

JUNE 2018

# HALIFAX NEWS

## THE LOST PURSE

I'm a tad absent-minded. Well, OK, OK, I'm very absent-minded.

Some years ago, I drove to Boston without my purse. That was scary because I worried I might need gas or my car might break down. Luckily, none of this happened, and the friend to whom I was delivering an order of lamb paid me in cash. In fact, it had been the box of lamb that made me forget the purse. If I'm carrying one thing, I don't notice I'm not carrying another.

I'll drive to Greenfield to return library books but leave the books on the table by the door. I'll go to Greenfield with a long shopping list and forget to take the list along. A friend who used to be in the RAF until he got polio suggested I do what pilots do: go through a list of things to do before you set out. Good idea. I came up with "Fire, Water, and Gold," and I *usually* recite this before I get into the car. The Fire is to make sure the wood furnace is OK, without too much wood or an open damper. The Water is to make sure the toilet isn't running, because if it is, I'd have to restart the siphon to my gravity-flow system. And the Gold is my purse.

That usually works, but in a mega absent-minded person like me, I still sometimes slip up if I'm trying to juggle taking a lot of things somewhere.

So, when I recently went to a medical appointment in Bennington and had to take a myriad of things for a study I'm in and discovered when I got there that I didn't have my purse, I wasn't overly worried. I figured I'd probably left it on the kitchen table. I had plenty of gas and I hadn't planned on doing any shopping, so I was fine.

But when I got home, the purse wasn't on the kitchen table or in the basket where I usually keep it. Well, maybe I'd put it in the car and it had worked its way under the seat. It hadn't.

Maybe I'd gone into the office on my way out and set the purse down there. Nope. Not there either. I began to worry.

On the way out, I'd stopped at my mailbox on Route 112 to pick up my mail. Maybe I'd dropped it there. Nope. No black bag by the mailbox.

Now I began to panic. When you lose a purse, it's not just the money. It's all the other things you have in it like driver's license, insurance card, library cards and so forth, not to mention credit cards and other important ID. Not to mention the tape measure, whistle, plastic cutlery, and foldable raincoat.

In an effort to calm down, I went into the back room and found there was a message on my answering machine. I played it and heard, "This is Bill Butler on Pennell Hill. I have something of yours. I think you know what it is. Please call me." And a number.

Of course, I called him. And of course, he had my purse. He explained what had happened.

He was driving down Route 112 when he saw a purse in the road. Ahead of him was a pickup truck from Connecticut with a couple of young men in it, and they were slowing down to stop. So, he sped up, said he'd take care of it, and picked up the purse. He found my name from the drivers' license.

Of course, the two young men could have been honest, or they could have run off to Connecticut with the purse and I would never have seen it again. I feel so lucky Bill was driving by at the right time.

Apparently when I stopped to pick up the mail and opened the passenger side door to put the mail in the car, the purse slid off the passenger seat where I'd put it and I didn't hear it fall. Needless to say, I'm not doing that again.

Sometimes today it seems as if the world is filled with greed, graft, and corruption. It's nice to know that in Halifax, at least, there are honest people like Bill with old-fashioned values like helping your neighbor when help is needed. Thank you, Bill.

– Gretchen Becker, May 22, 2018, Halifax, Vermont

# Community News

## BENEFIT BREAKFAST UPCOMING JUNE 30TH

On **Saturday, June 30, 2018**, the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road will host another fabulous breakfast presented by the *Breakfast & Suppers Clan*. The Breakfast menu will feature Egg Skillet, a delicious combination of eggs & breakfast meat & vegetables. There will also be the perennial favorites: Pancakes (Blueberry, Chocolate Chip, Plain) with real Halifax maple syrup, Fried Potatoes, Ham or Sausage, fruit juice & coffee.

The Breakfast will benefit the *Breakfast & Suppers Clan*, the group that puts on the breakfasts, as we need some funds to keep these great meals going. Come enjoy it all for **\$7 / adult, \$5 / child 5-12 (preschool free)** in West Halifax, Vt from **8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. on 06/30/2018**. Hope to see you there!



