

THE SANDSFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume III, Number 5

August 2012



250TH NOW PART OF OUR HISTORY



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The SilverBrook CAFÉ: *Come On In!*

Article and Photos by Larry Dwyer



The SilverBrook Café: Our own little honky-tonk on the Clam.

Taking the advice of an earlier article in *The Sandisfield Times* about supporting our local establishments, I decided to stop by the SilverBrook Café to visit what might have been the last real watering hole in Sandisfield. Tucker's had closed this spring, but is reopening as MJ Tuckers, and the only other bar in town is at the New Boston Inn, although it's considered more inn and restaurant and is a bit more on the genteel side.

The SilverBrook, however, seems to hold its own. Located at the intersection of Rt. 57 and SilverBrook Road in what was originally an 1850s shingle mill and later a creamery, the bar/café is probably the largest building in town, except for a few barns. A tavern since 1935, the SilverBrook had a somewhat nefarious reputation in past years, but owner Connie D'Andrea and her husband, family, and friends poured a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into the place after she bought it in 2008. Even after extensive renovation, the place is noted for its vintage look that gives it an old backwoods charm. On my Sunday afternoon visit, I was pleasantly surprised to find a friendly atmosphere and an excellent combo, Dan's Roadhouse Country, playing some easy listening old rock and traditional roadhouse country music.



A Sunday at the SilverBrook: Dan's Roadhouse Country Band.

Playing on the bass guitar was Jim McGrane, a union musician, who also works as a tool & die maker by day and has been playing at the SilverBrook for decades. Jim was a member of the Abbey Road Band that had a big following in New England several years ago, and he also plays in Waterbury and At the Corner, a bar and restaurant in Litchfield. Playing the acoustic guitar and providing excellent vocals was Dan Belmonte, who works as a crane operator by day and who played flawlessly and had a most soothing voice with perfect pitch. The level of sound was just right given the size of the room and low ceilings that allowed for easy listening and ease of conversation.

The SilverBrook provides perfect lunch specials and is a haven for workingmen, especially after they've spent all day logging, shoveling gravel on the road crew, or trimming trees to clear power lines. There is no dress code and nobody will throw you out if you have a little mud on your shoes. On the Sunday of my visit, however, the clientele was a little more spiffed up (as the patrons were most likely coming in from Sunday church, ahem, ahem) and conversations were friendly and cordial.

Connie said that her business hasn't changed much over the years and barely changed at all while Tuckers was closed. She added that the same friendly customers and clientele that has been stopping at the SilverBrook for years are what keeps her in business – the majority of her customers are between 30 and 80 years old. She doesn't keep late hours due to her busy lunch crowd, and she works hard to keep the SilverBrook the "The Best Little Honky Tonk West of the Clam River."

The SilverBrook attracts many tourists from ATVs, quads, and snowmobilers (when it snows), but the tourists make no difference to the locals who frequent the place. It's all about good food, music, and being with friends – more on the lines of a local pub. The locals like it just the way it is – close to home and affordable. The Ritz it is not, but neither is McSorley's Old Ale House in New York City – but just try getting inside there on a Friday or Saturday night. While the crowds are more modest than at McSorley's, the SilverBrook is a good place to stop by for friendly conversation and to hear some local entertainment for the price of a beer.

With a full menu and serving lunch specials during the week, Connie has brought back her "House-Made-to-Order Pizza" and usually sells out whatever version she makes. She also has year-round weekend dinners and during the summer, "barbeque," but her specialty is her "House-Made Sirloin Roast." The SilverBrook offers Karaoke every other Friday and Lottery Scratch tickets, Mega Millions, and KENO seven days a week.

Running the SilverBrook can a toll, however, and Connie has offered the business for sale. "Health reasons, and I can't keep up," she said. Profit and loss statements and tax returns, she added, will show potential buyers that the Café, though, does "keep up." "If you're looking to buy a good café in a good location, come on in."

While the economy is still taking a toll on businesses everywhere, the SilverBrook manages to keep its doors open due to the support of local, loyal patrons and customers from neighboring towns and Connecticut who know a good thing when they see it. ♡

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Our Field and "Boston"

We have a gift here of an open field of wild grass sided on the east by an old and well-kept cemetery, on the west by a thick copse of trees and a big red barn, to the south by a hillside of trees up to the horizon, and to the north by the road on which we drive by sometimes two, three, four times a day. Passing Carr Field we probably all give it a glimpse or if there's no oncoming traffic a solid look.

Sometimes there's a deer out there. While Ron Bernard and Billy Carr were setting up one of the early tents and Charlie Pease was sawing 2x4s for the speakers' platform and about a dozen others were doing Celebration chores, a fawn walked out of the far brush and came almost up to us, then crossed the road to go down to the Clam.

The field has been farmland since the Demings cleared it in the early 1800s. Jim and Eloise Carr bought the place in 1961 and kept the field after selling the house and barn to the west. Their children, who now own the property, have kept


it clear and mowed. Sean Carr, who generously granted permission for the town to use it for our Celebration, says there is no particular reason he and his siblings have kept it an open field, except that their parents liked it that way. Sean's sister, Mary, used to keep it mowed, and the generosity of the Carrs have kept it there for the rest of us.

Barbara Cormier remembers when neighbors gathered in Carr Field for games and volleyball and picnics and hanging out after work. It would be useful with a few houses on it, but it's clearly more useful as a place to simply look at. I think we're all glad we have it.

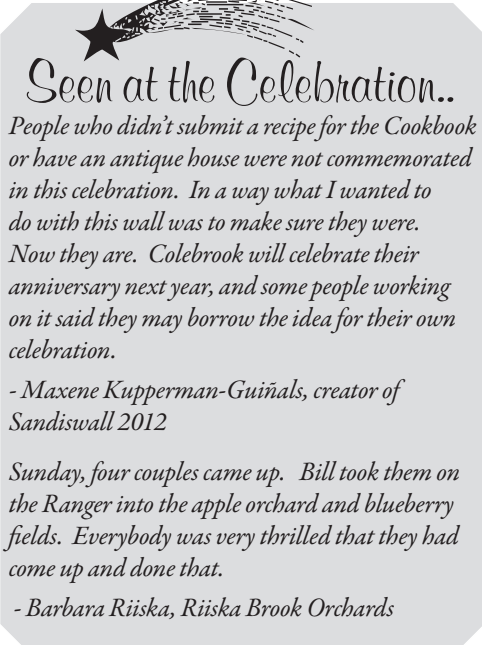
A shift to the mundane: roads and paying for them. Sandisfield made the front page of *The Berkshire Eagle* on July 26. Money for road repair is held up again in the Boston Statehouse, no surprise. Chapter 90 funds have yet to be approved for many of our neighboring towns, including Sandisfield, which is preventing us from putting our road projects out to bid. What are they waiting for? Maybe for the road repair season to disappear?

Selectman Patrick Barrett was quoted on the same front page. "The opportunity for getting projects done is such a small window in Berkshire County, to have this money delayed is ridiculous." Sandisfield, he said, is waiting on \$330,000 in Chapter 90 funds.

Am I the last *naif* in Sandisfield? Or in Massachusetts? See the report on the Regional Selectmen's meeting in Sandisfield elsewhere on this page. The idea that in this progressive state we

still have to bargain and plead and wait to get money from the state to do things we need to do seems against common sense. Was it easier to get things done in 1762? Roads and infrastructure and things that need to be accomplished have always needed to be done. Why aren't these processes so well worked out by now that the cash moves from "Boston" to the Berkshires as if on greased, transparent tracks? Why aren't these issues long solved? Who has been in charge for the last century? 

