

AUGUST 2019

HALIFAX NEWS

BURNING

Is anything more cliché than a sunset? Probably not. But I'm going to describe the one I saw last night anyways. My mom's friend Darlene is becoming a regularly featured guest on my posts (see "The Power of the Storyteller"). Last night she invited me, my mom, and three other women on her boat to cruise north along the Connecticut River. We packed a cooler of sangria, petite carrots, and French onion dip and set off down the winding road to Brattleboro.

Growing up in Halifax, VT, it's sometimes necessary to leave our minuscule town to go to a slightly bigger town for groceries, restaurants, businesses, and signs of other human life. For the residents of Halifax, this comes down to a polarizing decision: Brattleboro, VT or Greenfield, MA? My decision is always Greenfield. When I was younger, my mom drove me to Greenfield for dance classes 3-4 days a week, and then from my sophomore year on I drove through Greenfield six days a week for school. Let's be real: the roads are wider and better maintained, you feel less trapped in by mountainous ledge on one side and a drop-off to the river on the other, and you are far less susceptible to getting carsick. Bias or not, the ride to Greenfield is the obvious choice.

As much as I find the ride to Brattleboro frustrating, my experience on the River last night made it worth the twisting, narrow turns. And a note to the wise: a group of women in their 40s and 50s has more fun than any other demographic. The stories ran rampant, from memories of mud-bogging on ATVs in the Dominican, to horror stories from work that somehow always ended in laughter. I hope to one day be as youthful as the ladies I spent last night with.

The sound of the water making way for us, and the feeling of the cool breeze sifting through my hair was relaxing in the best way. It almost seemed that we entered another portal as we floated between the towering bridge above us and its watery reflection below.



The conversation meandered from talk of zodiac signs, to whispers of an old carnival ground that had been flooded back in 1938. Every so often we could catch a distant glimpse of rust-colored train tracks, or the scaled back of the legendary Loch Ness monster. The evening had a mystical air. We sipped on wine, snacked on a smorgasbord of hummus, crackers, and shrimp, and pointed excitedly to the ducks and geese that we passed by. Kayakers, fishers, and other boaters gave friendly waves that were returned with a smile.

I almost thought that the billowing green trees on either side of us were the most beautiful part until that green darkened into a black silhouette and the river caught on fire. The outline of steeples on Main Street stuck out in dark shadow against the blazing skyline. The water surrounding us burst into flames, as if it were kerosene ignited with the sparks of the sky. We were burning with life, with friends, with summer. Burning with a youthful energy. Perhaps it was not the sky that started the fire, but us, all along.



~ Lauren Sumner, Halifax, Vermont

TOWN NEWS

8/2/2019: BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL AT WHITINGHAM TOWN CLERK in Jacksonville. The Halifax Ice Cream Wagon will be there! Come enjoy the food, goods, displays, and fun. **Friday, August 2, 4:00-7:00 PM.**

8/3/2019: CLAM BAKE AT THE OLD CODY FARM on Old County Road is the 1st Saturday in August (**Saturday, August 3, 2019**, serving 1-3PM; buy tickets in advance from Fire Department 368-7733).

8/10/2019: BENEFIT BREAKFAST FOR THE HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY – Another fabulous breakfast will be cooked for your delight on Saturday morning, serving from 7 to 9:30 AM at the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. Featuring three kinds of pancakes, sausage, eggs Benedict, scrambled eggs, hash brown potatoes, juice & coffee or tea. It will benefit the 3rd Annual Halifax Celebration Day to be held September 28, 2019

9/28/2019: HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY, SEPT. 28, 2019

Updates

The annual auction took place on the first Saturday of July (the 6th), starting at 10 AM. The Halifax Ice Cream Wagon served dessert to the Fire Department's lunch offerings. After the event, the firetrucks were returned to their usual spaces, with Bill Baker, volunteer fireman, looking on (pictured).



The Puseys' annual block party took off the same evening of July 6th, moving from a rainy start into a wee-hours dance-a-thon facilitated by DJ Dave. Patty was fierce in her 50's garb while Bill played it cool. (See photo.) And, man, can they dance!

The Copelands celebrated Art Copeland's life on July 19th. Art died Christmas Eve 2018 at the age of 92. Coincidentally, 92 people toasted Art's memory with the Chris Bakrigan Jazz Quartet playing in the big barn on Hanson Road.

