ray Aube, a Nekal Lane resident, has accepted the invitation to serve until the March election. Ray has been a resident of Randolph since the year 2000 and has lived in the North Country all of his life. He is now retired from a career in the various incarnations of the paper mill, including mill manager at Frasier Inc. in Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada.



Sara Glines making pancakes for the firemen's breakfast

“Church”, from page 1

Borne on the spring air with sound of robin and bluebird were the sounds of broadax, hammer and saw. Soon, according to one observing citizen, “the little meeting house on the hill is beginning to look quite sanctimonious.”

Work on the church was suspended during the winter of 1884 and resumed in the spring. The church building was finished in the early summer. The very first use of the church was on July 21st when an Ecclesiastical Council, with representatives from Congregational Churches in Bethlehem, Berlin, Lancaster and Gorham, met to welcome the Union Congregational Church and Society in Randolph and Gorham Hill into the fellowship of the Congregational Churches.

On Wednesday afternoon, July 25th, with the delivery and acceptance of the church keys, the church edifice was dedicated. There was a sermon by Arthur Benedict, who had returned from Connecticut, a number of congratulatory addresses, and a poem written by Miss Della Trowbridge and read by Miss Nellie Scates.

Now all of that is the historical context for the gathering and the building of the Randolph Church, looking back 126 and 125 years. But there is a longer two hundred year story of religious life in Durand, the name for the valley and the hills to which the first settlers arrived. (Later, in 1824, Durand became Randolph, honoring, as did many communities throughout the United States, the famed John Randolph of Virginia.) The pioneering families who arrived in the late 18th and early 19th centuries were from Scottish and north of England descent, “bringing money and good common sense.” The early settlers were poor, but enterprising. They lived on “the largess of wild nature.” They settled in and produced potash, starch, salts and other wood products. They ran sawmills and gristmills along the rivers. Some kept taverns.

There is evidence that from the mid to late 1700’s Durand neighbors gathered for worship in their homes with intermittent visits from itinerant ministers, who preached, taught and baptized — in the Moose and Israel Rivers, of course. About 1805, a Free Will Baptist Church was organized under the direction of the Lisbon Quarterly Meeting. Its pastor was the Reverend Samuel Huntington. That Church, which existed for more than thirty years, was clearly Durand’s and Randolph’s first church.

And what is a Free Will Baptist Church? Free Will Baptists did not believe, as other Baptists did, that once saved, always saved. They believed rather that with free will, one’s salvation was always a risk and could be lost. Salvation had to be worked at with faith.

A signal moment in the religious life of Durand/Randolph was the arrival of the Morse brothers in 1816 from Otisfield, Maine. They came to run a saw and gristmill. John, particularly, had spiritual gifts and a call to ministry. In 1833, the Free Will Baptist Church ordained him to the ministry. Known as Elder Morse and Father Morse, he served the church in Durand and had other ministries in Jefferson and Gorham.

From scattered records it seems clear that the tiny congregation in Randolph had intermittent vitality in the idle decades of the nineteenth century. Two of the strong carriers of church life in that period were James Scates, who for years maintained a Sunday school for children and families in the red schoolhouse on the hill, and the Reverend Ebenezer Evans, a wounded veteran of the War of 1812, and married to a sister of Ithiel Scates, who lived on the hill and faithfully offered a ministry in which he “supplied the pulpit, married the young couples, visited the sick, buried the dead, comforted the mourning.” Clearly it was the momentum of the Morse, Evans and Scates ministries, the committed help of the Gorham pastors, and the sustained piety of families bearing such names as Wood, Scates, Hodgedon, Messenger, Gray, Boothman, Buzzell, Watson, Howker, Lowe and others that led to the birth of the Union Church in 1883 and the building of the meetinghouse in 1884.

In the 1880’s and 90’s and into the next century the unexpected occurred in northern New Hampshire, particularly in the White Mountains. With road improvement, expansion of train travel, sturdier carriages and soon automobiles, significant numbers arrived in the mountains for summer vacations, hiking and exploration, and, in such places as Randolph, for extended stays at inns and cottages. Very early it was clear that academics, ministers and professors from theological seminaries and their families found Randolph a congenial place for vigorous hiking, the development of trails and shelters in the mountains, pleasurable social life, as well as quiet reading, study and writing.

Continued next page

“Church”, continued

At the turn to the twentieth century, the Union Church stood visibly and strong in its perch at the top of Gorham Hill, but there is some evidence that there were continuing problems with intermittent membership and ministerial leadership. And so, to meet an obvious need, from the summer community, there appeared three worship leaders and preachers who led the church over the next thirty or more years. They were Edward Hincks, George Foote Moore and William Hatch, each a distinguished theologian and historian. Their cottages, of course, are still with us. Their names were the first among a long list of family names associated with the support of the Randolph Church over the next fifty or sixty years, the immediate predecessors of the current generations.