Bill Price, West New Boston



Seen at the Celebration..
People who didn't submit a recipe for the Cookbook or have an antique house were not commemorated in this celebration. In a way what I wanted to do with this wall was to make sure they were. Now they are. Colebrook will celebrate their anniversary next year, and some people working on it said they may borrow the idea for their own celebration.
 - Maxene Kupperman-Guinal, creator of Sandiswall 2012
Sunday, four couples came up. Bill took them on the Ranger into the apple orchard and blueberry fields. Everybody was very thrilled that they had come up and done that.
 - Barbara Riiska, Riiska Brook Orchards

SOUTH COUNTY HILL-TOWN COALITION TAKING HOLD

The Fourth Regional Selectmen's Meeting

The idea of regular, scheduled meetings of the Selectmen from six neighboring towns has taken hold. The potential benefits from talking with each other and cooperating apparently outweigh regional or individual differences.

On July 16 at the Town Hall Annex in Sandisfield, representatives from Otis, Monterey, Tyringham, and Tolland discussed roads and bridges and beavers with all three Sandisfield Selectmen: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, and Jeff Gray. The only town missing was New Marlborough. Patrick started the joint meetings last November.

Representative Smitty Pignatelli attended the meeting and strongly endorsed the idea of an "advocacy group for smaller towns in western Massachusetts." He said there was a real need for small towns to share ideas and responsibilities, "knock down regional barriers, get the towns to talk to each other in a give and take."


He saw the potential in this kind of group action. He said that what Sandisfield and the other five towns were doing by meeting regularly and

discussing common problems could be the beginning of a new way to approach "Boston."

Smitty was adamant that the towns need to band together and create a list of two or three or five priorities and focus on them. He said, "Berkshire needs to speak with one voice, come up with a 5-year plan, a 10-year plan."

The Selectmen agreed that roads and bridges should be the priority, starting with an inventory of bridge needs. The cost of bridge repair and sometimes replacement can destroy town budgets. There was a discussion of ways of keeping gas tax revenues raised in Berkshire County in Berkshire County and not have them all flow to Boston with only a pittance returned. Smitty's comment: "We generate \$60 million in gas taxes. Only \$5 million is returned."

The next meeting of the six towns will be in Tolland, September 17. The public is invited and welcome. Patrick said, "We'll be meeting with a representative from Berkshire Regional Planning with the intent of getting an assessment on all the bridges in our respective towns."

Smitty outlined the difficulty of persuading all the towns in Berkshire County to give up some autonomy in return for cooperation and lower costs. He used the example of 911 calling centers. Referring to Public Safety Answering Points, he said, "Texas has one PSAP. California three. Berkshire County has nine, for 135,000 people." He didn't have to add that no town wants to give up its identity. 

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August

Finally, summer sits
And I am old
And a dark door opens in the afternoon,
It is rifle quiet.

I remember everything,
That came before;
Everything I've lost
And found and more.

In August
The leaves are coming loose,
The streams are dry as bone
And I remember, desolate
That I'm alone.

Val Coleman
Sandisfield

SArC Gets a Lift

By Miriam Karmel

Photo by Paul Slowatycki

Sandisfield resident Alice Boyd saw a need, and now the Sandisfield Arts Center (SArC) has start-up money to install a handicap accessible lift up to the main performance area. In early July, SArC was awarded \$12,237 from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund. Boyd, a Sandisfield neighbor and professional grant writer, wrote the request for the money.

SArC was one of 56 cultural organizations from Cape Cod to the Berkshires to receive one of the CFF grants, which were funded to support repairs, improvements and expansions to institutions ranging from The Berkshire Museum to Harvard University Art Museums. "We're in great company," said Boyd, who was voted onto the SARC board last October.

Alice was not the first person to see the need for a lift. In fact, money has already been set aside to build one, but not enough. Before joining the SArC board, she saw a person in a wheelchair being carried up to the performance area, which is currently accessible only by stairs. "It's just not right. It's a difficult situation for the person being carried and there are liability issues," Alice said.

She acknowledged that historic buildings are more challenging to make accessible. But the Americans with Disabilities Act requires accessibility and she thought SArC could find a way to honor the spirit of that law.

As president of Bailey Boyd Associates, a community development consulting company, Boyd has years of experience writing grant proposals for communities to build everything from affordable housing to large-scale infrastructure projects. Though she used her professional skills to help SArC win the grant, she drew on her love of the arts center and Sandisfield for inspiration. "I'm committed to the arts center," she said. "It's a wonderful place to bring people in the community together. There's no other place to act as a focus for the community. This does."

Alice Boyd and her husband, Paul Slowatycki, an optician, have lived in Sandisfield for seven years, initially visiting occasionally from their home of 40 years in Harwich on Cape Cod. Though their business remains on the Cape, they regard their place on Bauer Pond in South Sandisfield as home. "The more we came, the more we realized we didn't want to leave," she said. "We love this community. It's very peaceful and accepting, with people from different backgrounds all accepting one another."

Boyd loved Harwich, too. "I have a very fond place in my heart for the Cape." But over the years, the couple started to feel the negative impact of development and summer traffic. For now, she enjoys sitting at her desk and looking out at her yard and the pond where she might see a moose or a bear or one of the nesting herons fly overhead.

Boyd would also enjoy helping the town win money for other projects, but, she added, "Only if the community wants it." Top on her list would be a grant to repair roads and another that gives people home repair money at no cost. She even has ideas about finishing Yanner Park.

She stressed that any project will be collaborative and must have the community's blessing. The SArC grant, for example, came about through collaboration. A board member learned that a grant was available to deal with accessibility issues. Nick Elton, a Boston architect who lives with his family part time in Sandisfield, drew up the plans for the enclosed lift. Alice packaged the proposal.

"That's what I love about Sandisfield," she said. "People really come together." 

Editor's note: The MCFE award is a matching grant, and SArC needs to raise about \$10,000 to receive the money. Alice Boyd feels confident that citizens will help cover the difference. "We have about 18 months, but I don't think we'll need that long," she said. Donations can be sent to Sandisfield Arts Center, PO Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Please note "Handicapped Lift" on your check.



Alice Boyd with Maggie at Bauer Pond



POLICE BLOTTER

April and May 2012

The Times prints the town police blotter report every three months: January, April, July, October. We held this report last month due to space limitations.

APRIL

- April 3 Domestic call, Lower West Street
- April 10 Motor vehicle accident, New Boston Road, Tolland
- April 13 Disabled motor vehicle, South Main Street
- April 15 Armed suicidal person, South Main Street
- April 15 911 hang up, South Main Street
- April 23 Tree down, Sandisfield Road
- April 25 Alarm, Sandisfield Road
- April 29 Alarm, Sears Road

MAY

- May 5 Domestic call, West Street
- May 5 Well-being check, SilverBrook Road
- May 6 Disturbance call, West Street
- May 8 House check, Tannery Road
- May 8 Breaking and entering (unfounded), Otis Woodlands
- May 10 Assist fire, Sandisfield Road
- May 10 Assist homeowner, Tannery Road
- May 10 Strange person, West Street
- May 11 Alarm, Town Hill Road
- May 14 Motor vehicle accident, South Main Street
- May 16 Alarm, Viets Road
- May 19 Alarm, Norfolk Road
- May 20 Possible missing person, West Street
- May 21 Trespassing complaint, Beech Plain Road
- May 22 Rocks blocking road, South Main Street
- May 26 Strange vehicle, Sandisfield Road
- May 26 Alarm, Town Hill Road
- May 26 Strange person, Town Hill Road
- May 26 Medical call, Cronk Road
- May 28 Motor vehicle accident, New Boston Road, Tolland
- May 29 Tree down, Sandisfield Road
- May 31 Alarm, Beech Plain Road

The Gardeners' Almanac



By Sue Tarasuk, Horticulturist

Ornamental Grasses

I love gardening with ornamental grasses. Unlike perennials which bloom then disappear until next year, grasses will grow and change and peak in fall but endure into the winter.

