

OCTOBER 2018

HALIFAX NEWS

TRACTOR DAY, AUGUST 23, 2005

I had the most wonderful day yesterday. Ray [White] came over to take down the two cherry trees that had died last summer. In my heart, it was like going back in time, to the childhood days of playing in the sand (actually dirt) pile. It was one part working with my dad, in the even timing that comes with trust and a steady rhythm, one part sure-footed confidence, one part glee of a tomboy child, and another part the satisfaction that comes from working so evenly with another.



Ray went to work. First, he surveyed the situation, the wind direction, where each tree needed to fall, putting together his plan of attack. And the big trees came down, offering themselves without resistance, to my building project. They would go to the sawmill and be cut up into one-bys and two-bys then stacked and dried for two years. I would use them in the interior of my house I would build in 2008. Ray cut the trees up into twelve-foot lengths, which rendered 770' of usable lumber. I put aside several knurls to dry for a couple of years after which I would turn some into bowls on my lathe. I used other pieces to make spoons, ladles, and plates. In one of the knurls, we found a frightened wood toad all curled up. Ray tried to lay that limb down gently so as not to increase its anxiety. This, from a man over six feet tall, who hunts elk, deer here in VT and out west, the odd irony of the Vermont male. We cut the burl out from the log, gently, and put it aside so that toad could regain her composure and choose to stay or leave at her

convenience. He also cut several three-inch thick flat pieces from the stump for future plates, or small tabletops. I planned on going back the next day to check out the limbs left behind for other things that we might want for future construction or craft.

But the real excitement came in the dragging and loading of the twelve-foot logs. I went back up to the barn and got my 1951 Ford Ferguson Tractor with a front bucket loader. Ray had a one-ton dump truck that would transport the logs to Stone's sawmill for milling. The plan was to drag the logs from the woods to the clearing where his truck was parked. Then to lift them, one by one, chained to the bucket, onto the truck. Ray and I worked as one, with mutual respect and confidence in the other. That was the super part of the day. I would back up to the log, which was either over and below a small knoll or atop a small crown of stone. I backed up as Ray assured me that the tractor and I could do it. He'd say, "Have faith, girl. I wouldn't ask you to do anything that you couldn't. You'll be able to get out without getting stuck or rolling." So, I'd back up and over the crown, hook on and drag out the first log. My chest filled with joy – busting with pride as Ray unhooked the chain of this first conquest. I could hardly breathe. I'd never operated the tractor in these conditions. The process continued. Drag out the log, drop it, unhook, back and fill so that the tractor bucket is meeting the log, hook up and lift. Back up the big truck to the front of the log, drop the log onto the tailgate. Unhook. Back and fill the tractor to the opposite end of the log, hook up, lift and push the log onto the truck. It went like clockwork and with great caution, as to not endanger Ray who was doing all the hook-ups with the chains.

Then came the really dicey part. The other cherry tree had been dropped below the leach field mound. So, I had to back down and around a fairly steep grade, steep by tractor standards. I was afraid that she would roll. But Ray smiled and reassured me once again, and I just did it. I had to stand on the brakes, as they were not the most effective of devices, and prayed they'd hold. We hooked up the first log, I opened the throttle, and that old tractor just pulled right up the grade to the top. No problem. This