One of Art's 7 grandchildren, Thea Bransby, joined the band to sing a few lovely numbers. On the same day, Earl Aldrich dropped by to see the basement whose excavation he dug under the old farmhouse and barn back in 1968-69. He recalled the men who lent their skills to the restoration: Dave Look (cabinetry), Fred Squirt (stone walls), Bernie Bernard (mason stonework). The next morning, Pat Palmer trucked his horse and carriage down from Thornapple Farm in New Haven, Vermont to take the deceased's ashes with the family and close friends down to the final resting place overlooking Art's beloved pond. The pond, incidentally, was sited by douser Paul Derry and excavated by Bernie LaRock, and was a gift from Art's mother, Dorothy Copeland.



SAVE THE DATE! Halifax Town Celebration will be on **Saturday, September 28, 2019**. This is a celebration of small-town life, kicked off with a delicious early morning **pancake breakfast** and ending after dark with **dancing in the street at the Firehouse to Groove Prophet**.

Want to help? Got ideas? Contact Patty Dow: 802.368.7390

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

On 6/24 five men responded to Hubbard Hill to assist Whitingham ambulance with a call of a female weak and dizzy.

On 6/25 eight men and one truck responded to Deer Park Road for an alarm sounding. Cooking set off the alarm.

On 6/28 eleven men and one truck responded to a dump truck tipped over in the ditch on Branch Road. A crane had to come and set it back up on the road. No injuries.

On 6/30 eight men and one truck responded to man hit on the head with a tree branch. Deerfield Valley ambulance took him to Greenfield hospital.

On 7/5 six men and the ambulance responded to Rt. 112 for a lady passed out, dehydration.

On 7/13 four men and the ambulance responded to Cannon Rd for a possible heart attack. He was transported to the hospital.

On 7/14 eight men responded to a mutual aid call to green River Rd in Guilford for a reported brush fire. 91 brush one was on the scene (Halifax's brush truck).

On 7/15 three men and the ambulance responded to Larrabee Road for a woman with stomach pain; she was transported to Brattleboro hospital.

On 7/26 seven men responded to a mutual aid call to 'cover' Wilmington's fire station as they had a two-alarm fire. Left at 9:50 PM returned 2:35 PM.

Our firemen are busy, busy! They are up to 48 calls this year so far.

SYMPATHY

Lillian Pearl (Hubbard) Brigham passed on July 13, 2019, aged 92. Lillian grew up in Halifax, VT and other nearby towns where her father worked as a logger. As a child, Lillian walked barefoot to services at the Halifax Union Society. She continued to attend services there for many years and worked to renew the Society's program and membership in the early 2000s. She went to school in Halifax and returned after graduating from Keene State College to teach at the old school in West Halifax (now the Historical Society). Wayne Courser remembers having her for a substitute teacher. Lillian married Harold K. Brigham in 1945. They lived in Colrain, MA, but her heart was in Halifax, and she came to as many events here as possible. She made fabulous pies and bread & butter pickles. Lillian will be greatly missed. She was predeceased by Harold and daughter Chrystal. Survivors include her son Bradley, several cousins and one nephew. The Halifax Community Club was very happy to put on a luncheon after her graveside services on July 17th. Many, many came to the services and the luncheon. Rest in peace, Lillian; you are missed.

SENIOR MEAL (CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN HALIFAX)

No Senior Meal in Halifax in August. See you the 3rd Friday in September! That will be Sept. 20th. Menu: Baked chicken drumsticks, potato, veggie, rolls and dessert. Serving at noon at the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road in West Halifax. All seniors are welcome. A call to Joan is appreciated 802.368.7733.

WEST HALIFAX BIBLE CHURCH

October 18, 19 & 20, the WHBC will celebrate 25 years with Village Missions. Village Missions helps small rural churches pay their Pastor. The church provides a parsonage & health insurance; Village Missions covers the salary until the church can pay it on their own. We will have in attendance past Pastors and their wives, Village Missions district representatives present and past, and the head director of Village Missions from Oregon. It will be a fun weekend, and we are very happy to honor these people for their support to our small rural church.

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS

Not too many reports of sightings given me lately.