## TOWN EVENTS REPORT

On Saturday, May 5, 2018, we enjoyed an excellent turnout for the **Firemen's Benefit Breakfast in West Halifax** at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road. The event raised over \$900 for the Halifax Fire Department, and the Fire Department members kept busy serving coffee and pancakes and sausage gravy and keeping the tables clean all morning. Many thanks to the *Breakfast & Suppers Gang*, Coopers Coop, and many volunteers who donated their effort and/or eggs, Vermont Ham, Jacksonville General Store sausage, other fixings and Real Maple Syrup tapped and boiled in Halifax. Mmmm!

The Breakfast & Suppers Clan (affectionately known as 'the BS clan') collected surveys from breakfast-goers to see what suppers and breakfast treats Halifax may see in the near future.

## COMMUNITY CLUB

The Halifax Community Club continues to strive to maintain the historic building. This summer we are having the outside painted, thanks to a very generous donation from a caring family of which all family members are members of the Halifax Community Club.



A new septic system has been installed thanks to a lot of volunteer labor! This upgrade was a bit overdue, and we are glad to have it done!

Insulation will be sprayed under the floor some time this summer. That has been a much-needed project for a long time now. Happy to see it happening!

Hopefully the walls can be insulated in the not-too-distant future.

We continue to work hard to raise funds for these types of projects.

Thanks to Edie Fenton the 'new' round picnic table has received another coat of poly to keep it in good shape. The 'old' picnic table is in need of repair; that is to happen soon including repainting.

Leslie Green has offered to mow the lawn this summer as a community service. Thank you, Leslie!!!! Wayne is glad for that.

The Hall has been in use quite often this Spring. The club (as it has for years) sponsored a luncheon after Bernice Barnett's graveside service on May 19. The service was held in the Hall because of rainy weather. Just less than a week later the club sponsored a luncheon after Bernice's brother Clayton Burnett's funeral on May 24. Plus the Hall has been rented often by residents. Also, the Tai Chi and Yoga classes are being held each week.

We are happy to see the Hall being used.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** The inside of the Halifax Ice Cream Trailer and the LP gas tank are in need of painting this summer. HCC is **looking for volunteers** for those two tasks. Joan will paint one so that leaves just one left to do. Email Joan at [jwcinvt@gmail.com](mailto:jwcinvt@gmail.com) or call her at 802.368.7733.

### **POTLUCK on SATURDAY JUNE 23 – 5-7 PM**

The next Halifax Community Potluck will be on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 5-7 p.m., at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax, VT. Bring a dish to share! Plates, cups, napkins, and flatware will be provided. Clean-up volunteers NEEDED: please email [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com) or leave a message with Joan Courser at 368-7733.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

On May 1, three trucks and ten men responded to a mutual aid call to a fire at the mill in Colrain MA.

On May 18, four men responded to a medical call on Hubbard Hill Road.

On May 21, three men responded to a medical call at Thomas Hill Road.

On May 21, four men responded to a rescue call on Brook Road; Deerfield Valley ambulance transported to a hospital.

On May 22, one truck and three men responded to a mutual aid call to 'cover' Jacksonville fire station.

On May 24, one truck and six firefighters responded to Heath to a structure fire.

The Annual Firemen Auction is July 7 this year (always the First Saturday in July). Items for the auction are needed; call Wayne at 368-7733.

Remember... **You DO need a PERMIT to burn.** Call Malcolm Sumner @ 368-2484 or Wayne Courser @ 368-7733 for a burn permit.

Other concerns to report? Contact First Constable Andrew Rice (802-380-1986) and Second Constable Roy Richardson: [halifaxconstable@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxconstable@gmail.com).

### **SENIOR MEAL – FRIDAY JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**

***The date of the June meal has been changed!!!*** JUNE 8 is the date. Joan has four nieces and a nephew graduating in NJ and wants to be there. This is the reason for the change of date. **The menu:** Fruit with Cottage Cheese, Pork Tenderloin, Mashed Potato, Veggie, Rolls and Dessert. Serving at noon. All seniors are welcome.

➤ A call to Joan is appreciated 802.368.7733.

Mmmmmm! 😊

Sponsored by Senior Solutions.

## SIGHTINGS

Lots of great sightings happening! Paul Blaise saw a Moose. Wayne and Joan saw deer. Old Lane has an Owl. Malcolm is still seeing the Eagle now and then. Monica had a young Moose in her yard one morning and a deer on another day. Liz saw an Indigo Bunting, and Joan had one, too. A Bear has been visiting the village quite often; many have seen it or evidence of it being in their yards or on their porches! Joan saw two small bear walking the yellow line right in the road in the village in the wee hours of the night. Laurel's daughter, granddaughter & son-in-law saw one near the Guilford border.