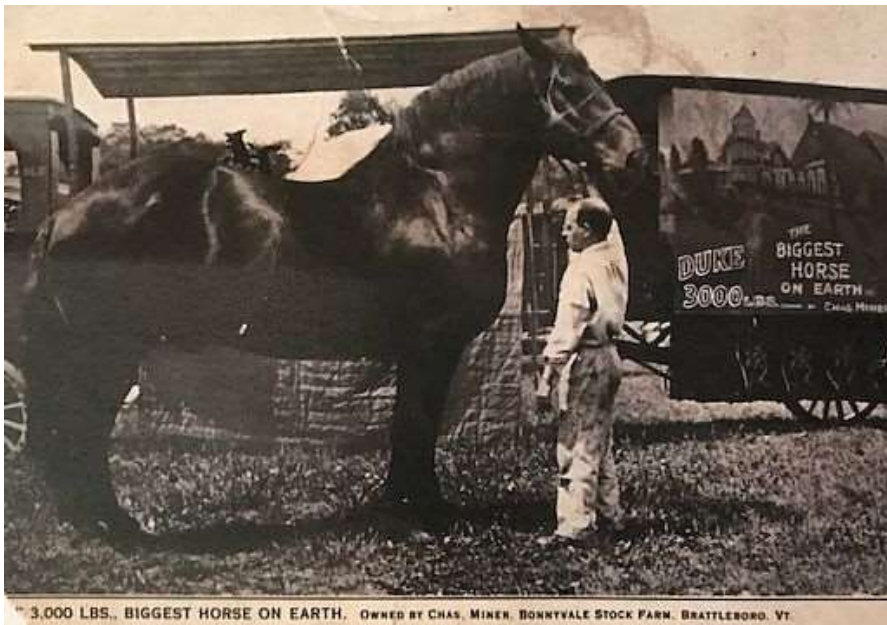
log was what is known as the “butt” log, the first log of the tree and the heaviest. This lift would surely try this old girl. As we hooked up to the butt log and started to lift it up onto the truck, the back end of the tractor started to shake and so did my knees. I wasn’t going to give up now. Ray got into his truck and backed up as I lifted the butt log up to meet the tailgate. After a little quiver from the back of the tractor lifting, the log was lowered safely, and my knees calmed, the racing heartbeat abated. Phew!

And, so we went three more times until we finally finished. I shut off the tractor motor with a wide grin across my face. Ray came over to me and said. “I’m really proud of you, Mary. I’ve worked with a lot of guys, but you never questioned what we were doing, just got in there and did it well. You operated that tractor like a pro! You should be proud of yourself. Thank you.” That meant a lot to me, the compliment of someone I respected and who treated me well, as a peer. I’m sure that my “beam” could be seen or felt for miles. I was warmed by it, in any case. Ray would drop the ten logs off at the sawmill on his way home that afternoon. We’d done our work in a continuous motion, a dance of machine and chain and human, with the cherry trees as our partner. They had been treated with respect and the gentility they deserved. We held an air of camaraderie between us, in the transformation. They will always be a part of the land they grew up on. From the smallest bowls and spoons made from the joints and knurls, to the floorboards and cabinets of my future home. But mostly, these trees offered me the opportunity to be young, once again. To occupy a space in my heart that at once, housed the child in wonderment and the adult in capability. A moment of feeling all grown up, as only a child can feel. Needless to say, I parked the tractor, and did nothing further that day. I was completely sated.

I went to bed early, with the soft, evening light. I didn’t read to fall asleep, just re-ran the day’s film as the daytime drifted into night and me with it.

~ Rev. Mary L. Brewster, West Halifax, VT

"DUKE" the BIGGEST HORSE IN THE WORLD



We want to thank our faithful reader Hugh Whitney of Marlboro for giving us the interesting picture. Hugh's folks were born in Halifax and he is very well acquainted with the town and its history. He stopped by with the picture for the newsletter, and we (Wayne & Joan) enjoyed a nice long visit, with much history of Halifax passed among the three of us. Hugh is just a wealth of interesting information!!! Not a whole lot is known about this picture. The horse was owned by Charles Miner at Bonnyvale Stock Farm in Brattleboro on Bonnyvale Road. Hugh says the farm is still there. As you can see in the picture, Duke was a beautiful, LARGE, 3,000-pound animal, well cared-for with a

lovely trailer in which it traveled around the country. Hugh brought to our attention the truck that they pulled the trailer with. You can partly see the truck and the wooden spokes and solid rubber tires telling us this is quite an old picture. Thanks again, Hugh!!

Community News

TOWN EVENTS REPORT

Saturday September 29 saw our 2nd Annual **Town of Halifax Celebration**, starting with a community breakfast as 7 am and lasting into the night. Thanks to all who

Latest U. S. Census figures show that Vermont's human population increased 6,000 over the past seven years—in contrast to its cow population, which is said to be dwindling for some reason or other. Maybe the former will be bigger than the latter one of these days. Oct. 1948

helped plan, organize, provision, and present the many activities, and to all those who came to celebrate small town life in Halifax! See you next year!

