

The WALPOLE Clarion

A Monthly Community Publication • Volume V, Issue 1 • January, 2015

Home

I have been very fortunate in the six decades of my life. I have had both wonderful and tragic experiences, and have been blessed in learning many important life lessons from those events — sadly, lessons not everyone comes to grasp. Often, I find myself sharing with others (whether they want to listen or not) the life-enhancing lessons I have learned, with the hope that in some small way I may assist someone in enjoying his or her life more, just as I am enjoying mine.

A book I just finished, *Braving Home* by Jake Halpern, brought into focus feelings about “home” that I intuitively have come to appreciate, and now must share. A military career kept me from having “roots,” but when I finally serendipitously landed in Walpole I found myself *home*. Walking the dogs throughout the village with Cathy, we got to know people and people got to know us. And, after losing Cathy, I became even more involved with the community -- both to fill time and in the hope of “giving back.”

Jake Halpern, as a 24 year old “cub-reporter,” became intrigued with finding out why in today’s mobile society, some “die-hards” were fiercely determined to remain in their homes. Many of their homes were remote and challenging, facing flooding, hurricanes, lava flows, constant fires, or extreme isolation. From 1999 to the publication of his book in 2003 (when he was 28 years old), he spent time in those perilous locations.

Continued on Page 4

The Winery on ice

PHOTO: BARBARA KASPERR

Common Christmas

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Free Marketplace

Open Enrollment Events

The 2015 Marketplace Open Enrollment begins November 15. The last day to enroll is February 15, and Monadnock ServiceLink Aging and Disability Resource Center, in collaboration with community partners, is here to guide you through the process. Monadnock ServiceLink ADRC will hold a series of health insurance and enrollment events at Walpole Library.

The dates are as follows:

Wednesday, January 7: 4PM to 7PM
Wednesday, January 21: 4PM to 7PM
Wednesday, February 4: 4PM to 7PM

Certified Marketplace Assistants will be available at each event. Assistants are trained to answer questions and assist in the enrollment process. Assistants provide free, unbiased, confidential guidance through the healthcare.gov website.

Information needed to enroll is as follows:

Birthdates and social security numbers for everyone in the household (or documents for legal immigrants)

Employer information (W-2 form, paystub, or tax statement) for everyone in the household

Total household income including those not applying for insurance

Existing insurance policy numbers

Consumers must enroll before December 15th to be effectively covered before January 1st 2015. Enrollment can be done by the consumer at www.healthcare.gov. If assistance is needed, please contact ServiceLink ADRC at 1-866-634-9412, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England at 1-866-476-1321, or Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock Keene at 1-603-354-5454 ext. 2137.

— Jennifer Seher

**LOOK
FOR**

News from the Walpole Town Library

The Walpole Town Library is happy to announce the launch of our Email News Alerts service. Now you'll be up-to-date on all that's happening at the library from events, kids programs, book clubs, holiday hours, weather closures and more! You can also follow us on Facebook for weekly new book and DVD lists.

We hope that these emails will be informative for you. If you have any questions or suggestions please let Julie Rios know at jrios@walpoletownlibrary.org

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If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made.
Very few people die past that age.

— George Burns

Calling All Horse Thieves:

200th Anniversary Annual Meeting

The Horse Thieves' annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17, at 6 PM on the second floor of the Town Hall. Because our biennial banquet was in 2014 we expect a short meeting this year; it will consist of various reports, voting on the minutes of last year's annual meeting plus the election of new officers. Last year we revived the tradition of honoring our Riders at our annual meeting and we'll do that again this year.

The Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Clotheslines and Hen Roosts (W.S.F.B.T.J.H.T.A.P.O.C.A.H.R.) was first organized in a local tavern in 1816. With this year's annual meeting, we are therefore beginning our organization's 200th year! Of course, Walpole was in existence before that but the Horse Thieves are

WALPOLE SOCIETY FOR BRINGING TO JUSTICE HORSE THIEVES AND PILFERERS ORGANIZED IN 1816. INCORPORATED 1835.