Among those family names: Cutter, Scott, Minifie, Cross, Pease, Edgerly, Ayer, and more named Lowe, Wood, Boothman, as well as Alexander and Horton. Those last two, James Alexander and Douglas Horton, were particularly notable in our church's story. At a crucial point in the first fifty or sixty years of the twentieth century they gave leadership and made decisions that preserved and enhanced this building and nurtured this congregation for our generation. A list of moderators on the board at the back of the church carries the same and new family names associated with the stewardship of the Randolph Church tradition, roughly from the 1960's to the present time. In these late generations that we remember best, the Randolph Church has been stable, competently led, faithfully served and generously supported in its operations and benevolences by members of the Randolph and summertime community.

With the passage of the years there have been many changes. The original organ was replaced by a second until the dedication of our present organ given by Hershner Cross in honor of his wife Daphne. The original stained glass was replaced by clear glass. The chandeliers with hanging lamps were removed. With highway improvements, the church was moved back from the road to newly acquired land. Anna Stearns made a generous gift to acquire land across Route 2 from the church. The old benches were replaced by pews and were taken to the Town Hall. In the fifties there was a near loss of the church building when heavy snow on the roof buckled the entire structure. It was heroically saved. Over time, only one excommunication from

the church is recorded. According to Arthur Pease, there was “a proverbially poor church mouse, who was promptly wrapped in the handkerchief of the Frothingham Professor of Religions at Harvard University and defenestrated from the edifice.”

Further, in 1960 the church was newly incorporated and officially named The Randolph Church. The purpose of the church was agreed to be “...to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the worship of God and service of His Kingdom.” And who are the members? Those agreeing with the church's purpose and “who do not cease to attend the worship of the church or to contribute to its work for more than three successive years.”

The history of the church, as we know it, is unclear about why, after 1900, the Union Congregational Church of Randolph and Gorham Hill drifted away into obscurity and from an association with nearby Congregational Churches becoming substantially independent. But history is also clear that there was a drift from the Randolph Church as a community of permanent residents to a church attended primarily by summer residents and visitors.

So here we are at the 125th, following the 80th at which Arthur Stanley Pease delivered an historical lecture and the 100th anniversary celebration at which William Muehl preached a stunning anniversary sermon, and others of us spoke at the luncheon held across the highway at the Grand View Lodge.

Avery's story was followed by a “gentle” homily, with a bit of thinking freely about the next twenty five years in the Randolph Church...



Randolph Remembers

Rena M. Coulter

Rena Coulter, 94, died at her daughter's home in Soldotna, Alaska, Saturday November 7, 2009. She was born and raised in Jefferson, the daughter of Clara and Wyeth Holmes. In 1935 she married George Coulter and they built a home in Randolph where she lived most of her life.

Rena worked at the Gorham School Lunch Program from 1954-1957 and then relocated to Concord, NH and worked at the Christian Science Home as a baker for 18 years. In 1975 she retired and moved back to her home in Randolph. She traveled to Alaska in 1977 for one year to work as a baker in her son-in-law and daughter's restaurant, Gwin's Lodge, Cooper Landing, Alaska.

She had many hobbies and was always busy, working in her flower gardens, braiding rugs, sewing, knitting, and spending time with her church group, and loved to "Go to Lunch!"

Family members include two sons, Lawrence Coulter and wife Helen of Jefferson, Dean Coulter and wife Eileen of Dalton; one daughter, Louise Dubois of Alaska; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 8 great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Iris Holden of Gorham, Esther McLain of Weare, NH; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband George Coulter; one son G. Grant Coulter; two sisters, Susan Leveck of Laconia, Sylvia Reed of Randolph; and one brother Clyde Holmes of Jefferson.

A funeral service was held on December 5 at St. Johns United Methodist Church in Jefferson. A gathering for family and friends was held at the Randolph Town Hall following the committal service at the Randolph Cemetery on Durand Road.

Donations may be made in her memory to St. Johns Methodist Church, % Jeanne Kenison, 1307 Presidential Highway, Jefferson, NH 03583.

Courtesy of Bailey Funeral Home

William Allen Jones

Mr. William Allen Jones, 91, of Randolph Hill Road in Randolph, NH passed away on Thursday evening, November 12, 2009 at the Coös County Nursing Home in Berlin. He was born in Charleston, SC on July 4, 1918, the son of John T. and Hazel C. (Brandenburg) Jones. He has resided in Randolph since the mid 1950's, moving to Maryland for several years, and then returning to Randolph upon his retirement. He was a US Army Veteran, in the photo science lab, stationed at Fort Holabird in Baltimore, MD. Upon his retirement from the military he was employed at Brown Company and was also a self employed carpenter. He was a member of the Dupont-Holmes Post 82 of the American Legion; the Coös County Fire Warden's Association; the Jaycees; the I.O.O.F.; the Randolph Planning Board; the Sesquicentennial Planning Board for Randolph.