BLUEGRASS BAND CONCERT and BAKE SALE

Sunday, October 21, **Snake Mountain Bluegrass** band will be performing from 2 PM to 4 PM at the Community Hall in West Halifax. Tickets will go on sale in early October at the Halifax town office. Joan Courser, Laurel Copeland and Jason Ashcroft will have tickets to sell as will Jacksonville General Store, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, Dots of Dover and First Stop gas station and store in Jacksonville. Tickets available at the door the day of the event. BUT...get your tickets early as it sells out fast!!! Tickets are Adults \$10.00 -- child 12 and under \$5.00 -- pre-schoolers free. This is a benefit for the electrical work at the Community Hall. Snake Mountain plays great bluegrass music that will have you tapping your toes and clapping your hands! Snake Mt. Bluegrass has brought their wonderful music to Halifax three times now. They are very popular and nice, super talented guys. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

Desserts will be available to purchase - assorted pies, by the slice or whole pie, coffee, tea, iced tea and water. ****Any Halifax pie bakers.....???...we need your help!!!! Call Joan @ 368-7733 (email: JWCinVT@gmail.com) if you can help us out by baking a pie or two!!! ****

Tai Chi weekly sessions Wednesdays at 10 AM at the Community Hall followed by **Gentle Yoga** at 11 AM. Tai chi contact: Seth 802-490-4294. Gentle Yoga: PenfieldChester@gmail.com.



NEW SIGN ON GREEN RIVER ROAD – if you spotted a rooster in the bushes, you found the new Coopers Coop Farm Stand! The farm stand is off Green River Road (take Clark to Old Green River Road to the Ashcroft farm, or Metcalf Road from the other direction). Cooper is the dog and pretty friendly!

COMMUNITY CLUB

The Community Club has had much work done to the Hall this summer: foam insulation in the crawl space under the floor; an extensive and much-needed electrical update; and repainting. Electrical work includes three new four-gang boxes under the bench in the hall, three new ones in the kitchen, lighted emergency exit signs at each exit with lights that come on when power goes off, new wiring for the ceiling lights, plus a new outlet in the foyer and another weatherproof one outside on the east side. The painters scraped the outside walls just before Town Celebration (between rainy days) preparatory to painting the entire outside of the building. Hoping for some sunshine!! Soon the Halifax company that insulated the crawl space will be blowing cellulose insulation in the walls. This should complete this year's upgrades to the historic 1844 building.

NOW...it is time for us to have some fundraisers to replenish our funds. Our annual fund-raising letter will be going in the mail in mid-October.

We could not have done all of these upgrades without the friends and neighbors that help the Community Hall with their generous donations. We hope you will continue to help us keep this beautiful focal point in the village looking good and ready for anyone that needs a hall for a function. **Thank you!!!** Halifax Community Club meets monthly on a Monday at 6:45 pm, 1581 Hanson. Contact: LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or 368-7097. HCC documents: <http://czresearch.com/halifax/>

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

- On Sept. 3, five men and one truck responded to a motor vehicle accident on Rte. 112.
- On Sept. 12, two Halifax firemen, Whitingham rescue and the Deerfield Valley ambulance responded to a residence on Branch Road for a person having an allergic reaction to medicine; transported to Greenfield hospital.

- On Sept. 21, six men and one truck responded to a CO detector on Stage Road. Nothing found by the firemen. This September 21st call makes 50 calls for our fire department this year so far!!!!

SENIOR MEAL – Friday, October 19 will be the next Senior meal in Halifax. We serve at noon in the Community Hall at 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. Menu: Sauerbraten (beef slow-cooked in ketchup, mild spices, brown sugar and vinegar) -- it is an old German dish I think the seniors will enjoy. Served with potatoes, a vegetable, rolls and dessert. A call to Joan is much appreciated 802-368-7733.

SIGHTINGS

I have received some calls and emails from folks with interesting sightings. I'm always glad to hear from folks!