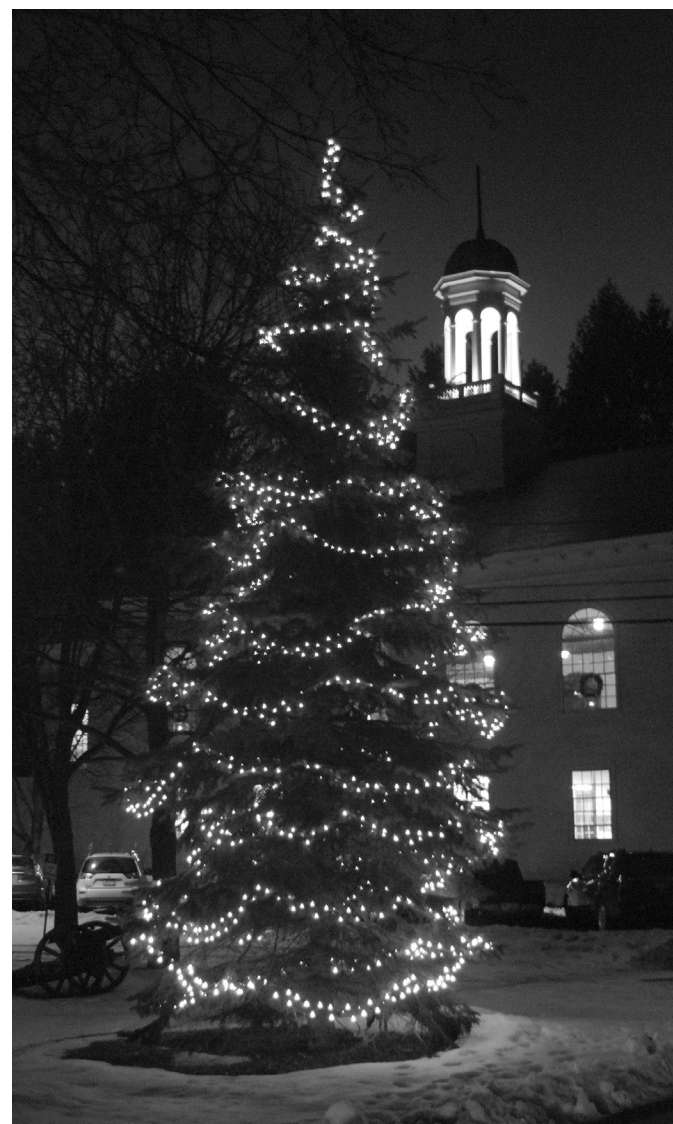
one of the oldest organizations in town, and in fact are one of the oldest Horse Thieves societies in the country. We encourage all our members to join us for this event.

For those who haven't attended a Horse Thieves' annual meeting, a whole year's worth of business can be dispatched in as little as 12 minutes, so come see the excitement . . . and show up early or you may miss it! Our constitution requires a quorum of 12 for the meeting, so we encourage all our members and those interested in joining the Horse Thieves to attend. As those who follow

our occasional updates on the Horse Thieves know, the organization is open to any man 18 years or older who lives in Walpole, who pays a \$2 lifetime fee and who signs the membership book. If you are interested in joining, please contact Lewis LaClair, Clerk (756-0001, or LLaclair@Advancedrisk.com) or Sheldon Sawyer, President (756-3404), or show up (early!!) at the annual business meeting.

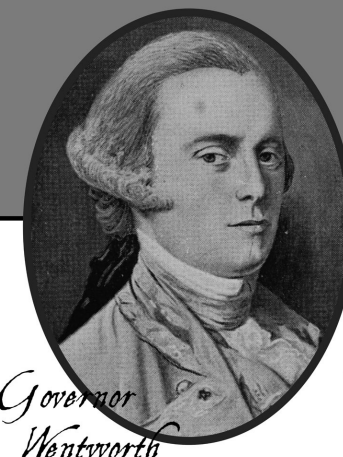
So, mark your calendars for the "Horse Thieves" annual meeting marking our 200th anniversary on Saturday, January 17, at 6 PM on the second floor of the Town Hall.

— Lewis LaClair



WHS SPEAKER SERIES #7

Colonial Walpole




WITH
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DANIELS**

Saturday
Jan. 17, 2015
7:00 PM
**Walpole
Town Hall**



DAMN —
SEVEN YEARS OF COLLEGE,
DOWN THE DRAIN.



— John Belushi



Walpole Creamery

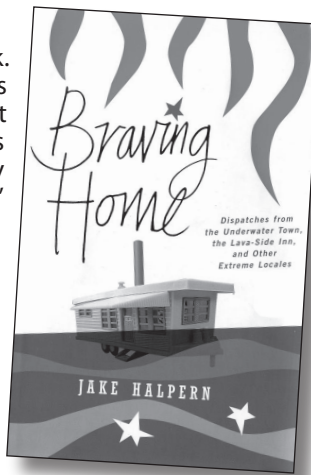
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Continued from Page 1: Home

I highly recommend his book. But from the book's 240 pages I gleaned two passages that hit home: "...our identities sometimes become irrevocably linked to places where we live." One of the folks Halpern came to know in Alaska stated "the lower forty-eight didn't appeal to her because she didn't know any of those people down there." Halpern surmised that "perhaps the real drawback was that none of those people knew her." And, "home is not just a place, but a



vast amalgamation of human experiences. It is an unruly mix of scenery, smells, carpentry, family, memories, ambitions, hardship, and a million other things as well."

A couple years after I moved to Walpole Sandy Smith, our Town Clerk, asked me, "Ray, you have been here a couple years – are you

staying?" "Why?" I asked. "Many people who move here cannot handle the lack of big city excitement," she replied, "and move soon after." When you become part of the community, contribute to it, can be recognized as you walk downtown, can enjoy your surroundings and friends, there is no reason to leave. When the "amalgamation of human experiences" works, and people know you, it is home. And, for me – who will be staying – Walpole will always be Home.