Members of his family include his sister Dorothy Knight of Lake Mary, FL; several nieces; and many friends. He was predeceased by his wife Ada (Berghers) Jones and a sister Mildred Kyzer.

A memorial gathering will be held in the spring at the Randolph Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Crescent Range Trail Head c/o The Randolph Foundation, PO Box 283, Gorham, NH 03581.

Courtesy of Bryant Funeral Home



Development Plans and Pricing for New Cemetery

The cemetery trustees have been active reviewing policies for the development of the new town cemetery that lies beside and behind the Randolph Church at the top of Rte 2. That large area, a gift to the town from Sally and Greg Glines, is large enough to serve the town's needs for many years. There are already four graves in place but there is a need to lay out a development plan for the orderly expansion of burials; without such a plan, chaos would rule and we would not be able to make the best use of the available space.

To help get the most out of available space, the trustees have engaged the services of Mr. Colin Sutherland of Lancaster, the man who did the original boundary survey some ten years ago. Mr. Sutherland has experience in preparing cemetery layout surveys in neighboring towns. He will give us a suggested map of standard grave plots (4' x 10') which we can offer for sale within the initial development area (i.e. the area between the east and west boundaries that lies north of the E-W access road). With the choice of location and grave direction (orientation) the trustees hope to preserve the informality of traditional New England cemeteries and avoid the appearance of a rigorously controlled military cemetery in which all graves and headstones lie in identical rows.

Prices of all plots within the described development area have been set at \$300. This is an increase over the recent \$100 fee, but the \$300 fee is reportedly lower than that charged by any cemetery in nearby towns. The fee includes perpetual care (mainly mowing) at no cost to the grave owner. The normal facing of all plots will be in an E-W direction; however, plot owners will be permitted to elect N-S orientation (i.e. facing the mountains) but to do so, they will need to buy three plots to accommodate such a layout for planned full burials (cremations will permit N-S orientations in a single E-W 4' x 10' plot, but families may not know whether future burials will be cremations or full burials).

The trustees expect to approve Mr. Sutherland's development map by the end of 2009, when purchasers will be able to choose their preferred locations.

George (Jim) Baldwin, Steve Hartman, Suzie Lowe Santos

Crescent Range Trailhead Campaign Reaches First Goal

Special thanks are due to all who have donated to the Crescent Range Trailhead Campaign, which has achieved its first goal of collecting \$105,000 in cash. This is the amount needed by December to exercise an option to purchase land at the end of Randolph Hill Road to establish a trailhead on the east edge of the Randolph Town Forest. John Scarinza, who has worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition, credits the generosity of over 200 donors, several community fundraisers and the determination of the fundraising committee for the success thus far.

Once the land becomes the property of the town, planning will move forward to construct a parking area and build a permanent trailhead which will serve as the gateway to the Randolph Town Forest and preserve public access to over 20 miles of trails in the Crescent Range. Total funds required to purchase the land and complete the project are estimated at \$150,000. An additional \$35,000 remains to be raised beyond gifts and outstanding pledges to reach this goal.

Anyone interested in helping to close the remaining funding gap, either by making gifts or making a pledge, should mail checks payable to the Randolph Foundation at Box 283, Gorham, NH 03581.

Thank you again to all who have supported the campaign so generously. We could not have achieved this much with your generosity.

Ben Phinney



Library News

By Sandy Wier

The Library held a "Harvest of Good Books" Open House on Saturday, November 21st as a celebration of our wonderful volunteers, to showcase our new books, and to introduce the exciting new technologies now available for Randolph's library patrons. In addition to informational databases, Yvonne Jenkins demonstrated how to download audiobooks from the NH State Library's collection, first to computers and then onto an MP3 player or an iPod. No need to be bored while driving, cooking, or weeding anymore! We thank the Friends of the Randolph Public Library for their generous donation of the costs associated with this sure-to-be-popular new offering. If you don't own an MP3 player, the Friends have purchased two which can be checked out from the library (though you'll probably end up wanting your own!)

Writing Your Life, is a writing workshop led by Nancy Penney: it is designed to inspire you to begin writing some of those wonderful stories you have carried with you throughout life. Imagine finding a notebook written by your parents or grandparents that is filled with personal stories about their lives. Everyone has memories and favorite family tales that have been handed down. Sharing family stories bond the generations. Episodes from your childhood will be astounding to readers in the future.

You are all invited to join this workshop. What are some of your favorite memories of the holiday season? Write about them get started Join us at the Library on December 8th or 22nd at 10 AM, or if you are reading this from afar, just begin....