They are great in the gardens because they provide fullness and delicacy all at the same time. They react to the light and wind and their movement in the garden is so beautiful, adding a touch of wildness to an otherwise formal garden of perennials.



Ornamental grasses are so easy to maintain. They are hardy and self-sufficient. There are so many varieties now on the market and more coming all of the time. It is hard to decide in the winter when we order plants which one I actually want to grow. There are the tall grasses used as specimens – *Miscanthus*, for example. There are grasses used in rock gardens (*Festuca* species or *Hakonechloa* [one of my favorites]). There are grasses which work well at the edge of ponds or shallow water and bogs, *Juncus* varieties and *Carex* and some with strong vertical lines; *Calamagrostis* and some *Miscanthus* varieties. The list goes on and on.

Be sure to check the cold hardiness zone that the grass will grow in. Many will not survive our cold Sandisfield winters. The large ornamental grasses should be spaced at least 4-5 feet apart. Planted too closely they lose the effect of the individual grass. Grasses are generally heavy feeders. This is evident when they start to grow outward leaving their center empty. When this happens, it is time to dig out the clump of grass, divide it and discard the core. Then replant part of the division.

They also appreciate a dose of fertilizer in the spring. Over fertilizing with nitrogen will make the plant grow too fast and it will become weak and unhealthy. Using mulch will stabilize the soil structure and suppress weed growth. Mulch early in the year but not before the soil has warmed somewhat.

Your grasses will be beautiful by mid summer and soon after they will start to produce stalks of flowers. I love when the breezes blow them back and forth and create a garden that seems as if it is dancing with the wind. 🍷

Photo: WikiCommons

Seen at the Celebration..

It was hectic due to weather on Saturday, so final setups for the barrel racing had to be done last minute Sunday morning and early afternoon. About two-dozen curious and surprised visitors came out, despite spotty showers all afternoon. Perhaps the most common phrase was "We didn't know this was in the area" and "Wow, really!?"

- Robin Annecharico, Born to Run Barrel Horses

The first day the kids had a blast in the rain, but the vendors probably weren't too happy. The rest of us hearty New Englanders took it in stride. As one man said, "If it were sunny, this day would be forgotten. This is much more memorable!" Plus, the major events (play, fireworks, opening ceremony) went off so beautifully that most people were still marveling at the spectacle, even while they were standing in two inches of water.

- Liana Toscanini



BREAK-IN SPREE

By Rhee Kasky

Since the "person of interest" did not appear at District Court in Great Barrington on the appointed date of July 10, which follows the person's failure to appear on May 8, a criminal complaint was signed in order to force an appearance. Should the criminal complaint be ignored, an arrest warrant will be issued. Stay tuned. Stay alert. 🍷

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN



Tara Beardsley

Everyone is invited to attend a Silent Auction to show your support for the Farmington River PTO and the children of Farmington River School! Many great items and services will be auctioned including: Area Artist's artwork, Spa packages, gift baskets, gift certificates, personal fitness training sessions, and much, much more! Thursday, August 9th from 5-8 p.m., Stanmeyer Gallery, 1286 Monterey Road, West Otis.

I can't believe summer is winding down already! Hope all Farmington River families have been enjoying themselves.

Schedule for the beginning of the school year:

Wednesday, August 29th -- First day of school

Monday, September 3rd -- Labor Day, no school

For parents of incoming students, be sure you've received the list of supplies needed for your child's first day of school. A copy will be sent to you or is available from the school.

I would like to re-cap the (valiant?) efforts of the students from the 2011-2012 school year, and give "kudos" to the following students at this time. My apologies for the delay.



1st Trimester Honor Roll:

Grade 4:

Alexandra Green
Mykenzie Hall
Cody Hawley
Gracie O'Brien
Max Packie
Matthew Ryan
Isabella Saporito
Rosemary Snyder



Grade 5:

Haley Couch
Amanda Gadaire
Kyle Hawley
Ali Hiller
Mitchell Monterosso

Grade 6:

Elizabeth Kuzmech



2nd Trimester Honor Roll:

Grade 4:

Alexandra Green
Mykenzie Hall
Gracie O'Brien
Max Packie
Matthew Ryan
Isabella Saporito
Rosemary Snyder



Grade 5:

Haley Couch
Amanda Gadaire
Kyle Hawley
Ali Hiller



Grade 6:

Allyssa Annecharico



3rd Trimester Honor Roll:

Grade 4:

Alexandra Green
Mykenzie Hall
Evan King
Collin O'Brien
Gracie O'Brien
Max Packie
Nathan Reynolds
Matthew Ryan
Isabella Saporito
Rosemary Snyder



Grade 5:

Haley Couch
Kyle Hawley
Ali Hiller
Mitchell Monterosso
Conor Parks

Grade 6:

Allyssa Annecharico
Elizabeth Kuzmech
Brandon Messina



Full Year Honor Roll:

Grade 4:

Alexandra Green
Mykenzie Hall
Gracie O'Brien
Max Packie
Matthew Ryan
Isabella Saporito
Rosemary Snyder



Grade 5:

Haley Couch
Kyle Hawley
Ali Hiller



PTO Citizenship Award:

Brandon Messina

LaGrant Sportsmanship Award:

Katelynn Brake

Cornelia Prindle Erbe Award:

Lucy Burnett

Teacher's Association Award:

Kassandra Brevoort and Elizabeth Kuzmech



Perfect attendance for the whole year:

Lucy Burnett
Jacob Gray
Luke Hartshorn
Jay Howard
Sophia Howard
Jessica Kopiec
Elizabeth Kuzmech
Donny Scaglione



Congratulations to all for your admirable achievements! 🌸




BRIDGE WATCH: HIGH-WIRE WORK

Article and Photo by Sandy Parisky

State police directed traffic at the New Boston Bridge as linemen employed by Western Mass Electric (WMECO) used bucket trucks to realign major power lines that run along Routes 8 and 57. All this was necessary before bridge demolition can begin, according to J. H. Maxymillian (JHM), the firm contracted by MassDOT to manage the entire project.

Underground electric service to the Old Stone House and new power transformers on a pole east of Southern Berkshire Fuel & supply are in place. Once WMECO wraps up work and the phone, internet, and cable providers finish theirs, timed stoplights will control north and southbound traffic over the bridge. If all is on schedule, motorists will travel via the existing northbound lane by mid-August.

Masonry work is well underway to stabilize the old dry laid-stone retaining wall that supports Tannery Road. Sandbags have been placed along this stretch to shore up the wall and divert the river so workers can install rip-rap to reinforce the bridge abutment. According to JHM, protective shielding placed beneath the existing bridge will protect the Farmington from any debris falling in during construction. 

Public safety responders and those responsible for the town's 250th celebration last month were relieved that both bridge lanes remained open.




Weed Killing Along Gas Line

Contributed by Roberta Myers

Tennessee Gas Pipeline, right-of-way owner of a wide swath through the woods in Sandisfield, has notified its neighbors of its intention to begin maintenance activities on or after August 6, continuing until October.

This means that if you see odd individuals dressed in protective suits and backpacks spraying stuff near the pipeline right-of-way, it's TGP spraying herbicides to control certain plant species. Its contractors, for the most part, will use low-volume, backpack-type sprayers or, in some cases, all-terrain vehicles equipped with spray equipment.

The Pipeline managers claim that traditional methods of right-of-way maintenance – such as mowing and brush-hogging – do not adequately protect the right-of-way, that “mowing brush tends to cause the plants to respond by sending out multiple resprouts – the plant’s natural defense to the cutting.”

TGP wrote to its neighbors: “If you have a well, spring, garden or other environmentally sensitive area on or near the right-of-way, have large vegetation within our right-of-way on your property in areas we have traditionally mowed or maintained by other means, or you’d prefer we not use herbicides on your property, please call 877-572-3449.” The owners had until August 6, a month from the date of the letter, to respond or they would assume the owners had authorized them to proceed. 