– Ray Boas



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HUNTER

An Internship in South Africa
Part 2 of a series by Levi Frye

Equipment Prep for South Africa

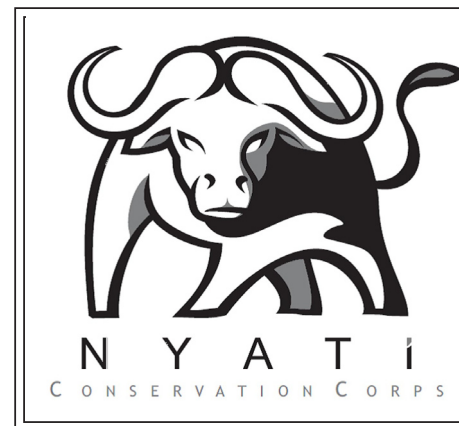
After officially being accepted to Nyati, I made the decision to do a little research on my own concerning gear I would need for the internship. I knew I would receive a packing list in a few weeks, but wanted the perspective of a professional.

A professional hunter usually travels quite light, leaving gadgets at home. Consequently, what a PH carries is vitally important to him and must perform at the highest level under the most demanding of circumstances. Failure of any item of his equipment can result in death or serious injury. Essentially, professional hunters are the premier light infantry units of the hunting world.

A hunting magazine I frequently read, Sports Afield, runs a column called "Ask Doctari" in which hunters submit questions to a professional hunter about safari hunting. I sent in my question, stating what I would be doing this summer and asking for recommendations about the most vital gear to carry with me. Very promptly, I received an email response from Dr. Kevin Robertson of the South African Wildlife College. Dr. Robinson is a well-known professional hunter who also teaches at the South African Wildlife College. In addition, he authored the bestselling book, *The Perfect Shot*, which is undoubtedly the finest book written about shot placement on African game to insure safe, humane kills. He has also had a hand in designing rifles specifically for dangerous game by custom rifle-makers. If any man knows what he is talking about, Dr. Robinson is the one. His response was extremely generous and encouraging.

The most essential piece of equipment for a PH is an excellent pair of binoculars. They should be worn with a strap hanging on one's side, just above the hip, for fast and easy access as well as to minimize movement when drawing them up. The next most important item is a good pair of boots. However, Africa demands not just any boot for success. Thorns are generally the biggest issue to be faced in the bush and can tear apart the soles of one's boot if they are not tough. Courteney of Kenya makes what most African hunters deem to be the finest boot to withstand the environment. Courteney makes its boots in both elephant and buffalo hide. Elephant lasts longer, but is more difficult

to break in. They will last through 10+ years of daily wear in the bush and not deteriorate. Courteney offers a sole made of tire tread that's tough enough to provide an incredible grip while preventing thorns from poking through. Good socks - generally wool - should also be worn, and above these, sock protectors or gaiters which work to keep seeds, sand and thorns out of the boots.



Next, a good flashlight, a good camera and a good multi-tool are required. They all have many applications in the field, from tracking wounded animals to taking a scenic picture, to cutting a branch in your way, to adjusting the scope on your rifle. A good knife, with a blade between 4 and 5 inches and a rounded handle to prevent blisters, is vital. A PH uses his knife extensively and can get blisters if the handle is uncomfortable. In terms of clothing, most anything goes as long

Elephant hide boots



Life grows
more tremendously
full, swift, poignant,
as the years multiply.

– Zane Grey

as it is in khaki or olive and has a lot of pockets. Professional hunters usually wear shorts (something I can't figure out, but I'm sure I will be on the train upon getting to Africa). Cotton is the most common material, as one doesn't need the wicking material offered in America. Since it will be winter, I will also need a jacket for early mornings and nights. The sun will be bright and strong, however, so hats will be necessary to protect my fair skin.

Needless to say, I must also receive multiple shots and vaccinations. Ebola and yellow fever are not issues in South Africa, which is very much a relief. However, hepatitis A and typhoid (which can be transmitted through food or water) are my two primary and absolutely necessary vaccines. I will probably also receive malaria and rabies vaccines, as I will be in constant close contact with animals.

Having solidified my position with Nyati, I have set my plans and preparations in motion. I am still working on raising the funds I need to pay for the remainder of the program. My tuition is not yet completely paid, and I must purchase my plane ticket and cover other expenses like boots and vaccinations. Recently, I was contacted by a member of Nyati to discuss an opportunity to help pay for my final expenses for the trip. Nyati has obtained three deluxe Yeti coolers as well as a seven-day hunt in South Africa with Shabalala Safaris -- one of the businesses with which I may be working. The program is raffling off both the hunt and the coolers (which will be filled with hunting and fishing gear, as well as African artwork, gift cards and liquor). The week-long hunt will allow the recipient to take up to five individual species of plains game and includes pick-up and drop-off at Johannesburg airport.