Red efts are out in force in West Halifax VT – May 28, 2018

A Bear visited on Brook Road one night. It was on Lazelle's porch and other places... A few turkey have been seen -- not as many as usual. I am convinced they know it is turkey season and are hiding. Good for them!

Joan and Wayne are enjoying the hummer, Baltimore Orioles, Red-breasted Grosbeaks, Cardinals, Goldfinches, Sparrow, various Woodpeckers and lots more. Love the summer birds!!!!

I have a bird I can't quite identify. It is either a Veery [white sides] or a Hermit Thrush [smudgy side spots, reddish tail]. I am leaning towards Veery but am not sure, never had one before.

I miss my Jenny Wren, first time in 40 years I have not had one nest here. I am still hoping she

will come. Miss that wonderful singing of hers.

Please share your bird and other animal sightings with us: e-mail [jwcinvt@gmail.com](mailto:jwcinvt@gmail.com).



Bees busy on blueberries – West Halifax, VT - May 28, 2018



## SORROW

With sadness we announce the death of **Phillip Hardgrove**. Phil is a long-time resident of Halifax. He leaves his wife Regina, daughters and sons. He will be missed very much. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

With sadness we announce the death of **Clayton Barnett** age 96. "Clate" was born in Halifax the fourth of seven children to Archie and Mary Burnett (Bernice was the baby of this family), went to school in Halifax, graduated from Whitingham High School. He had lived in Keene NH for many years but never lost his love of his hometown Halifax, VT. He loved the Community Hall and requested to have a luncheon after his funeral and burial in the Niles cemetery (not far from where he was born and grew up on the family farm on Hubbard Hill). Clate was a very thoughtful man who supported the Community Hall building faithfully. At the luncheon we sat and visited with one son. He told us he had asked his father what was his advice on the great life that he had.....Clate's answer was BE KIND!!! That was certainly Clayton Burnett!!! His sense of humor was a wonderful asset also!!! Every Burnett I ever knew had that wonderful Burnett humor!!!! He will be missed by many. Our condolences to family and friends.

Rest in peace, dear friend.

## NEWSLETTER NEWS

Got a great Halifax story? Write it up and send it over! We look to you, folks, for our front-page stories and short articles, too. PLEASE contact Joan if you have a story to contribute to the Halifax Newsletter: [jwcinvt@gmail.com](mailto:jwcinvt@gmail.com) 802.368.7733 or Laurel at [laurelacopeland@gmail.com](mailto:laurelacopeland@gmail.com). Keep our newsletter going! Thank you to all contributors, past and present. ...ALSO... when your subscription expires (date in red on your address label) the subscription price is now \$7.00 per year, mailed to PO Box 27, W. Halifax, VT 05358. Prefer an e-subscription? Send your request for emailed PDF version to [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com)

– Joan Courser



## HALIFAX

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Johnson of White Plains, N. Y., spent the week end at "Windham Woods."

Miss Jane Jackson of Greenwich, Conn., is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davis at "Mountain Crest."

The body of John Worden was brought from Colrain, Mass., Tuesday and buried in the Bell cemetery.

Miss Emma Haywood of Boston came Friday to work as housekeeper in the home of Town Clerk Good-nough.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Porter went to Littleton, N. H., to spend the week end. Mr. Porter returned Sunday. Mrs. Porter is remaining a week to visit her mother.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Shrewsbury and son, Jerry, of Forest Hills, N. Y., have come to "Timber Hill Farm" for the summer. Jerry has completed his freshman year at Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Davis of Greenwich, Conn., came Friday to "Mountain Crest Farm" to remain for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Lutz of Brooklyn, N. Y., have been spending a few days at their home, "Jolly Hill Lodge."

## Events of the Past

Recalled from Files of Reformer and Phoenix 75, 50, 25 and 10 Years Ago. 1923

West Halifax: Graduating exercises will be held at the Baptist church Friday evening, June 22 at 8 o'clock. Dancing will follow at 9 at the Grange Hall. A special feature of the dance will be that radio music will

be used, other satisfactory music being furnished in case the radio fails.