AUGUST EVENTS

THE SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER

5 HAMMERTOWN RD, SANDISFIELD, MA
413-258-4100
WWW.SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

2012 FORUM ON HISTORY AND AMERICAN CULTURE

The 2012 Sandisfield Arts Center's Forum on History and American Culture will focus on conscience and culture in world history and in the contemporary American political experience.

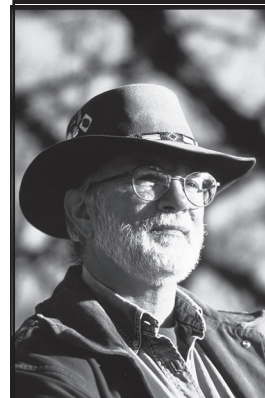
Saturday, August 11 10:30am
\$10

Persons of Conscience
led by Val Colman

Saturday, August 18 10:30am
\$10

The Cultural Impact on the
2012 Election
led by Bill Cohn

Friday, August 31 8pm
\$15



Bill Staines

Bill's music is a slice of Americana. His songs have been recorded by the likes of Peter, Paul and Mary, The Highwaymen and Nanci Griffith.

RASCALS & OTHERS

Town's Past Comes Alive at SArC

By Bill Price

Wanting to contribute to the 250th Celebration, SArC's directors at first thought of putting on a talent show, like Mickey and Judy in "Babes in Arms." Idea rejected.

The winning plan was to portray pieces of Ron Bernard's *Sandisfield Then and Now*, telling stories of events and characters from the past using today's residents as narrators and actors. Ben Luxon, director of the show, said, "The concept became doing something for Sandisfield that otherwise wouldn't happen. So we came up with the idea to give a little potted history of the town and its people."


For the first time in SArC's 17-year history, because of fire regulations people had to be turned away. Some in the full-house audience had never been to an event at SArC.

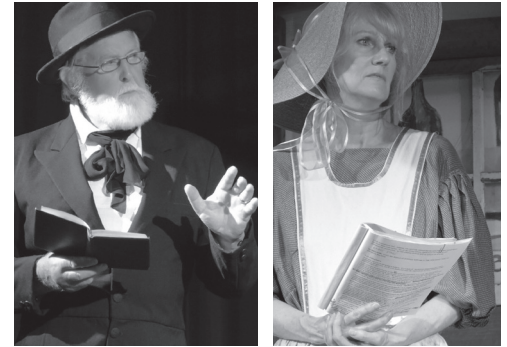
Ron Bernard supplied the stories, Ben Luxon wrote the script with contributions and winnowing by Val Coleman. The set may have been the best ever on the SArC stage: the porch of a country store. To get it right, the builders looked at photos in *Then and Now* and hammered it together and painted it not too perfectly. Billy Carr not only donated all the lumber but cut it to specific measurements in his mill in Tolland. Jean Atwater-Williams created screen projections and technical effects.

Of the cast of nineteen, only one was a trained actor. The others did just fine. The play began with Lord Sandys. Arrayed in a flowing purple robe and the long white wig of an English nobleman, Simon Winchester proved a fine amateur actor, portraying Lord Sandys with an English lord's presumed arrogance, haughtiness, and disdain. Simon made these qualities seem part of his own nature, the mark of a natural actor.

Episodes continued through Knox's dragging of the cannons, the murder of Harriet during her wedding at the New Boston Inn, the case of the missing Mrs. Brewer complete with a visit with "Dr. Zan Zan." A big hit were the four *yentas* discussing hardships while darning socks or whatever, the dialogue lifted straight from Ida Linder's dairies and memories of Jewish life in Monterey in the 1930s.

Joe Baker from Monterey portrayed Sammy Spring playing a real fiddle in real time. In honor of Rosamund Chapin, one-time owner of the New Boston Inn and Wagnerian opera singer who put on more than fifty performances at the Inn, Laura Danehower Whyte from Egremont, an opera singer herself, sang "Dich teure Halle" from Tannhäuser. The Flood of '55 seemed to occur on-stage, and Chapin Fish was terrific as George Sokolsky reporting on the flood over ABC. The play was wrapped up in time for the fireworks at Carr Field.

Ben Luxon said later, "The results were beyond expectation. Once people became committed to the play, they were transformed and they rightly enjoyed themselves. What was most satisfying for me was to see the cast having so much fun." 



Photos by Liz Castro

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We earn the trust of our clients and customers;
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"Be true to your work, your word, and your friend."
Henry David Thoreau

Thank You!!!!

The Sandisfield 250th Birthday Committee gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and business for their assistance. You all did an amazing job creating a memorable event for our community. We appreciate your time and expertise, knowledge and muscles, efficiency and good will. Bravo!

THE CARR FAMILY

<i>Jean Atwater-Williams</i>	<i>Bonnie O'Brien</i>
<i>Beverly Benanchietti</i>	<i>Christine O'Brien</i>
<i>Jean Paul & Eva Blachere</i>	<i>Patrick O'Brien</i>
<i>Gary Bottum</i>	<i>Suzanne O'Connell</i>
<i>Mario Castro x 2</i>	<i>Olde Yankee Street Rods</i>
<i>Bill Cohn</i>	<i>Courtney & Diego Ongaro</i>
<i>Hunter, Lily & Stephen Cormier</i>	<i>Brian O'Rourke</i>
<i>Ray Cormier</i>	<i>Otis Gazette</i>
<i>Donald Courtois</i>	<i>Otis Police Department</i>
<i>Maria Domato/American Legion</i>	<i>Charlie & Laureen Pease</i>
<i>Berkshire Fireworks</i>	<i>Chuck Pease</i>
<i>Barry & Josephine Freedman</i>	<i>Don & Charlene Peet</i>
<i>John Burrows & The Volunteer EMT's</i>	<i>Recreation Committee</i>
<i>C.W. Nelson Landscaping & Nursery</i>	<i>Jay Reynolds</i>
<i>John Fields Tree Service</i>	<i>Barbara Riiska</i>
<i>Judy & Ted Goldsmith</i>	<i>Ed "Butch" Riiska</i>
<i>Steve Harasyko &</i>	<i>John Riiska</i>
<i>The Sandisfield Highway Department</i>	<i>Lynne & Steve Rubenstein</i>
<i>Jerry Herman</i>	<i>Lovelle Ruggiero</i>
<i>Patricia Hubbard</i>	<i>The Sandisfield Times</i>
<i>Justin Hyland</i>	<i>Tina Sotis</i>
<i>Tom Jacobs</i>	<i>Andy Snyder</i>
<i>Rhee Kasky</i>	<i>S.W. Arts (Fred Swartz)</i>
<i>Chris Keller</i>	<i>Scott Stringham</i>
<i>John Kuzmech</i>	<i>Kerry Sullivan</i>
<i>Eric Larson</i>	<i>Tolland Police Department</i>
<i>Amanda & Lisa Leavenworth</i>	<i>Town of Tolland</i>
<i>Ralph Leavenworth</i>	<i>Lee Tryon/Tryon Construction</i>
<i>Al Lieb</i>	<i>Keith Wadhams</i>
<i>Allan & Karen Luks</i>	<i>Bill Weigle</i>
<i>Dave McCuin</i>	<i>Western Massachusetts Electric</i>
<i>Binney Meigs</i>	<i>When Pigs Fly Farm</i>
<i>Richard Migot</i>	<i>White Birch Farm</i>
<i>Mike Morrison & The Sandisfield Police Dept</i>	<i>Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia</i>
<i>Ralph Morrison & The Sandisfield Fire Dept</i>	<i>Joe Zeller</i>
<i>Chuck Nelson</i>	

CONGRATULATIONS TO US!!!