Raffle tickets for the coolers are \$20 apiece, and hunt tickets are \$50. For a combination of one hunting ticket and three cooler tickets, the price is only \$100. All proceeds from the tickets I sell will apply to my tuition payments, and will also help with vaccinations, travel and gear. Tickets must be bought by December 31 to be included in the January drawing.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or with any questions pertaining to the raffle or my trip should contact me at 603-762-0399, or by email at levi.dundas.frye@gmail.com.

I look forward to going over future plans in my next article.

– Levi Frye

Christmas Concerts



Singers and musicians from Pre-K through Grade 8 displayed their talents to friends and families in two concerts at Walpole Elementary during the first week of December. After weeks of practice, the young performers joined their voices, played their instruments, and displayed some serious dance moves to the delight of the audience. Bravo to all.

Life is not a spectator sport.

— Jackie Robinson



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Reverend Craig Breismeister

Service: Sunday, 10 AM

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Service: Sunday 9:15 AM

St. Peter's Church (North Walpole)

Pastor, Reverend Steven M. Lepine

Mass: Mon. 8:30AM; Fri. 8:30AM;

Sat. 4PM; Sun. 8:30AM

Confessions: Saturday, 3-3:45 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church

Rector, Reverend Susan de Puy Kershaw

Service: Sunday, 10 AM

Walpole Unitarian Church

Reverend Telos Whitfield

Service: Sunday 10 AM

Walpole Seniors

The Walpole Seniors will meet at the Congregational Church on the Walpole Common at noon on Monday, January 12, 2015. Everyone is asked to bring a contribution for the Fall Mountain Food Shelf. Dr Jeanne F Arnold will present on the topic, *10 Medical Tests to Avoid*. All Drewsville, North Walpole and Walpole Seniors are welcome. Come for fun and good socialization. Please contact Jeanne A Jeffries at 756 2933 for more information.

— Jeanne A Jeffries



Encouraging Community Involvement
Registration For Elected Positions
January 21 – 30

Elected Position	Openings
Select Board	1
Town Clerk/Tax Collection	1
Trustee of Trust Funds	1
Library Trustees	3
Planning Board	2
Zoning Board	2
Cemetery Trustees	1

Appointed Positions	Openings
Conservation Commission	2
Hooper Scholarship	1
Hooper Institute Board	2
Recreation Committee	2
Walpole Recycling Action	3

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AMERICA'S GAME

January 7
Brian's Song

January 14
Heaven Can Wait

January 21
Diner

January 28
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Genealogy Workshop

The Walpole Historical Society will sponsor another free Genealogy Workshop on Saturday, January 10, 2015, from 10AM-12 noon. We welcome beginners as well as experienced persons. Hints regarding research sources as well as stone walls will be shared. Call 756 2933 for reservations. More information can be found on the Walpole Historical Society website: walpolehistory.org.

— Jeanne A Jeffries

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W.R.A.P.

Walpole Recycling Action Project

Well, Christmas has come and gone again. Now we prepare ourselves for the festivities that welcome in the New Year. As we look back on "ancient" 2014, let us all pause to give thanks for our many blessings. Let us all be thankful for our Walpole Recycling Program; a program respected throughout New Hampshire and admired by neighboring towns.

Let us be thankful also for Paul Colburn and Paul's productive people who staff the Recycle Center, and for the volunteers whose efforts permit the Recycle Center to operate on a taxpayer-friendly budget.

Let us be thankful as well, for all the Walpole people who have adopted a *recycle* mentality, dumping the dreaded "dump" mentality. We are especially thankful for recyclers who are careful to put their recyclables in the proper bin: metal cans in the metal can bin, soda cans in the aluminum can bin, type 2 plastic in the type 2 bin, etc.

At the heart of all this is an understanding of what recycling really means. When we have finished with our daily newspaper for example, we can take it to the Recycle Center where Paul's productive people find a buyer for your discarded paper. That buyer takes it to his plant where it is shredded, bleached, dried and, when combined with many other similar papers, is made back into rolls of fresh, clean paper that the buyer can then sell back to the newspaper.

That's the whole idea: Paul finds buyers for stuff we no longer need and those buyers clean it, often reformatting it to suit another purpose, and sell it to a company that needs it – and everybody

is happy. By selling recyclables, Paul saves us tax dollars, and by re-purposing those recyclables, the buyers hire people and make a profit. And finally, if you were the Keene Sentinel (for example) would you rather buy your newsprint from a recycler (cheap), or cut down a couple hundred acres of trees (much more expensive to both your newspaper and to the planet)?

Each type of plastic has its type number inside a triangle, usually stamped on the bottom of the item. If you have a question about types of plastic, ask one of Paul's productive people or one of the volunteers. Please follow those signs on the recycle bins. This recycle thing only works if we keep our recycle bins pure. Our Type 2 plastic bin has gotta be pure Type 2 -- no type 3 or 5 in there. Watch out, bottle caps are usually type 3 or 5, so they've gotta go in your yellow Walpole Bag, along with any type 3 or 5 plastic that comes your way.