Autumn Brown and Danielle Cotnoir enjoy the library open house on 11/22/09
Photo by Angela Brown



Meg and Jim Meiklejohn poring over the library's new subscription to Consumer Reports; donated by Angela Brown. Photo by Angela Brown

Opera Series Continues in 2010 at the Randolph Library

By Jean Malick

Lecturer: Bob Kruszyna

The Randolph Opera Series is designed for people who are interested in opera but know little or nothing about it. It is, "Opera for Beginners." Last season focused on the basics of the art form, using some of the indispensable masterpieces such as: Carmen, Mozart's Magic Flute, Verdi's Aida, Wagner's Das Rheingold, and Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov. This season we will consider other styles of opera: *verismo*, post-Wagnerian expressionism, *bel canto*, baroque, contemporary, and operetta. Each session offers a full-length opera in video, divided over two nights on the big screen in the Randolph Town Hall. Refreshments will be served after all shows. Please join us for any or all of these sessions. There is no cost; only an occasional turn at helping furnish refreshments for the group. Call Jean Malick, 466-2547 with any questions.

January 6-7—Lesser Luminaries. Puccini: Il Tabarro (The Cloak); Strauss (Richard): Salome

January 20-21—Bel Canto. Donizetti: L'Elisir d'amore (The Elixir of Love)

February 3-4—Totaand a member of I Theater. Janacek: The Makropoulos Case

March 10-11— Back To the Baroque. Handel: Giulio Cesare

March 24-25—In Our Time. Britten: The Turn of The Screw (1954); Poulenc: La Voix Humane (1959); Martinu: Ariane (1961)

April 7-8—Fun at the Finish. Strauss (Johann II): Die Fledermaus (The Bat)

A New Carlton Brook Bridge on Durand Road Finally

As you may remember, we talked about the replacement of Carlton Brook Bridge being imminent at the time of publishing the Town Report last February. The design was finished and we were ready to go out to bid for spring, or at worst fall construction.

By Town Meeting things were becoming more complicated. The federal stimulus plan officially known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or ARRA, had been announced and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, or DOT, had told us our bridge project might qualify for 100% construction reimbursement rather than the 80% that was the norm under the State Aid Bridge Program. (The design cost would still be split 80/20.)

Delegates were sent to meetings in Concord, first to learn about the possibility of being included in the program, and later, once we knew we could qualify, to learn how to work within the rules and regulations that having federal stimulus money brought with it. We still thought that construction would be possible in the fall.

As summer turned to fall we still had not received permission to proceed to advertise our project for bid. Finally, in September we received permission to bid the job. But we also got word that we had to have the project finished by February, 2010, which meant construction in late fall, not an ideal time due to the onset of freezing weather and possible snow. Reluctantly, the bid documents went out with late fall construction dates.

By chance, attendance at a DOT meeting on their 10 year Transportation Plan revealed that there had been misinformation and that only the contract had to be awarded before February, 2010. An addendum was quickly issued to the companies that were bidding on the job changing the construction dates so that construction would start in May of 2010 and be finished by the end of June.

The bridge design calls for the span of the brook to be covered by precast arches, spanning the approximately 20 foot width of the stream. Once the 3 arches are in place side by side to create a pathway the full width of the road, they will have a concrete layer poured in place. Once sufficiently cured, the concrete will be covered by a membrane designed to prevent salt from migrating into the concrete, and then paved over with asphalt. The finishing touch will be timber guard rails.

The contract for the bridge was awarded to Nelson Communications of Conway, for \$212,456, far below the initial estimates of both the State and our engineers. The actual contract was signed on November 12th. Jay Nelson, the principal of Nelson Communications has said he will be able to comply with the town's request that the bridge be closed for as short a time as possible, that being approximately 3 weeks. During the rest of the construction it is expected there may be short closures and traffic may be limited to one lane, but there should not be major inconveniences.

The Randolph Selectboard

Open Positions for the March, 2010 Town Elections

The filing period is Wednesday, Jan 20 through Friday, January 29, 2010.

There is no filing fee.

Town Meeting is on Tues March 9, 2010, The polls will be open from 2 to 7 PM.

1 Selectman	3 year term	1 Board of Adjustment	3 year term
1 Tax Collector	3 year term	1 Moderator	2 year term
1 Treasurer	1 year	1 Supervisor of the Checklist	6 year term
1 Auditor	2 year	2 Conservation Commissioners	3 year term Appointed
1 Cemetery Trustee	3 year term	Town Forest	3 year term Appointed
1 Trustee of Trust Funds	3 year term	North Country Council	3 year term Appointed
1 Planning Board	3 year term	AVRRD Representative	Appointed
1 Library Trustee	3 year term	Emergency Management Director	

Anyone interested in an appointed office should make their interest known to Selectmen.

The Presidential Recreational Trail and ATV Use

By Jimmy Olson

There was an informational meeting held by the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails (NHBOT) on October 13th, at Gorham Town Hall, to discuss that Agency's plan to open 'a section' of the Presidential Recreational Trail to summer use by All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's). ATV's are currently only allowed use of the PRT during the winter months, along with snowmobiles. The meeting was packed, with a good representation from Randolph, along with others from Gorham. In short, the NHBOT unveiled its plans, which are to create a "southern connection", through Gorham, between the new Jericho ATV Park, west of Berlin, to the Success Loop network of trails, which are located east of the city.