By Sandisfield Times Reporters

Photos by Richard Migot and Larry Dwyer

“Come out swinging” would have been Dave Shade’s advice on how to start the 250th Celebration. The huge, incredible cast of volunteers assembled by the Committee did exactly that.

By late afternoon on Friday, the last weekend in July, speaker platforms were ready, vendors tents were up on Carr Field, the Lebanon Colonial Militia was organized and in camp, things were starting. Parking areas were marked off; Kathy and Tom Jacobs had organized a crew of at least 16 town residents to help park cars over the two days of events.

That night, the SArC stage filled with willing and eager ingénues and star-struck neighbors before a full house. “Rascals” was followed almost immediately by what was likely the most incredible fireworks display ever set off in the hills of Sandisfield. It was a great night, cars and pickups parked in rows all over Carr Field. The show was conducted by town resident Dave Lewis & Family of Berkshire Fireworks.

At 9 the next morning Kathy Jacobs, chair of the Committee, welcomed everyone, introduced the 250th Committee members and the speakers. The Reverend Don Peet gave the invocation, Selectman Patrick Barrett spoke, as did State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and State Senator Ben Downing. Nick Powers, representing U.S. Senator Scott Brown, read a gracious letter from the senator. Jean Atwater-Williams sang “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

And the Country Fair began. Barbara Cormier, field marshal of the event, had supervised the placing of tents and vendors and during both days of the Celebration made sure everything kept moving.

Then it started to rain. Not a lot, but enough to get everyone wet. People hung in there, kept walking around, buying things from the vendors, waiting in line for food from Villa Mia, the SilverBrook, the New Boston Crane, the Snowmobile Club, and Vic’s Seafood. The children’s events, conducted by Robbin Campetti, went on very hap-

pily in the rain: the pie-eating contests, the tug-of-war through the puddles, sack races.

About 10:30 it started to rain harder. Thunder, some lightning. The water, pooling in low spots in Carr Field, began to rise. Vendors lowered canvas over their wares. About 2 pm, Fire Chief Ralph Morrison declared the field cleared due to possible lightning strikes, and the only people who stayed were the Lebanon Militia.

Folks had time to go home, dry out, and come back for the Fire Department’s BBQ and dance at the American Legion Pavilion. Harm’s Way Band played everything from “Going Down to Jackson” to the “Tennessee Waltz.”

Early Sunday the road crews smoothed the muddy path into Carr Field and covered it with a thin layer of macadam. The Country Fair opened on schedule, and aside from a few sprinkles the rain stayed elsewhere. People came back, and the Celebration went on as if it hadn’t missed a day.

The folks who owned and in some cases had lovingly rebuilt antique cars came out and made a great display. Scheduled hikes resumed. The pie baking contest was won by Shirley Spring for her Fruit of the Forest pie. Individual slices sold afterwards for \$3 per slice netted over \$100 for the Town.

And the 250th Celebration continued until the day’s end. Planning has not yet begun for the 300th.



Seen at the Celebration..

Even with Sunday afternoon rain-free, we had only two cars visit. The first, a husband and wife who live part-time here. The second was two women from New York late in the afternoon who seemed to know the area. I was disappointed there weren't more. I had prepared well for it. Even the cows were well groomed.

- Brigitte Ruthman, Joshua's Farm

Seen at the Celebration..

Bob Minery came to the Country Fair from his place on Cold Spring Road, as he said "to see what's going on." He met Fred Slater in front of the History Tent and these two life-long Sandisfielders, both over 70 years old, mentioned that they had gone to grade school together. Asked which was the better student, both grinned broadly and pointed to the other.

- Bill Price

Victor Hryckvich, Vic's Seafood, sold out all his lobsters and steamed clams. I guess word got out that they were delicious. My wife and I each had a plateful on Saturday. On Sunday we came back for another round to find that the lobsters and clams were gone. He still had flounder filets which were fried Cajun style, but we had ours broiled on the barbecue and boy was it good. Victor picks up his seafood straight off the dock from Point Judith, R.I. I can't wait until the next catch.

- Larry Dwyer

What a downpour! My paper was reasonably protected long enough for us to enjoy folding lovely origami models, along with fun stories to go along with each project. The magic of turning sheets of paper into artwork, toys, and practical items was appreciated by participants from 4-year olds to adults. I had a wonderful experience. Thanks.

- Ros Joyce



Seen at the Celebration..
On Saturday, people were ordering lunch, standing in the wet with their shoes in their hands. It was pretty funny.
- Dia Klenja, Villa Mia

VILLA MIA
Fried Dough --- \$3.00
plings --- \$8.00
icken Ceaser salad \$5
ntball sandwich d



CLAM RIVER RAMBLE

There was confusion on the meeting location for Clam River Ramble on July 28th. BNRC thanks those who met at Town Hall in the rain that day and offer additional hikes in the future. Please check out the event calendar at www.bnrc.net or contact aletoile@bnrc.net to arrange a private tour for your family, neighbors and friends.





★ Seen at the Celebration..

The Lebanon Militia created an earthen stove. A 15-foot diameter semicircle, 4-foot deep trench was carved out of the earth. On the inside of the semicircle, a horizontal hole was dug into the side of the trench that intersected with a vertical earthen shaft. A fire built at the bottom of the vertical shaft and would draw air at the bottom from the horizontal hole. Once common and now rarely seen, it is an extremely efficient way of creating a fire to cook food in a cook-pot. The only other place one can be seen is Colonial Williamsburg. The Lebanon Militia seldom gets the opportunity to construct these earthen stoves, because it's not often that they are allowed to dig up the ground wherever they camp out. We were very lucky to see such a rare exhibit of colonial life. (Editor's note: The Militia repaired the ground so well that when a local resident walked Carr Field on Tuesday morning with her dog she said if she hadn't known where the earthen stove was she would not have known it had ever been there.)

- Larry Dwyer

Our visitors were so pleasant and interested in the farm. As it so happens, Bob was cleaning the barn and that was a reality check to all those who thought farming was so "romantic". Pretty stinky! I showed them the barn where part of it is original to the old house (1790ish) and how we raise and have raised all our own meat and veggies for at least 25 years. The baby piglets stole the show as we have 15 and they are about 2 months old and the cutest, mischievous things ever.

- Sue Tarasuk, Snow Farm

While most of us know what happened during our 250th Celebration just ended, only an imaginative writer with skill to spare can foresee the events of our 300th Celebration, coming sooner than we think.

2062

A Report on the Celebrations

By Simon Winchester

It was the first time a sitting President had visited Sandisfield, in all of our three hundred years. But there she was, our nation's 52nd President, Blossom Chang, standing last July on the steps of the Barrett Center, applauding us villagers "for keeping the standards and morals of rural America sound and true" during all the turmoil of the past decades.

to have their traditions swept aside – or else had them forcibly swept aside by the edicts of the Caliphate. But not you great people. Not here. You endured. You remained true. God and Confucius, bless you all."

Hundreds of residents thronged the roads as she then toured the town. Unencumbered by security guards – the 2048 Kardashian Gun Control Act had effectively removed every last lethal weapon, even from Sandisfield – she stopped occasionally to lay silk-gloved hands on her fans. Children pressed close, hoping to touch her unusually-colored and softly textured skin. But she seemed more eager to greet older residents – those who remembered LBAO, *Life Before the Angry Ones*. Dozens of these citizens sat well-shaded on their front porches or under their banana palms, sipping from silicone vials of Eternapink, the regenerative GM grape juice that has kept so many hale and hearty beyond their Biblically allotted span.

Several of us eagerly recalled for President Chang the celebrations of 2012. Ron Bernard, now a sprightly 117, showed her a yellowing copy of the massive encyclopedia he had written and assembled to mark that earlier anniversary. She fondled the antique confection of paper and

So that was her secret! That was how she kept her skin so perfect, so far from the toadlike leatherness that has afflicted the rest of us in this eternal sunshine. We had heard of AntiViolet. Mined on the moon, they say. Thousands of dollars for a single bottle.