All this happy selling and buying activity however, is based in the premise that what is being bought and sold has *not been contaminated*. A buyer for type2 plastic (milk jugs and the like) *will not buy* from us if what we offer has been contaminated with type 1, 3 or 5 plastic. Here's why: a big vat of "pure" type 2 plastic can be cast into a very large number of nice, new milk jugs, but if the vat has been contaminated with type 3 or 5 plastic, it just turns into sticky glop that can't be cast into anything. The buyer suffers a huge loss and Walpole's Recycle Center is black-listed! Bummer!

The same principle applies to slick magazine paper and general office paper too. If it is contaminated we can't recycle it (can't find a buyer for it). Until recently, I had thought that paper was paper.

Well, it turns out that the big machines which clean and shred recycled paper, cannot clean or shred wrapping paper. And ribbon clogs up the shredders and brings the whole operation to a halt. So, our Recycle Center has a rule: *No wrapping paper, no ribbon, no scotch tape, and no wrapping tape*. Just chuck that sort of stuff in your yellow Walpole Bag – not a big deal. If the buyers for our "general office" paper find that our supply is contaminated with wrapping paper and ribbon – that *is* a big deal – for you and for all of us!

Here's a good deal for you: Paul (and Paul's Productive People) are accepting Christmas Trees for recycling – *real trees* – not those plastic ones!

It's been an active, interesting year – a good year. We here in Walpole do have a lot for which to be thankful. Do set aside some time this season for love, thoughtfulness, generosity and thankfulness – in Walpole we care for each other.

— Charles Blount

*I'm not
offended
by all the
dumb blonde jokes
because I know
I'm not dumb...
and I also know
that I'm
not blonde.*

— Dolly Parton

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Bridge Memorial Library

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Tuesday: 1:00 - 6 PM

Wednesday: 10 AM - Noon; 1:00 - 8 PM

Thursday: 1:00 - 6 PM

Friday: 1:00 - 6 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

North Walpole Branch Library

Tuesday - Wednesday: 2 - 4 PM

Saturday: 1 - 4 PM

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Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...windows were blown out

and plates broken in North Walpole on July 4, 1914, when two log-drive rivermen forced a log into the Connecticut River with ten lighted sticks of dynamite? Logs were sent down the Connecticut River, probably as early as 1732, for masts for the English navy. The river was used to move logs in large numbers beginning in the

River Valley, shipments of lumber and other merchandise began moving by rail instead of on the river. But, the rails did not reach the remote timber country as the smaller rivers and streams did. When the process for making paper from pulp wood was perfected in the 1870s (and without competing traffic on the river), loose log drives began in quantities not seen before.

The chartering of The Connecticut River Lumber Co. (CRL Co.) in 1879 ushered in decades of serious log drives. In 1884, the company hired its forceful competitor, George Van Dyke, as its new general manager. The year before, on August 25, 1883, Van Dyke, who was involved with many mills and log drives, was granted a charter for the Bellows Falls Boom Company "to erect and maintain booms

and piers in and across [the] Connecticut River from the dam of the Bellows Falls Canal Company for two miles upstream ... for the purpose of stopping, sorting or securing logs, masts, spars and other lumber floating down said river."

Pulpwood logs would be contained by the boom and stored along the Vermont shore north of the dam in Bellows Falls. The logs would later be pulled across the river to North Walpole where a steam donkey working cables and masts would hoist the logs onto shore placing them in massive piles. Later these logs would be cut and trucked back across the river to the paper mills on "the island."

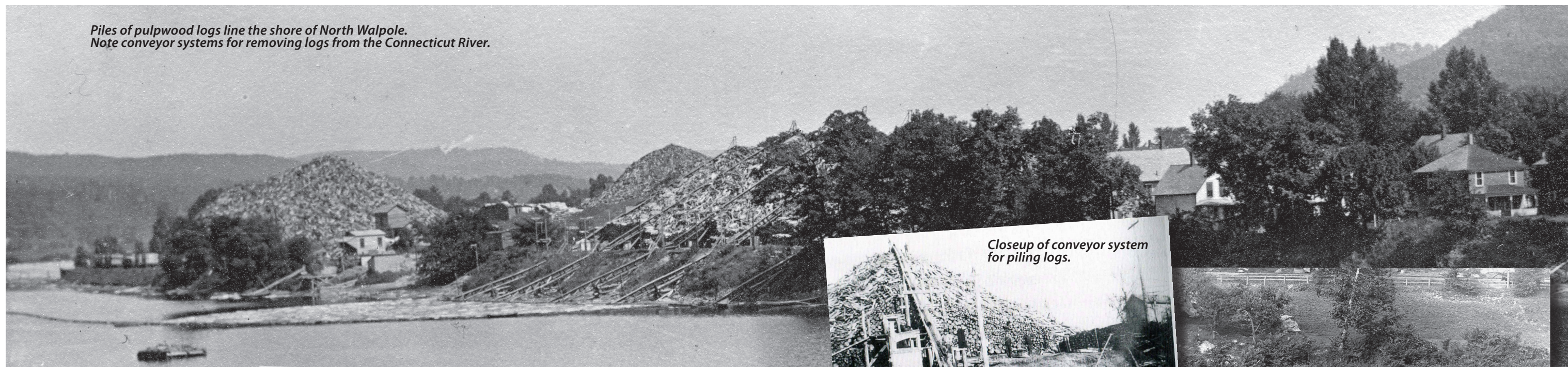
Logs were still floated downstream over dams to paper mills in Massachusetts. One weekend in 1888, more than one-half a million feet of logs went over the Bellows Falls dam, but when the canal gates were opened Monday to divert the water to run the mills, the logs jammed at the narrows at the covered bridge. Dynamite was used to break the jam, and the next day more was used to blast the ledges to make a wider path. Some wayward debris damaged the covered bridge and nearby buildings.