In order to connect the two parks, NHBOT is proposing allowing ATV's to traverse through Moose Brook State Park, which currently does not allow ATV's during the summer, then onto a section of Jimtown Road, and finally onto the rail trail, crossing over the high trestle bridge over the Androscoggin River, and up the east side of the river to eventually meet up with the Success Pond Loop Road. The NHBOT claims that ATV users 'want access to Gorham's services', even though, with the current proposal, no direct access to businesses located on Main Street would be possible, as additional rights-of-way would have to be procured from amongst both public and private landholders. As such, this 'connection' would exist only 'in theory', and not 'in reality', even if NHBOT's proposal is passed.

NHBOT Chief, Chris Gamache, took questions from those present, and summarized by saying that there would be a two-week public response period, followed by a meeting amongst the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, with George Bald, as Commissioner, where the decision would finally be reached as to the opening of the connection. Essentially, the decision is being made completely within Commissioner Bald's purview.

I have followed up with many individuals, as well as conservation, public government, and user groups, to encourage further public discourse, and letter-writing. David Govatski, Chair of the Jefferson Conservation Commission, announced a resolution had been passed by that group to request of NHBOT a full-scale, comprehensive study be undertaken on the PRT, which would take into account the cumulative impacts of motorized use by ATV's, as well as additional public input, and meetings, so that the issue could be more fully explored.

Below is a list of contacts, with whom you might consider communicating your thoughts about underscoring the need for public involvement, information, and research. I am including email addresses for our NH State Representatives, Senator, Governor, Executive Councilman, Print Media, as well as DRED and NHBOT contacts.

State Representatives for Randolph, Lancaster,
Twin Mountain, Jefferson, Whitefield:

evalyn.merrick@leg.state.nh.us

scott.merrick07@gmail.com

wremick@ne.rr.com (William Remick)

honhdr@yahoo.com (Herbert Richardson)

State Representatives for Gorham, Shelburne:

hatchbill@hotmail.com (William Hatch)

State Senator for all of the above:

john.gallus@leg.state.nh.us (John Gallus)

New Hampshire Bureau of Trails :

nhtrails@dred.state.nh.us

chris.gamache@dred.state.nh.us (Chris Gamache)

george.bald@dred.state.nh.us (George Bald)

ted.austin@dred.state.nh.us (Ted Austin)

Governor's Executive Council Member for
North Country:

ray.burton@myfairpoint.net (Ray Burton)

Governor John Lynch:

[http://www4.egov.nh.gov/governor/goveforms/
comments.asp](http://www4.egov.nh.gov/governor/goveforms/comments.asp)

Berlin Daily Sun:

BDS@BERLINDAILYSUN.COM

Berlin Reporter:

berlinreporter@salmonpress.com

Passing the Torch (History of the Randolph Christmas Caroling)

By Lynn Hunt

During the mid 70's, a group of young "whippersnappers" gathered at John and Cathy McDowell's home, grabbed a variety of caroling hymns, and set out to "inspire" the unknowing residents of Randolph. This escapade always ended at "the Farm" where Jack and Gwen Boothman were the ultimate hosts to this small band of enthusiastic carolers. We gathered around the fire, consumed Christmas cookies, hot buttered rum (more rum than cookies), and listened in awe as Jack recited Robert Service's The Cremation of Sam McGee. This tradition of ending our caroling mission at "the Farm" continued until the passing of Jack in the fall of 1983 at which time our noble group of carolers started and ended at the McDowells.

Sometime in the mid 80's, the McDowells had a dining room table calamity, and I offered to host the caroling party - for that year; and so the torch was passed. There are numerous memories and special people who have made this event a part of Randolph. (Who could forget the 4-H carolers we "edged out" as we caroled to the few folks who would listen?) As I write this article, many wonderful faces spring to mind: Jane Koopman (sugared almonds), Roger and Anne Wilson, Don and Barbara Wilson, Robert Underhill, Woody and Karen Eitel (candy canes and dancing), Mary Ayer, Phil and Patty Scott, Gail Scott, the Pfeffers and family (Bill in shorts on the coldest of nights), Bob Hatch, Bea and Haywood Alexander, Larry and Yvonne Jenkins (In 1985 Larry ordered 20 dozen egg rolls for the caroling party, we ate the egg rolls at playgroup for years afterwards! In 2006, Larry brought oysters on the half shell!), Bill and Paula Bradley, Bill and Barbara Arnold (Bill's twinkling tie, Barb's



Jim and Lynn Hunt's home, the former I.B. Crosby house.