The President's final visit was to the town Community Center, tucked into a grove beside her departure-point, the Harasyko Plasma-port. She stood silent and admiring before the plaque that offered a concise history of the ancient, perfectly preserved wooden structure, through all of its incarnations: Christian Church, Jewish Temple, Cultural Center, Evangelical Shrine, Shiite Mosque (for the Angry Ones did extend some small degree of influence even here during the brief reign of the Caliphate), then Security Monitoring HQ, and finally, handed back to the people whom it now served. A generator outside thundered to keep cool the Cormier Ice Rink, and from within came the whoop and skirls of larking children.

Blossom Chang smiled broadly as she stepped onto her jet-disc. "People of Sandisfield – you have made all America proud! You are the nation as it used to be. May you all be here in 2112 – and may I be here too!"


“I was charmed by the drive along Silverbrook Road – made of dirt, still, in the best traditions of New England.”

A crowd of several hundred stood in the blazing sunshine to meet America's hugely popular President, the woman broadly credited for at last bringing unity to a long-divided nation. There was wild applause when she announced, as anticipated, that there would indeed be federal money for the excavation of the Berkshire County People-Mover. Our own station would be built inside the New Boston branch of Guido's, so that local passengers might get easily to the Farmington Maglev station and the ultra high-speed shuttles between Quebec City, Orlando, and Chicago.

"This initiative of mine is all about transport, and highways, and superfast technologies," she continued in her lilting Montana-Shanghai accent. "This is government business, as it should be. But you here have rightly kept your roadways as they have long been."

She added, "I was just charmed by the drive here, along Silverbrook Road – made of dirt, still, in the best traditions of New England. Far too many of our communities have been content

ink with a kind of nostalgic affection and, as she struggled to lift it and then to open it right-side-up, a sense of profound puzzlement. "Forty dollars!" she chortled, looking at the price. "So cheap! One spoon of Anti-Violet buys you whole book!"

She laughed, raised her silicone vial high in the air. "God and Confucius bless you all!" And in a second of brilliant light, she had quite vanished, leaving just a pink drift of vapor floating high over the date groves. A flight of macaws, startled, took off in her wake. 



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TOWN BUSINESS

Edited by Rhee Kasky

Selectmen's meeting, June 18, 2012

Attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, Jeff Gray

Discussed summer schedule of meetings. Selectmen will start the summer schedule of meeting every other week with June 25 as the first week off.

Discussed Long-Range Planning and Town Management committees. The committees were advertised on the town website and in *The Sandisfield Times*. Bill O'Brien and Rhee Kasky volunteered to be on the Town Management Committee. Selectmen will discuss this at the July 2 meeting. Jeff will represent the Selectmen on the Long-Range Planning Committee.



Selectmen's meeting, July 2, 2012

Attending: Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Steve provided Highway Department updates. Reviewed and signed Chapter 90 reimbursement paperwork for the culvert replacement on Route 57. Leigh Tryon is donating the use of his bulldozer for work at Yanner Park and at the fireworks site for the 250th celebration.

Discussed new equipment for the Highway Department. Replaced the head for the mower, purchased tool boxes and tools. The John Deere mower is in repair. Discussed the New Hartford Road bid. Currently working on South Beech Plain and Cold Spring Roads. John Fields will be working on tree removal. New fuel system is about to be installed.

Discussed property on North Beech Plain Road. Steve received a call from a property owner there who is questioning the drainage. There are questions about whether the area in question is in Sandisfield or Otis and Steve will follow up with the Assessor's Office. Discussed equipment bid as the contract expires in October and Steve would like to bid it out again for another three years. Steve will be out of the office for about a week beginning July 10.

Reviewed and signed one-day alcohol permits for SARc, American Legion, and the Fire Department. Nina Carr present to pick up the permit for SARc.

Nina reviewed the play that will be performed at the SARc building for the 250th celebration. She has asked Patrick and Jeff to volunteer to be in the play and both agreed to do so.

Marty Cormier in to discuss the re-opening of Tuckers Restaurant. He would like to open by the end of July and his attorney is working on his al-

cohol license application. In the meantime he'd like to open the restaurant as a BYOB (bring your own bottle) – beer and wine only. He plans that the restaurant will be open Thursday through Sunday initially. There is an effort to get a public hearing on this on July 30, 2012. Marty will need Board of Health, Fire, and Building inspections before then.

Discussed Berkshire Regional Planning Commission road management service. Steve has set up a meeting for this on July 5. That service can be covered by Chapter 90 funds. Discussed Hammertown Road. Patrick has contacted MEMA regarding the reimbursement funding for the wash-out on that road by Storm Irene. Both ends of Hammertown Road have been re-opened and reimbursement at 75% has been paid by FEMA. The middle of Hammertown Road has not been paid for nor has it been toured by FEMA. Several efforts have been made to get FEMA back out to tour this road without success. The Highway Department has opened the road at an approximate cost of \$8,000 with more work to do – but at least the road is passable.

Discussed the expectations of the Selectmen for the 250th Celebration. Patrick talked with Kathy Jacobs about this. The Selectmen will be at the opening ceremony and available for judging contests. They would also like to spend time with their families enjoying the celebration.

Reviewed notice to boards for Senior Tax Workoff Program. Notice was read and approved.

Letter of resignation from the Council on Aging from Betty Annecharico was accepted and Wendy Slater was appointed to fill that spot.

Reviewed appointments for the Town Management and Long-Range Planning Committees. To date there are three volunteers for Town Management (looking for 4 more) and four volunteers for Long-Range Planning (looking for 5 more).

Discussed and approved signs for the 250th Celebration. 

COMING SOON! ARGUMENTS!

*2012 Forum on World
History and American
Culture*

*Sandisfield Arts Center
Saturday mornings
August 11 & 18, 10:30 a.m.*

"Persons of Conscience," a one-person presentation by Val Coleman, will be presented on Saturday, August 11, at 10:30 a.m. Val describes his "talk" as a noisy description of several characters in world history that raised a special kind of hell – five difficult, contentious men who spent their lives swimming upstream in search of a humane society. The cast includes a saint, a philoso-

pher, a wintry author, an English troublemaker, and the nearly forgotten founder of the American civil rights movement.

The following week, "Conservative Politics and Culture in Post-World War II America," will be presented by Bill Cohn on Saturday, August 18 at 10:30 a.m. Bill will focus on the development of the present-day conservative movement, which seems filled with contentious men and women swimming downstream in a search to recover Norman Rockwell's vision of American life, now believed to be lost. The idea that cultural conservatism might affect the outcome of the 2012 presidential election will be up for discussion.

The cost for each event is \$10. Coffee, cookies, and free opinions are promised to be available.

NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW

Mary Leary Parks the USPS Van for Good

By Roberta Myers

At the end of June, after more than 40 years of delivering Sandisfield mail, Mary Leary retired. It's made quite a change in her life. For example, she can now sleep past six a.m. and even stay up after eight p.m. to watch television. She is still getting used to her new hours.

Mary's family has been the right arm of the Sandisfield USPS for a long time. Her father-in-law, Steve Campetti, was postmaster at the New Boston Store for many years. His clerk was his sister, Mary Campetti Lundgren, who ran the post office while Steve was in the service in World War II. In 1972 a new rural route postal delivery person was needed and Mary recruited her daughter-in-law, Mary Frechette Lundgren, her son Eric's wife.

That was the beginning for Mary. Ever since, she has delivered Sandisfield mail six days a week as a highway contractor for the U.S. Post Office.

Highway contractors are paid by the mile after passing a federal government clearing process and obtaining a badge. It is a serious commitment. Mary had to be up early to fetch the mail from the Otis distribution center, bringing heavy buckets, bags, and trays of mail back to Sandisfield to sort it with whoever was in charge into post office boxes and a mail route bundle. Next, the mail was "tied out" – put in the route order – and Mary then delivered it to mail boxes around town. She picked up outgoing mail on her route and delivered it to Otis in time for an afternoon mail pickup.