The river men working the log drives would set up camps called Wangan (or Wanigan). This native American term

referred to houseboats with a cook shack and supplies. The term also applied to shore camps, and these were set up on the New Hampshire shore just below the toll bridge to Bellows Falls, and near the Village Bridge in Walpole.

In 1897, Van Dyke became the sole owner of the CRL Co., and in 1902 reorganized it as the Connecticut Valley Lumber Company (CVL), which by then owned most of northern New Hampshire and much of adjacent Vermont and Maine. George Van Dyke was the undisputed "lumber king." In 1909, while watching his rivermen in Turners Falls, Massachusetts, Van Dyke was killed when his automobile tumbled over a cliff.

Piles of pulpwood logs line the shore of North Walpole. Note conveyor systems for removing logs from the Connecticut River.

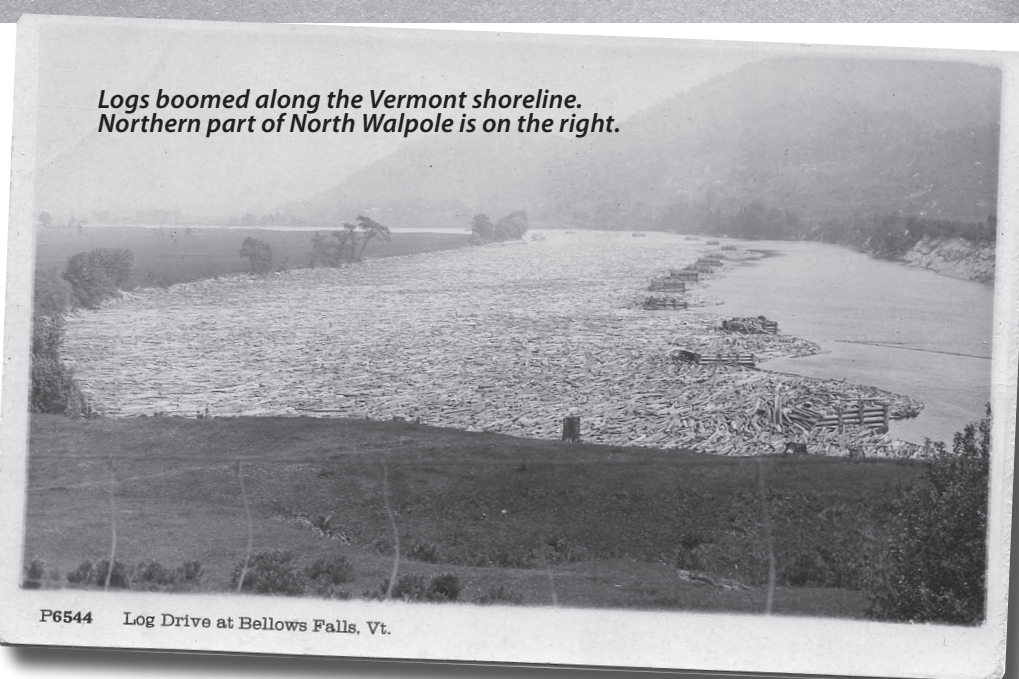


19th century, and the first "long-log" drive from the headwaters of the Connecticut River was in 1869, continuing each year to 1915. Afterwards, 4 foot "bolts" of pulpwood logs were floated until 1949.

The state of New Hampshire, on June 24, 1814, authorized Josiah Bellows II, of Walpole "...to float pine timber down the Connecticut River ... to the Massachusetts line any time April 20 to December 1 except July and August, none to be put in above Walpole Village Bridge, and none but his own..." At first, log drives consisted of 60 foot by 12 foot rafts (logs held together with pegs hammered through cross logs). That size (known as a box) would fit through the early locks at Bellows Falls. Six boxes would be joined for transit between lock locations.