Nancy Ulman had a Junco (bird) that played with her dog. They just kind of had a game of tag. Kind of cute to see, I would think. My bird population has dropped quite a lot. The Orioles have left as have the Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks. Even the Blue Jays have gone. I really miss all that color. I still see the Cardinals now and then. The White-Breasted Nuthatch is still around, also a Catbird, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Mourning Doves in the evening, Sparrows, a Chickadee now and then, Titmice, a Red-Headed Woodpecker, and the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. They have babies coming to the feeders now; it is so funny to see them teach the babies how to get sunflower seeds and crack them. Still have a couple of hummers coming. Still enjoy seeing the Robins around on the lawn. I suppose the summer birds will be leaving soon and Fall birds returning.

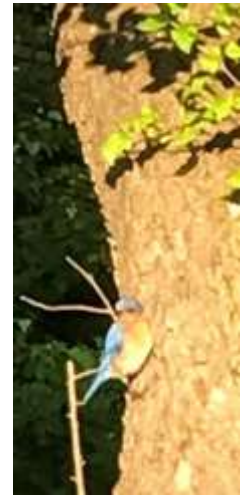
I am not quite ready to give up summer just yet. But it is getting quite dark at 8:30 PM now so that is telling us that time is moving along and fall is on its way. I have enjoyed the sunny warm days and a few hot humid one too that are not as enjoyable.

Send your animal sightings to Joan at: jwcinvt@gmail.com - Joan Courser

Laurel reports encountering a bear in her driveway early one morning this week. Both the bear and Laurel fled in fear of their lives. Apparently, this woodsy bear is not Joan's friendly town bear. There was also no other sound of a body moving around, so I'd say it was not our mama bear from last month who had 2 cubs trailing after her. Lots of bears. Other less hazardous sightings around Hanson Road included a pair of blue herons that are frequenting our lower pond, moose tracks in the road, a very large red fox with an extra bushy tail, deer, a beautiful bluebird (pic), goldfinches, cardinals, robins, phoebes, crows & ravens, a few honeybees, many swallowtails, and an occasional Monarch. And Joan, I can tell you where your blue jays are: up here! Every morning when I come up to my mom's back door with the morning paper, 5 or 8 blue jays scramble away.



Unfortunately, I've also seen the phototoxic invasive Wild Parsnip along the roads of Marlboro, Brattleboro, and Wilmington and even on Route 112 in Halifax. This plant resembles Queen Anne's Lace in form but has yellow flowers (not white; see photo). "Phototoxic" means light makes it poisonous. If the plant touches your skin and then your skin is exposed to sunlight, you can get painful, sometimes debilitating burns. When removing the Wild Parsnip, wear protective clothing and choose a cloudy day.



~Laurel Copeland

RECYCLE TO REDUCE LANDFILL TRASH

Windham County residents can bring household materials to the county facility. Remember that recyclables are only usable if uncontaminated by food residue and trash. <http://www.windhamsolidwaste.org/>.

HALIFAX COMMUNITY HALL To rent our beautiful repainted, rewired, & insulated Hall, contact Joan Courser at (802) 368-7733 or JWCinVT@gmail.com. Resident-\$65.00; Non-resident-\$80.00; plus \$35.00 if heat is used. - Joan Courser

HALIFAX COMMUNITY CLUB meets Monday, August 12, 2019 at Lynda Copeland's, 1581 Hanson Road, 6:45-7:45 pm. HCC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization charged with service to the Halifax community and care of the Community Hall. Contact: 368-7097 or LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. HCC documents are online: <https://czresearch.com/halifax>

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many, many of your newsletter subscriptions are due in August. Please look on your address label. In small red letters it will tell you when your subscription is due. If it says **AUGUST** please mail a check for \$ 7.00 for one year made out to NEWSLETTER to P.O. Box 27 W. Halifax, VT. 05358. Saving me sending out subscription notices. Thank you.

Halifax Historical Society Corner

Reid Hollow was the site of a young persons' camp for the arts 1939-1940. Last month we shared some of the news releases of the day, announcing the establishment of the summer camp in Halifax. The original flyer and application form are reproduced below.



ALBA

REID HOLLOW was founded to afford young men and women, from fourteen years of age and up, the opportunity for active participation in the fields of the Theatre, Music, the Dance, and the Plastic Arts within a community of common specialties. The staff is composed of those who are now engaged professionally in their particular fields. It is hoped that they will be able to assist the entering students.

The summer program will not be governed by a statically fixed schedule but rather the ordering of work in the colony will be variable and elastic enough to serve as an experience in both group and individual responsibility. The members will not be playing at an art; they will be practicing it under conditions as nearly professional as possible.

Swimming, riding, tennis, badminton and other sports will have their place among the activities of the colony, but will be elective rather than designated. It is hoped, however, that all members will participate in some form of recreational sports.