At first Mary's route started by the Vogellus place just east of West New Boston (since burned) across from the Sandisfield Library and went to South Sandisfield Road, across Bosworth Road, then to West Street, back to New Hartford Road to Highway 183 and South Sandisfield and then circled back to the post office. In 1980, when the new post office was built on Route 57, New Boston was added to her mail route.

Mary grew up in Southwick. Widowed in 2005 by Eric Lundgren's death, she married Southwick friend and classmate, Jim Leary, the following year and they've lived in town since then. Mary's authorized helpers on the route, after they received their badges, included her husband, Jim, and Hank Wingate and Gene English. Now Mary will help the new route driver, Lisa Leavenworth.

Mary says the best part of her mail route career was the ongoing interaction with the great people along her route. She misses that and enjoyed many messages of good will before and after retiring.


According to Mary, the worst part of her job was not the requirement to lift up to 70 pounds; it was the weather. Mary says the saying is true:



Photo: Setsuko Winchester

Mary Leary delivering the mail with a smile on her last day on the route.

"Neither rain nor snow nor sleet nor hail shall stop the U.S. Mail."

And, incredibly, the mail really does go through no matter what Mother Nature has in store. Mary recalls one winter ice storm when the town sander had to *back down* South Sandisfield Road in order to spread sand across it because conditions were so slippery. She was waiting at the bottom and followed the truck back up to finish her route. 

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Henry David Thoreau



Image: Tina Sotis ©2011



THE
SANDISFIELD
LIBRARY NEWS

By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

Our next Genealogy Assistance Class will be Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Four copies of *Sandisfield Then and Now* are available at the library, three donated by the Sandisfield Cultural Council and one by Bill Price. One copy is for check-out with three reserved for reference.

New books for August:

Sandisfield Then and Now by Ron Bernard

(local subject/local author)

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy

The Inn at Rose Harbor by Debbie Macomber

Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend by Matthew Dicks

Return to Willow Lake by Susan Wiggs

Summer Breeze by Nancy Thayer

Bagpipes, Brides and Homicides by Lisa MacCrimmon

Scone Island by Frederick Ramsay

Trickster's Point by William Kent Krueger

Sweet Talk by Julie Garwood


Bad Little Falls by Mike Bowditch 

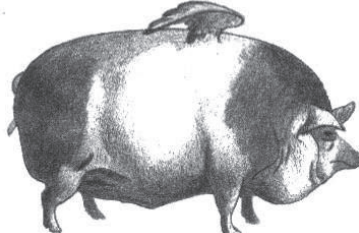
Sandisfield
Historical
Society News



By Norton Fletcher and Josephine Freedman

The Sandisfield Historical Society's July 7 Fair was well attended. We did quite well for such a hot day! The 50-50 Raffle was won by Rick Hollick of Lee. The very good news was that the Fanny Hamilton Quilt that we raffled off was won by "Pat" Hamilton. It was nice for the quilt to go back to the family.

The Society served coffee and homemade cookies both days of the 250th Celebration. We were ready for hundreds of people with 16 varieties of cookies. Things were not too bad on Saturday morning. Even with a little rain, many people came by to purchase our coffee and cookies. Then the light rain turned into a downpour. There were about eight of us huddled under the small tent which included members, customers, vendors, and our president Norton Fletcher, all of us trying to keep dry. With all of the rain, everyone was in great spirits. How could we complain, we had a huge pot of fresh-brewed coffee to keep us warm and oh so many delicious cookies to sample. 



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NOW HEAR THIS!

*If you have an event that you would like to see listed here, please email calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org.
We reserve space for events that involve Sandisfield residents or take place in Sandisfield and neighboring communities.
Prepared by Susan Van Sickle, 413-258-4877 or susanvansickle@yahoo.com.*

August Events

Thursday, August 9, 5-8 p.m. Silent Auction to support the Farmington River PTO and the children of Farmington River School. Many great items and services will be auctioned: Area Artist's artwork, Spa packages, gift baskets, gift certificates, personal fitness training sessions, and much more! Stanmeyer Gallery, 1286 Monterey Road, West Otis.

Saturday, August 11, at 10:30 a.m., the Sandisfield Arts Center will present the first part of *2012 Forum on History and American Culture*. This first program is titled *Persons of Conscience* and is written by and features Val Coleman portraying five contentious searchers for a humane society. \$10.00.

Saturday, August 11, at 11:00 a.m., the monthly meeting of the Sandisfield Historical Society, Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rt. 183), followed by a potluck luncheon. Historic house plaques that have been ordered are available for pick up. Please contact Norton Fletcher at 258-4520.

Saturday, August 11, 4-7 p.m., the Bidwell House Museum is holding its annual garden party fund-raising event with a colonial-theme party at the 1747 Deacon Hale House in Monterey. Irish folk music, "Bidwell Beer," a pale summer ale, ciders, wines and colonial refreshments, a live and a silent auction featuring artworks, antiques, special dinners, and more. \$50 per person. For reservations or information, contact the museum at 528-6888 or bidwellhouse@gmail.com. All contributions are deductible to the extent permissible by law.

👉 Saturday, August 11, ANNUAL FIRE DEPT STEAK ROAST. Fire Station #2, Rt. 57. Dinner 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Dancing 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and will NOT be available at door. \$25, purchase at A&M Auto on Tolland Road, just up from Rt. 8.

Saturday, August 18, at 10:30 a.m., the Sandisfield Arts Center will present the second program of *2012 Forum on History and American Culture*. In "Conservative Politics and Culture in Post-World War II America," Bill Cohn will focus on the development of the present-day conservative movement and the idea that cultural conservatism could affect the 2012 presidential election. \$10.00.

Saturday, August 25, "A Jazz Evening with Charles Neville" will be the final installment in *The Knox Trail Inn Concert Series*. The concert

with Charles Neville's jazz quartet and vocalist, as well as a New Orleans buffet dinner is \$35 for adults and \$20 for children 10 and under. Buffet begins at 6:30 pm with a cash bar, and the music kicks off at 8pm. For those attending the concert only, tickets will be \$15 at the door. Call the Knox Trail Inn for reservations at (413) 269-4400, as space is limited for what is bound to be a memorable evening. Co-sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council and the Knox Trail Inn.

Saturday, August 25. Vendors needed for community craft and tag sale, sponsored by Tolland Ladies Aid Society. Proceeds to Bertha Fowler Hale Scholarship. 12x12 space for \$10. Contact Shirley (258-4255) or online: jarmclark@verizon.net.

Of Interest

Beginning Thursday, July 5, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., and running for six weeks, through August 15, S-T-R-E-T-C-H classes will be held at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Classes meet on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. The cost for one day a week is \$80, two days \$150 and three days \$200.

Ongoing Events

Town Meetings (Info call 258-4711)

Some notices under Ongoing Events do not operate through the summer. For example: The Children's Health Program Play Group does not meet during the summer.

Sandisfield Historical Society, second Saturday of the month, 11:00 a.m., Sandy Brook Turnpike.

Selectmen, every other Monday during the summer, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Farmington River Regional School District, first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Farmington River Regional School, Rt. 8, JoAnn Austin, Superintendent. Public welcome.

Planning Board, second Monday of the month, 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

Board of Assessors, second Tuesday of the month, 5 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Conservation Commission, third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis, every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Otis Town Hall. For information call Andy Pyenson, President at 413-269-6060.

Board of Health, first Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

Boy Scouts, contact Western Mass Council of Boy Scouts for a local troop at 413-418-4002.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Senior Center - Town Hall Annex. Pot luck lunch at noon, bingo at 1 p.m. Free blood pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

Finance Committee, second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Sandisfield Library. Public Welcome.