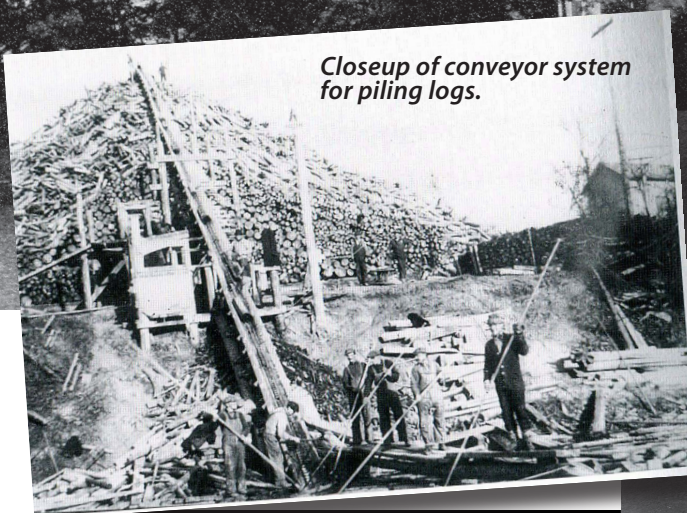
As dams were built across the river, rafting was no longer functional. Between 1845 and 1852, with the railroads advancing up the Connecticut

Logs boomed along the Vermont shoreline. Northern part of North Walpole is on the right.



P6544 Log Drive at Bellows Falls, Vt.

Closeup of conveyor system for piling logs.



*Cook-shack
Van Dyke Log Drive
Bellows Falls Vt.*

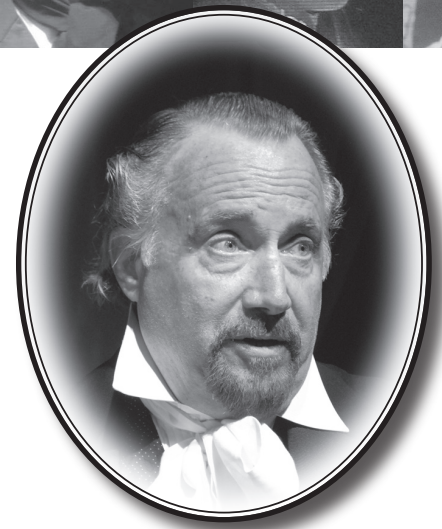


FLORENTINE FILMS

Making films in Walpole
for 35 Years.

The last major log drive occurred in 1915, following the CVL selling its land holdings to the Boston firm, Stone & Webster, which wanted the waterpower rights on the headwaters of the Connecticut. Much of the old growth timber was gone by then, but moving pulp wood down river was still viable. 1949, however, saw the end of even these small log drives.

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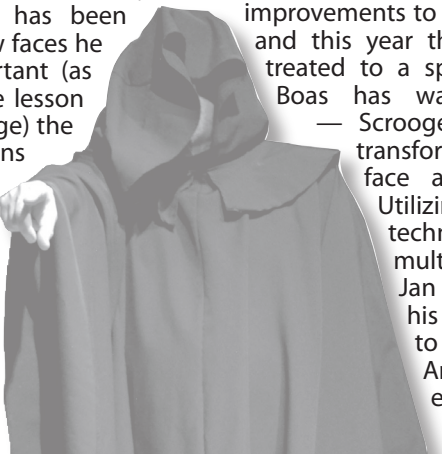


It was a close call, but The Tradition continued. Not enough actors turned out for auditions, but co-directors Tara Sad and Ray Boas decided to call a third audition -- and it worked. Not only was there a response, but seasoned performers in this Walpole holiday tradition returned to help. The result was probably the best cast so far and the best performance season yet, Sad and Boas reported. And the audience, too (exceeding 460 in numbers for all four performances), responded with applause after many of the vignettes, offering standing ovations on two evenings.

Audience members traveled from Vermont and Massachusetts, many for the first time to see this year's production.



Ray Boas greets all who enter the theater, and the past two years has been pleased with the many new faces he has seen. But most important (as always in keeping with the lesson learned by Ebenezer Scrooge) the audience gave cash donations totaling \$3948.10 for local area food shelves. Over its seven-season run, The Walpole Players' production of *A Christmas Carol* has now raised over \$24,197 for Our Place Drop-In Center in Bellows Falls, and the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.