sparkling earrings and "Yukon" always included). Walter and Ingrid Graff (who have never been on time in 25+ years, but have always been "on time" in

spirit), Cathy and John McDowell (forever supportive – but really, the dining room table? And, John, sacrificing his lips while playing the trumpet) Sally and Greg Glines (carrying on the Boothman tradition of The Cremation of Sam McGee and Greg – another "lip" sacrifice), Sue and Chris Hawkins (tractor drawn hay wagon- seemed like a "good idea" at the time, but it happened to be the coldest night in history!), Mark and Katie Kelley (40 carolers in the back of a large, white, windowless, cubicle truck with a roll up door - another "good idea" at the time, but carbon monoxide seemed to be a problem.), Ian and Barbara Turnbull (Barb still carrying on Jane's tradition of sugared almonds and Ian with his wonderful voice), Marie Beringer, her family, and her accordion (the discovery of "fingerless" gloves has made Marie's life easier), Jim and Nancy Penny, Ben and Arlene Eisenburg, the Potters, Bob and Rita Savage, Jon Martinson, Ted and Sandy Wier, Doug Mayer, Stevers, Kenisons, Browns, Demers, Micklejohns (I will miss the shortbread), Scarinzas, Parlettes, Cotnoirs, Fred Hubbard (who was too shy to let us carol – but not a bad idea!), Aubes, Phinneys, Ellie and Betsy, Becky, Anne Kenison, Cormiers (Paul – many thanks for filling in and continuing "Sam McGee"), Craig and Jeanne Malick (Jeanne – who first told me about her thyroid cancer in the back seat of a car as we were off to carol - good plan on your part, Jeanne!), the Sappingtons who allowed us to "troop in", share their warmth and their spectacular Christmas trees, all of our children who have "survived" this event, and the others who have carried on this tradition.

I would be remiss if I did not mention my husband, Jim. (Unbeknownst to him, he not only married me but an entire Christmas Caroling event!) And my sons, Reid and Will, who have "stuffed" more mailboxes in their lifetimes than they would like to think about!

And so... the torch is passed to: **Jeff and Raina Scarinza's home on Rt. 2, (next to the Grand View), Friday, December 18th, 6:45 P.M.**

Bring a dessert or an appetizer to share. All are welcome.

The torch may be passed, but the memories live on. See you on the 18th!

RMC Centennial in 2010

By Randy Meiklejohn with Judy Hudson

Mark your calendars now for the Randolph Mountain Club's centennial events in summer 2010! Over a seven-week period in July and August, the club will sponsor a series of special hikes, historical exhibits, social gatherings and more, bringing together summer residents, year-round Randolphians, Camp caretakers and trail crew members past and present. The Town and the Club have changed greatly over the past century, but the continuity of our hiking traditions and of the families in our community give us much to celebrate and remember. 100 years – be there!

Early planning has already established some of the major events:

- Sunday, July 4: Fourth of July Tea. The festivities will kick off at the traditional tea with the scheduled release of Judy Hudson's history: *Peaks & Paths—A Century of the Randolph Mountain Club*. Judy will be signing copies for all who purchase them, and some special historical flourishes may be added to the conventional tea protocol.

- Saturday, July 17: The Rendezvous. If you've ever wondered where this venerable RMC hike got its name, it helps to know that it originally was in fact a rendezvous, with hikers following different routes to a single destination. In the centennial revival, the Rendezvous challenge might be to find the most unusual—or perhaps the longest—way to reach the site. Walkers will be encouraged to don historic costumes from various eras, and prizes will be awarded in both apparel and pathsmanship categories.

- Friday/Saturday, August 6/7: Trail crew and Camp caretakers gathering. Reunioners will be able to set up tents and also use the Jones Cottage. Some activities will focus on the crews, such as a volunteer work project, but other events, such as a Saturday night potluck meal, followed by a band or other entertainment, may be open to the wider community.

- Saturday, August 14: Annual Meeting of the RMC, at the Town Hall. Marking the anniversary of the Club's founding in August 1910, the meeting will include special presentations and, at the end, a birthday party with a giant cake.

- Saturday, August 21: Annual picnic, softball games and square dance. Let's bring out our best charades talent, sing an extra round or two for old times' sake, field a full nine on a side for softball, and fill the Beringers' barn with music and dancing.

Other ideas still in the works:

- Special work projects: Join RMC crew members in maintaining trails and camps.

- 100 miles at 100 years: Hike all the RMC trails for the centennial, and earn a special patch.

- Foot race to Crag Camp: A summer-long challenge, with prizes in several age groups.

And remember to don your new centennial t-shirt – available next summer – everywhere you go!

Volunteers are still needed to help it all come together. If you would like to help plan or lead one of the events, please contact any of the RMC centennial committee members:

- Judy & Al Hudson, abudson@anthro.umass.edu, (413) 256-6950

- Jamie & Sue Maddock, smaddock@xcplanet.com, (207) 384-5485

- Sarah Gallop, seg@mit.edu, (781) 729-2821

- Randy Meiklejohn, rmeiklejohn@verizon.net, (617) 739-0206

- Doug Mayer (for crew reunion), dmayer@cartalk.com, (603) 466-5395

Look for centennial updates in upcoming issues of the Mountain View, in the RMC newsletter and on the RMC website, www.randolphmountainclub.org.