PTO, second Thursday of the month, 3:15 p.m., Farmington River Regional School. Child care provided.

CORRECTION

In the June issue of *The Sandisfield Times*, we reported that the approximate cost for repairing New Hartford Road was \$6,000,000. Clearly that is incorrect. The \$6,000,000 pertained to repairing *all* of the roads in town. We regret the error.

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CUT COSTS NOW

To the Editor:

Well done on your coverage of the budget process and soaring costs. By the town's own accounting, the average family tax bill has already risen better than 40 percent from 2002 (\$1,605) to (\$2,708) this year, and we are now on course for a record setting increase this fall after rejecting a common-wealth cap of 2.5 percent increase.

We know the villains – fixed costs, negotiated union contracts, mandates, and things that we need that need fixing like roads. I can't think of many people I know who have seen their pay increase by 40 percent over the past 10 years, or seen salaries double in 14 years as taxes have here.

Quite simply, the madness of escalating costs must stop...what will it be this year...three, four five percent?

And next? Some of us feel lucky to have jobs, and, like me, many haven't seen a raise in more than six years. The triangulation of costs and income simply won't connect in the future; the income won't be there.

It is incumbent upon our elected officials, who do have the town's interest at heart, to have more courage about cutting costs. Otherwise it seems we are headed toward regional governments. Money is not a fictional commodity shifted around in accounts, or borrowed against a future that won't be able to repay debt.

A town manager could be counted among the sav-ings...and could very likely pay for his/her sala-ry and save the town money by way of grants, bet-ter long-term planning, and reimbursements the town hasn't chased. Perhaps the town could share a manager position with a neighboring town.

Brigitte Ruthman, Joshua's Farm, Dodd Road

GREAT BOOK, GREAT PLAY

To the Editor:

My family and I have been the fortunate resi-dents of Atwater Pond since 1970. I love Sand-isfield so very much. Simon Winchester's preface to *Sandisfield Then and Now* says eloquently and perfectly what my wife Judi and I treasure so deeply about this unique and wonderful town. My deepest thanks go to Ron Bernard, whose leadership and scholarship brought to life this amazingly beautiful and in-depth history of our town.

My thanks also go to Liana Toscanini, Tina Sotis, and all others who consulted and worked so hard to help Ron...the entire committee and *The Sandisfield Times*.

My heartiest congratulations to Ben Luxon and all those involved in "Rascals & Oth-ers". It was a grand presentation and espe-cially so for a small community to mount so superbly in our historic pluralistic building.

I only hope that all of those involved in these won-derful projects feel the pride that they deserve. Sandisfield deserves such a testimony that *Then and Now* and "Rascals & Others" offer.

Lou Friedman, Sullivan Road

DON'T QUESTION TOWN POLITICS

To the Editor:

This is in response to last month's Town News re-port about the May 7th town meeting. First of all, I thought we lived in a DEMOCRACY and that being a taxpayer, you could ask questions without being "ACCUSED" of attacking the Selectmen.

Obviously, as I was informed when I first came here, "Don't say anything against town policy or question anything about town politics." It sure seems to be true. Questioning town politics is a "NO, NO." The town budget should be like any budget. You know how much money you have coming in and budget accordingly. If you have an extra expense, you cut from somewhere else to pay bills. Mr. Barrett was still unable to answer my question of why the budget wasn't balanced (as they said they would last year).

My husband and his family have been paying taxes here for 40 years, and I think I was entitled to a more correct response other than they aren't over spending instead of beating around the bush about the problem. Believe me, I'm not the only one who feels this way, but they don't want their name in print (like mine) and have to deal later with all the small-town backlashes and gossip.

Pam Begin
New Hartford Road



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *continued*

FOR WANT OF AN "R" ...

To the Editor:

We recently read your 250th celebration edition and noticed a one-letter typo that changes the public's entire picture of what we do at our farm. Your paper wrote that among the farms scheduled to take part in the Open House was one called "Born to Run Barrel Houses."

It could be a humorous typo, however we have perhaps lost a very important opportunity for many to experience what we offer because of one vowel. Reading the paper we asked, "What are Barrel Houses?" Wikipedia says "Barrel-house can refer to a juke joint, a bar, or saloon..."

We would like to make humor of this monstrous lemon and make lemonade because alcohol and dangerous sports are deadly mixes. We are talking about Barrel Horses here, not "Barrel Houses." It's a type of horse racing that requires great agility, coordination, and body language of both horse and rider, sometimes referred to as "15 seconds of pure adrenaline."

Not only does Sandisfield have two continuous annual World's Qualifiers, but is also home to a National Champion and we also hold regional titles. Sandisfield is home to a stable of well-loved professional athletes with personalities, some of whom have competed against the best horses from all around the world and have been on television and radio. Among the champs here are retired thoroughbred racetrack horses, rescued horses, young ones in training, a lovable draft-horse, and our own racing bloodline born & raised here who recently had her first race.

Our purpose during the farm tour was to introduce the sport locally. We have training available for other equine disciplines as well, and we market organic hay plus our own brand of natural equine nutrition supplements. It's possible for locals to become World Champion without breaking the bank, as our modest farm, a work in progress, can attest. In the near future we wish to expand into year-round therapeutic riding since I'm also a medical professional.

Which brings us back to the question: What are visitors going to think when they show up expecting booze but we pour them lemonade instead? At times we chuckle about the typo, but in ways it could have hurt us. Whoever is responsible for it, please be more diligent.

Robin Annecharico, Alicia Turkington, and the staff at Born to Run Barrel Horses, LLC, Stump Road

Editor's note: We regret the error, and appreciate the graciousness of this letter. To make amends the Times will publish a feature article soon about Born to Run and all their pretty houses.

Comings and Goings



HOOKER JUDSON 1910-2012

Although the Times reserves space in Coming and Going for Sandisfield news, we thought since Hooker taught many Sandisfield children and perhaps their parents to ski and was well known here that an exception would be in order.

Mary Hooker Woodward Judson, formerly of Otis, died in Essex, Connecticut, on June 21 at the age of 101. During her adult life she was known as Hooker Judson, preferring to use the name of her ancestor, Thomas Hooker, the Puritan leader who founded the colony of Connecticut. A memorial service will be held at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, Connecticut, at 2 p.m., on what would have been her 102nd birthday, August 12, 2012.

Hooker and her husband, David, moved to Otis just before World War II. They made it their home for half a century. Together, Hooker and David entered the nascent ski industry. David ran the Otis Ridge Ski Area while Hooker directed the Otis Ridge Junior Ski Camp, which taught skiing skills and skiing etiquette to about 2,000 children each year. Under Hooker's direction the camp was nationally recognized for its unique and outstanding contributions to skiing. Many generations of children from Sandisfield reaped the benefits of her instruction at the ridge. The Judson's retired to Old Lyme, Conn., where David died in 1992.

Born in 1910, Hooker graduated from Vassar College and worked in the copyright division of NBC Music by day and wrote plays by night. She later attended the Yale Drama School. In January of 1936 she married William David Judson, Jr., of Rye and New York City, a writer for *The Saturday Evening Post* and other publications.

Hooker is survived by her three children: William D. Judson III of Pittsburgh, Pa., Nathalie H. Judson of Old Lyme, Conn., and Stephen Y. Judson of Laguna Beach, Calif., and by four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



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Editorial Staff:

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*Now Hear This! and Comings and Goings: Contact Susan Van Sickle,
413-258-4577 or susanvansickle@yahoo.com*

Cover photo of fireworks at Carr Field by Richard Migot.

How to Contact Us

Letters to the editor:..... letters@sandisfieldtimes.org

News, ideas, tips & photos:..... editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

Advertising questions: advertising@sandisfieldtimes.org

Entries for calendar of events: calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org

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