The colony is located in the Green Mountains at an altitude of eleven hundred feet and is about twelve miles south-west of Rutland, Vt. The property consists of more than twelve hundred acres of largely wooded land at the base of the Green River and is equipped with admirably located housing facilities for the comfortable housing of young members and staff. There is also an old wood working mill.

The cost is low - \$20 a week - made possible by the fact that the social necessities such as go with group living are to be worked out by the members during the mornings. These duties are assigned to give the individual a practical sense of living obligations in a group - even a genius might occasionally be pleasantly surprised with having had such social experiences.

The season extends for six weeks; from July 1st to September 30th. Members will not be accepted for a period of less than four weeks. Terms will begin July 1st and August 1st.

Looking Back to Summer 1939 - 80 years ago -

REID HOLLOW
APPLICATION FORM

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
TEL. NO.....
PARENT OR GUARDIAN (IF UNDER 21).....
BIRTH ADDRESS OF APPLICANT.....
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WHAT ART.....
ENTERTAINMENT.....
THEATRE.....
STUDIED ABOVE WITH MAM.....
EXPERIENCE, IF ANY.....
OTHER INTERESTS.....
SPECIALS FOR ONE OR TWO MONTHS.....
REMARKS.....

One week's fee (\$20.00) must be returned with this application. Laundry is not included in cost.

What to bring list will be returned with acceptance. A stove will be maintained for supplies.

MAILING ADDRESS: REID HOLLOW, RUTLAND, VERMONT

News from Bygone Days

STAFF

DIRECTOR: ALEXANDER TILLOTSON, N. A.
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: VIRGINIA CAMPBELL, JR.

THE INCH: TO BE SELECTED

DRAWING, PAINTING: ALEXANDER TILLOTSON
Milwaukee School of Fine and Applied Arts, Art Students League, N. Y., Columbia University. Exhibitor in all of the important national exhibitions.

MUSIC: JOHN CULMARE
Instructor at Davis Music School of Music, New York; member of a faculty prominent in musical circles in Vienna and was a pupil of Edward Rebert Grew. An concert pianist and accompanist, toured Germany, Italy, France and Austria.

THEATRE PRACTICE: HELEN SMITH
Associated with Katharine Cornell and Guthrie McClintic since 1919. Appeared with Miss Cornwell, Mrs. Galspel, Lucien Gleib, Frita Abasco, Maurice Evans, Judith Anderson, Margot Hengstenberg and others.

Notes: Private instructions may be had in any of the above at the nominal fee of one dollar for the customary period.

ASSISTANTS: DORIS TILLOTSON
VIRGINIA CAMPBELL
THELMA PARKERMAN

MEMBER (Quota \$1.00, New York)

APPLICANTS

Mrs. Maxwell Anderson: New City, N.Y.
Margaret Bellmer: 30 Syracuse St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Ginzburg: 118 East 16 Street, New York
Louise Gifford: 167 East 78 Street, New York
Mith S. Lisenco, N. D.: 602 Park Avenue, New York
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick London: Longmont, New York
Gertrude May: Rockefeller Center, N.Y.
Lawrence Tibbitt: 120 East 94 Avenue, New York
DesPerte Beer, Jr., Counselor: 120 Broadway, New York

REID HOLLOW will also be open throughout the year and will offer spring fishing, winter sports and skiing, and long peaceful days in the fall. It is planned to make the colony, among other things, a refuge of sleep surroundings for artists. Rates will be three dollars a day or twenty dollars weekly.

Mailing Address: REID HOLLOW, Rutland, Vermont.
For applications, call Butterfield 8-7718, New York, until June 1st, 1939.

Additional applications may be secured upon written request or by mailing the above telephone number.

REID HOLLOW may be reached by motor or train through Rutland, Vermont. Trains will be met at Rutland upon notification.

~ C. Lancaster, Halifax Historical Society

Newsletter

P O Box 27

West Halifax VT 05358



Turkey babies at dawn on Collins Road



Who's Watering Whom? Kamala Copeland Ferris waters Jake the Horse and vice-versa.

Halifax News

AUGUST 2019

NEWSLETTER - Got a great Halifax story? Write it up and send it over! Send your story to Joan at JWCinVt@gmail.com (802.368.7733; PO Box 27 05358) and / or Laurel at LaurelACopeland@gmail.com.

Editor LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. Color e-mail version available.