Liz Hull said she saw a Great Horned Owl walking in her driveway (would love to have seen that)! She said that there was a skunk around and that she thought the owl was interested in the skunk. She also has a couple of robins around and says they are on their way South. Marilyn Allen said she or perhaps Jesse saw a Moose. Doug and Marilou Parkhurst saw a bear and some turkeys around Halifax. Wayne and Lewis have seen a White Egret at Gates Pond! I have never heard of an Egret this far North. The Copelands have had many interesting sightings at their place or up the Green River Road -- Turkeys, a Red-tail Hawk, a Broad-shouldered hawk, red and grey fox, Juncos, Downy woodpeckers, sparrows, flickers, deer with and without spots and antlers, and frogs! Laurel sent a picture of one in the kitchen captured for the photograph in a jar!! Also Red and Grey squirrels and a **Black** one, too, on Collins Road. Those are some great sightings!!



I am enjoying the birds at the feeders. The blue jays have multiplied; we now have six. The Hairy Woodpeckers have doubled -- two of them! We see a Downy now and then. My White-breasted Nuthatch is back -- maybe even two of them. I am happy to see my little Red-Breasted Nuthatch daily. Lots of Goldfinch, but they are not as golden now, changing to their winter dull greenish color, but still very much welcome. I haven't seen any Juncos here yet, maybe the Copelands will send a few down!! I enjoy my one or two Chickadees; wish more would come. I remember flocks and flocks of them years ago. Not as many Sparrow right now; hope more arrive for the winter. The Purple Finch haven't been around much lately either. Maybe because of too many crazy Red Squirrels running around and hogging the feeders! We are pleased to have a Grey Squirrel come now and then; he is getting so he stands up to the Red squirrels now. Usually they chase him away but I have seen him chase them away lately. I like to see the squirrels, but they sure eat lots!!!

As always I hate to see the summer birds leave but am also happy to see the winter ones arrive. The Hummers are gone until Spring. I think of the birds as they migrate. They go so very far, it just seems such a giant feat for such a small bundle of feathers to accomplish. I wish them all safe travels. For some reason or



Lots of tiny frogs this month! Halifax, Vermont, September 2018

other the large Turkey flocks are roaming around the village quite often. I hope that isn't telling us that their feed is not abundant enough!! It is way too early for that to happen. There are a LOT of wild Turkey in the area. I hope the Beech nuts and Acorns are heavy crops for the winter, but do wonder why they are coming to the village so early in the season.

My most awesome sighting lately has been of the White Egret flying from Barbara Brown's driveway down to the old beaver pond back of our place. I tried to get a picture of it down back but couldn't. I have seen him around the village quite often.

Love hearing from you with your sightings: jwcinvt@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER NEWS. Got a great Halifax story? Write it up and send it over! Send your story to Joan at JWCinVt@gmail.com (802.368.7733) and/or Laurel at LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. -- Joan Courser

WEST HALIFAX

The P.-T. A. held a meeting Wednesday at the schoolhouse with six members present. It was voted to have a Hallowe'en party Oct. 28, at 8 o'clock at the community hall. There will be a box social as well as games, fortune telling and stunts.

A dance will be held in the community hall Saturday night for the benefit of the fire department.

The bridge being erected near the rt colony is now at the girder stage. The foundation is completed.

Several members of the Home Demonstration Group went to Wilmington last Friday to visit the Wilmington group.

Mrs. Erinta Lascellas of Long Island, N. Y., is visiting at Mrs. David Gaither's. Mrs. Lascellas recently retired from the stage to engage in writing.

Guiding Star Grange held its regular meeting Wednesday evening. Fifteen members and four guests were present. The program was in observance of Fire Prevention Week. Leon Burrows, fire chief of Brattleboro, gave a talk on preventing and controlling fires.

Mrs. David Gaither expects to go to Boston this week end on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sumner are attending State Grange sessions in Burlington this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Quentin Weaver of Brattleboro spent the week end here.

The next Grange meeting will be held Wednesday evening, Oct. 27. The lecturer's hour will be on Boy Scouting. Kenneth Vanderpool of Brattleboro will give a short talk and show motion pictures of activities at the Scout camp in Plymouth. Everyone is invited to attend this program.

Homer Sumner is ill with grip.

There will be a dance in the Community hall Saturday night, Oct. 23, for the benefit of the fire department.