Do you have an article for the Mountain View?

The deadline for April articles is March 15th. Unless prior arrangements have been made, please try to keep articles under 1,200 words and send **non-biased** articles or information pertinent to the Randolph community to Dede Aube either by email to: daube@ne.rr.com or snail mail to: 32 Nekal Lane, Randolph, NH 03593

The Hottest Ticket in Town

By Barbara Arnold

On Saturday, October 3, 2009, nearly 160 people had tickets that granted them the opportunity to relive the Mt. Crescent House Saturday night buffet, revised, after forty years, by the Boothman family. Lead by Sarah Boothman Glines and Becky Boothman, the entire family was enlisted to cook and serve a delicious meal to everyone.

The food was the traditional menu from the Saturday night buffet: baked ham, Jacobs Cattle maple baked beans, lobster Newburg, smoked tongue, potato salad, shrimp, sweet potato casserole, Becky's Famous Sticky Buns, Gwen's Maple Cake, green beans almandine, apple pie (with cheddar cheese) along with additional items such as tossed salad, butter-nut squash and spinach lasagna and fresh baked rolls. There was even a brochure with the recipes for purchase.

People from far and near came to celebrate and catch up. There were 2 seatings; 5:30 PM and 7 PM, both seatings were filled to capacity. The room was decorated with pictures and memorabilia from the Mt. Crescent house. It was wonderful to watch people reconnect and listen to all the stories of old times and events. During the evening's festivities, Selectmen Ken Lee and John Turner presented Sally Glines with a token of appreciation for her years of service on the board of selectman.



The extended Boothman family, our hosts for the dinner: Jennifer Parker, Becky Boothman, Jeff Parker, Maria Neal, Greg Glines, Kevin Glines, Sara Glines, Mark Glines, Sarah Parker, and Jamie Latarte. B. Arnold photo.

The dinner was a fundraiser for the Mt. Crescent Trailhead Project. The purpose of the project is to purchase 10 acres of land to add to the Town Forest. The land is located at the end of Randolph Hill Road and will provide access to the Forest. It will also provide a parking area to approach the RMC trails on Mt. Crescent thereby protecting hikers' ability to use these trails in perpetuity. Close to \$4000 was raised by the dinner for the fund. The overall goal to complete the project (purchase the land and build the road) is \$150,000.

It was a truly magical evening. Thanks to Jimmy Olson for providing entertainment on the newly fixed and tuned Town Hall piano. But most of all, thanks to the Boothman family for not only raising a substantial amount of money, but also for helping people remember and celebrate some of Randolph's wonderful history.



Jimmy Olson played the newly tuned piano during the Buffet. B. Arnold photo.



The desert buffet. L. Morneweck photo.

Possible solutions to the Randolph Hill Road Dilemma

By Ken Lee, Selectman

As the inhabitants of the approximately 110 residential properties served by Randolph Hill Road know, the road's condition leaves much to be desired. Our Life Squad has expressed concern regarding transporting patients over it in ambulances. The condition worsens each year with freezing weather bringing frost heaves, dips and speed bumps at culverts, springs flowing from cracks in the pavement, and poor drainage causing glaciers to form where water runs across the surface and freezes – untouchable by road salt in the low temperatures that sometimes persist indefinitely.

What may not be commonly known is that the first 1.7 miles of Randolph Hill Road [the paved section] is a State of New Hampshire Road, actually it is considered a “summer” road. It is probably the only road, so classified, that does not lead to a state or federal recreation area or State Park. The summer road status means that the town is responsible for plowing the road in the winter, but the maintenance of the road surface, brushing, and drainage are the responsibility of the State Department of Transportation. Unfortunately, there are many roads like this in New Hampshire. We have been told there are 409 miles of them with little money allocated for their maintenance.

Members of the Randolph Board of Selectmen attended two hearings on the 2011-2020 Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan and stated their concern about the condition of Randolph Hill Road. Our local Governor's Councilor, Raymond Burton, chaired the sessions and offered advice on how to bring Randolph Hill Road to the attention of our newly appointed District Engineer who, Ray pointed out, might have some additional funding available starting in the next fiscal year if the plan was passed as written. The board solicited positive votes on the plan from our State Senator and State Representatives and was joined by the Life Squad, Police Department, Fire Department, School Bus Driver, and Road Agent in making the condition of Randolph Hill Road known to our new District Engineer. It worked.

On November 9th, the Selectmen were joined at their regularly scheduled meeting by Dave Rodrigue, the District One Engineer, and Jim Marshall, from the DOT Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance. Three alternatives were proposed.

The first possibility is to do nothing. The road would continue to receive minimal maintenance, possibly slightly more than it has been receiving. But with 407 miles of similar road competing for funds we would probably end up in much the same situation as we are currently in – a bad road with very limited state funds available to fix it.