## Jacksonville Fails To

### Accept Power Line Bid

JACKSONVILLE—At a special village meeting in Masonic Hall Wednesday evening, Jacksonville voters passed over the article calling for action on the sale of an electric transmission line owned by the village to the New England Power Company.

Dismissal of the article came after the reading and acceptance of a report by the committee named to negotiate with the New England Power Company in regard to the sale of the line. The committee reported that the company had made an offer of \$29,676.

## SOUTH HALIFAX

### School Notes.

Elaine Fairbanks and Helen Ruth Harris graduated from the eighth grade at exercises Friday evening in the West Halifax church. Elaine plans to enter Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls, Mass., in the fall and Helen plans to attend high school at Jack-sonville.

Pupils having perfect attendance for the spring term were Helen Ruth Harris, Alice McKinnon, Beverly McKinnon and Charlotte Miner. Elaine Fairbanks was absent only one day.

Charlotte Miner completed another year of perfect attendance, making a total of five out of her six years of school.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bender of White Plains, N. Y., returned Friday after spending two weeks at their place here.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrick Harris entertained Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Starkey of Shelburne Falls, Mass., Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Harris and daughter, Helen, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Deane and Mrs. Vinnie Peterkin last Sunday in honor of Mrs. Merrick Harris' birthday.

## Unnamed Guilford Pool Yields Four-Pound Trout

Herbert Ingalls, Town Water Department employe, had a long story to tell his friends on Thursday—the longest story, he believes, that has been told in these parts for many a moon.

The tale concerned a 20-inch, four-pound-two-oz. square-tailed brook trout that Ingalls caught about 6 p.m. Wednesday. This "monster" was lured on to the hook with a night crawler. Ingalls claims, and the catch was performed without the aid of a net. The fish measured 12¾ inches in length.

The big question that would make the story complete and probably start a "run" on the pool is "Where did he catch it?" Ingalls says that he won't divulge the spot because he's going back for more some day and he also plans to draw a bead on a turtle which he claims is at least two feet in diameter and lives in the same pool. Ingalls did say, however, that the pool is in Guilford.

## WEST HALIFAX

The pre-school clinic was held at Grange Hall Tuesday when 17 children were examined by Dr. Albert M. Pearson of Wilmington and Miss Olive Ballard, district nurse. Five children were vaccinated for small pox and seven were inoculated for diphtheria and tetanus. They were assisted by Mrs. Osborn Mason and Mrs. Leon LaRock.

Miss Claire Hudson of Brattleboro spent several days last week with her grandmother, Mrs. Marion Wheeler, and attended graduation.

Miss Patty Carpenter is spending a few days with her grandparents.

Mrs. Vinnie Peterkins of South Deerfield, Mass., returned home Wednesday after spending a week with her niece, Mrs. Clifton Deane.

Mrs. Harold Reed of Skowhegan, Me., is spending a week with her mother, Mrs. Marion Wheeler. Her son, Carl, came with her and is planning to stay during the summer.

Homer Sumner, 15 months of age, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sumner, who has been seriously ill with bronchial pneumonia, is greatly improved.

The Ladies' Aid will meet in the church vestry Thursday, June 24, at 2 p. m. to tie a quilt.

## COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE NEWS

RAY I. PESTLE

County Agent

### Farmers' Day Association Plans.

This year at the Wilmington Farmer's Day Exhibition classes for grass silage and hay (baled and loose) will appear on the premium list for the first time. At their annual meeting last Saturday the officers of the association voted to include these classes this year. The American Agriculturist is giving \$10 as a first prize to the winner in the grass silage contest.

A committee consisting of Harold Wheeler, Harold Whitney, and Floyd Stone was elected to visit the Cheshire County fairgrounds with the county agent and inspect the new cattle sheds. This committee is to report to the directors at a special meeting when action will be taken on the matter of constructing sheds for animals. The construction of sheds would eliminate the last excuse some farmers have for not exhibiting stock.



Swamp Pinks in Bloom May 28,  
2018 – West Halifax VT



NEWSLETTER  
P.O. Box 27  
West Halifax, VT 05358

# Halifax News

JUNE 2018



Spring has sprung in Halifax!

- Joan Courser



4 generations of the Copeland family – Art & Lynda, Laurel, Kamala with her husband and little Navia (6) – visited the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum on Memorial Day. Pictured: Docent Polly Barnett explains the Vermont Central railroad hand cart to Navia and Jason Ferris.

-Laurel Copeland