SOUTH HALIFAX

Snowflakes were reported on the hills Monday morning while rain fell in the valley section. The Grove section received its first killing frost last week. Monday morning temperatures as low as 17 were noted along the river.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Dean have sold their farm and are moving to their new home this week.

Mrs. Archie Burnett has returned home. Miss Bernice Burnett is absent this week from Valley School because of illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Upright and family of Conway, Mass., were supper guests Monday of his sister, Mrs. Henry Miner, and family.

The Vermont Phoenix

October 1948

- 70 years ago -

~ C. Lancaster, Halifax Historical Society

SOUTH HALIFAX

Mr. and Mrs. Emory Hebard accompanied Guiding Star Grange members to Stamford Valley Grange last week Wednesday night. Other visiting Granges were Cheshire and North Adams, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Litchfield returned home Monday night after a week's visit with friends and relatives in New Jersey and New York City. Her brother, Harold Wood, is spending a few weeks with them.

Miss Janet Hebard spent the week end and holiday at home. On Saturday afternoon she attended the wedding reception of her classmates, Polly Coombs and Laurence Brown, at the Coombs home in East Colrain, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bender, who spent the past 10 days at their place here, returned to their home in White Plains, N. Y., Tuesday. Their daughter, Laura, spent the week end with her parents and returned with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Burnett and daughters moved to their new home Sunday.

Fred Pratt has moved his shovel to the Jackson gravel bank in Harrisville.

The rain Friday relieved the dryness of the woods and fields but has had little or no effect on springs. The foliage still continues bright although a few trees have lost their leaves.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miner and daughter, Charlotte, were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bender and daughter, Laura, Saturday night.

Mrs. Sidney Grant and daughter, Mrs. Henry Miner, and daughter and Miss Lucille Stone spent Friday in Greenfield, Mass.

HALIFAX

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sallop and daughter, Erma, spent the week end at "Quietlea."

Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Bishop and daughter, Martha, of Southington, Conn., spent the week end at "Forest Brook Farm."

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Franklin of Port Washington, N. Y., have been spending a week at "Old Green Farm."

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Noble and Miss Margaret Allison of Willimantic, Conn., spent the week end and holiday at "Sky Meadow Farm."

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Mount and daughter, Dorothy, of Greenfield, Mass., and Mr. Mount's mother and his sister, Sylvia, of New Jersey spent the week end and holiday at "Mount Crest."

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Johnson and children, Deane and Eric, and Mrs. Johnson's mother from White Plains, N. Y., and Mr. and Mrs. Ives, relatives from Kansas, visited from Friday to Tuesday at "Windham Woods."

Rev. and Mrs. David R. Evans and son, David, of Somerville, N. J., have been spending some time at their home here. Rev. Mr. Evans returned Saturday and Mrs. Evans and David stayed until Monday.

OCTOBER 15, 1948

SHOOTING FRAY LEADS TO JAIL

The village of West Halifax provided the setting for a wild west show early Sunday morning when Weston Hayes, 18, alias Jackie Dean, a West Halifax woodsman, shattered the public peace with two blasts from a single-barrel shotgun and himself was hit over the head with a rifle butt with such force that the stock was broken.

Pleading guilty to a breach of the peace charge in Municipal Court Monday, the youth was sentenced to a 30-day "cooling off" period in Newfane jail by Judge F. Elliott Barber.

State Trooper George Dearborn said the disturbance occurred after a dance in West Halifax. Hayes, he said, went to the home of Floyd Kennedy and started a rumpus, during which he picked up Kennedy's shotgun and fired a charge through a chair and into a wall. The arena of conflict then shifted to the tenement of George Phillips, 63, in the same house. Here, Dearborn reported, Hayes threatened Phillips with the gun and fired another shot which went past Phillips' leg and tore into a wall.

At this point, the officer said, Phillips seized a rifle and cracked Hayes on the head. The stock was broken, but the blow did not fell Hayes, who simply called it a night and went home.

Summertime in Halifax Vermont



NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 27
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Halifax News

OCTOBER 2018



New business in Halifax, Vermont: Coopers Coop Farm Stand

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