The second possibility is to have the DOT do some work to improve the road entirely at their expense over a period of years, a total of 200 -300 thousand dollars worth, but with the caveat that when the work is done, the road be reclassified as a town road. This would seem to be a good path, but leaves us with a road that will still have significant problems as it would cost more than that to just pave the road and the town will have the full future maintenance responsibility

The third possibility is to participate in the State Aid Highway Program. Under this program the cost of rehabilitation would be shared with the state, the town paying 1/3 of the engineering and construction costs. The town would hire engineers to provide possible plans for the road rehabilitation with associated cost estimates. The engineering evaluation and the final level of rehabilitation selected would determine the actual cost, but one guideline we have is \$700,000 per mile, or 1.2 million for the entire road. The earliest construction funding would likely be available is for summer of 2013. This approach offers the possibility of doing a true reconstruction to correct drainage problems, frost heaves, and insufficient gravel base and under pavement drainage. Engineering costs must be initially borne entirely by the town, but are reimbursed at 2/3 of total when the project is started. The only drawback is that if the town doesn't appropriate the funds to do the construction [or should the State not fund this program] there would be no reimbursement for the design cost and no improvement to the road. Caveats for the town to assume ownership and future maintenance of the road apply to this option also. Borrowing would be required to pursue this approach. Borrowing \$350,000 for 20 years would raise the tax rate by \$0.52 per thousand the first year, declining to \$0.27 in the last year, based on current interest rates and valuation of the town. Although expensive, this approach allows creating a road that would need only routine maintenance for 40 - 50 or more years and gets the most contribution from the State toward the long term costs.

Continued next page

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The Selectmen strongly support the third option. It is clear that the State wants to pass this road off to the Town. At this point we have the option of having it returned to good condition using 67% State funds. This opportunity would not exist if we procrastinate and have them summarily turn the road over to the Town. It is the only way to assure we end up with a road that will serve us long into the future.

The Selectmen expect to place a warrant article on the March Town Meeting Warrant asking the voters to approve bonding of this project. This would only approve obtaining a bond or loan. The actual loan would not be obtained until construction was scheduled.

Opinions supporting, or not supporting, the Selectmen's course of action would be appreciated so selectmen are able to make the proper proposals at Town Meeting, on March 9th. There is no sense spending town money on engineering if there is not a commitment to approve a bond issue to fund the work. E-mail to RHR@randolph.nh.gov or postal mail to 130 Durand Road, are preferred as they are easier to tally, but telephone calls to any of the Selectmen or to the Town office will be gladly accepted.

Randolph Hill Road Traffic Evaluation

Residential Properties *

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Seasonal</u>	<u>Year Round</u>
Randolph Hill Road	69	38	31
High Acres Road	10	6	4
Glover Spring Road	3	2	1
Pasture Path	7	6	1
Boothman Lane	8	3	5
Puggy Huddle Road	2	1	1
Woodspring Road	6	1	5
Nekal Lane	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Total Served by Randolph Hill Road **	107	57	50

* Some Properties have more than one Residential Structure

** Planning Board Regulations assume 10 trips per day per Residence

Seasonal and Year Round Numbers are Estimates

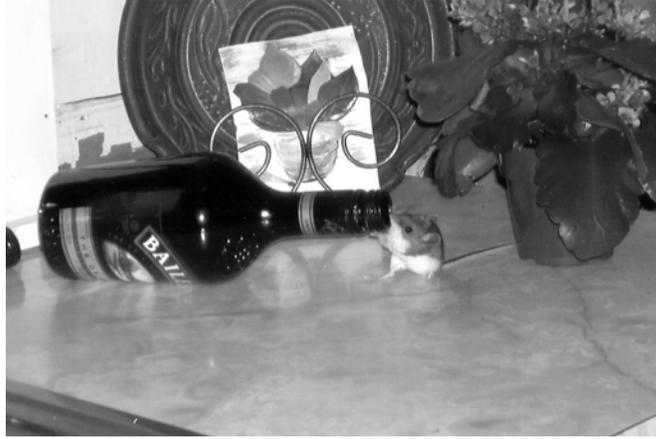
Sex Among the Elm Trees

Now that Randolph has a fair number of disease-resistant Liberty elms, and very few of the older non-disease-resistant traditional elms remain, what can we expect about the offspring of the new trees? Will they show the same resistance as their parents?

The answer from the chief technician at the Elm Research Institute in Keene (where we got our Liberty elms 10-15 years) ago is as follows:

Since it takes two elms to make a baby, it all depends who the parents are. If a Liberty elm is fertilized by a traditional elm, the prognosis is not good. But if both parents are Liberty elms, the chances are good that their offspring will have as much disease-resistance as their parents. Since there are so few traditional elms left, the chances of a Liberty elm being fertilized by another Liberty are high. Elm "sperm" can travel a long way, as much as a mile or more. So we have to live with uncertainty; but at least the odds are strongly in our favor...

Jim Baldwin, chair, Elm Tree Project.



Not a creature was stirring ...
except for one small mouse.
Photo by Nancy Penney

Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season

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