Each year there are minor changes and improvements to the performance, and this year the audience was treated to a special effect that Boas has wanted for years — Scrooge's door knocker transformed into Marley's face and back again. Utilizing computer technology and a multimedia projector, Jan Kobeski worked his image wizardry to create the effect. And -- Jan went even further in

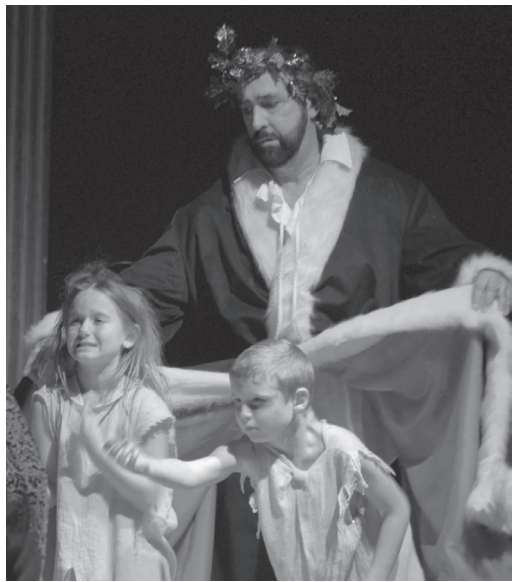


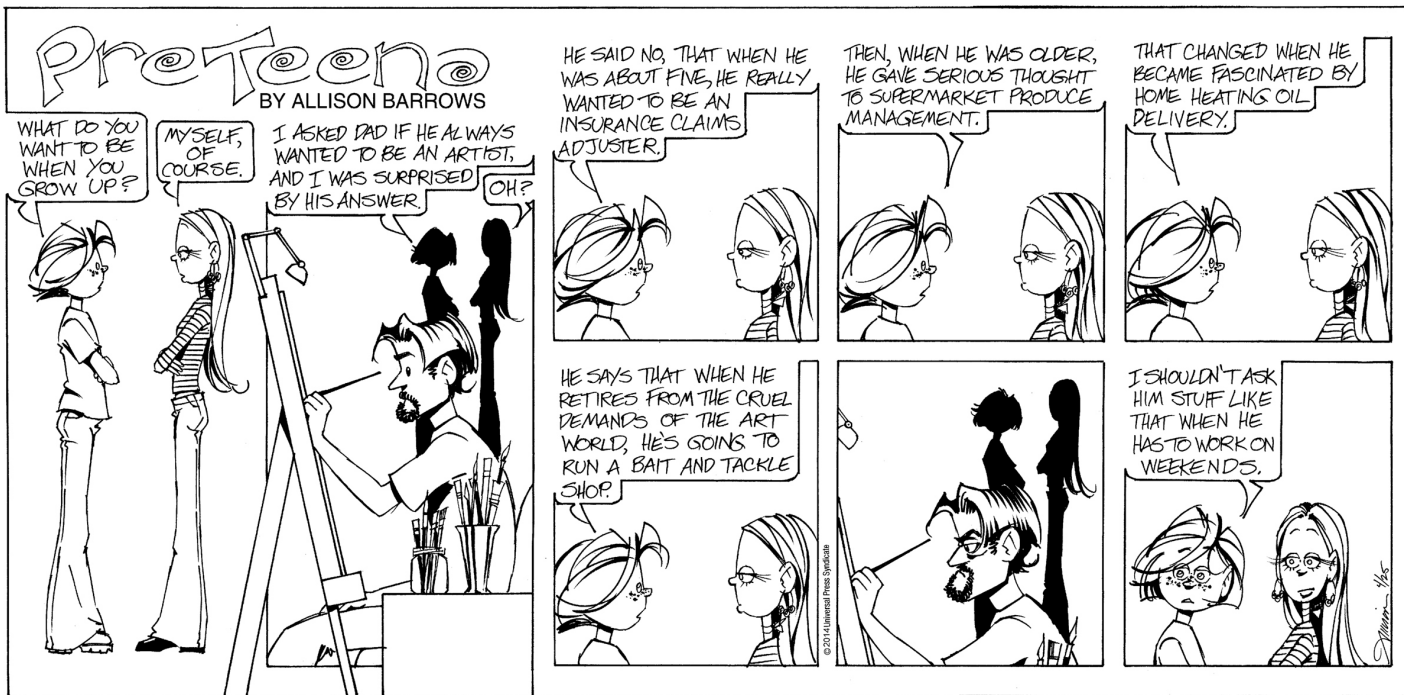
researching the script to incorporate additional images and transformations. The audience was amazed. There are additional effects in the works for future productions. To be among those in the know, plan to attend the 8th Annual Production of *A Christmas Carol* on December 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2015.

And please remember: the lesson Ebenezer Scrooge learned does not apply only to the holiday season when, in Dickens' words, "it is a time of all others, when Want is keenly felt and Abundance rejoices." The Walpole Players encourage you to help your less fortunate neighbors throughout the year by mailing your tax-

deductible contributions to: The Fall Mountain Food Shelf, PO Box 191, Alstead, NH 03602 and to Our Place Drop-In Center, PO Box 852, Bellows Falls, VT 05101
— Ray Boas

I'm one of those regular weird people.
— Janis Joplin





Writers Wanted!

Do you have an idea for an interesting column or have you ever yearned to be a published writer? The Clarion welcomes submissions to entertain and inform our readers. You may have an unusual hobby or business (or know of someone who does) whose story needs telling.

Send us your ideas or samples of your writing. Single submissions or regular contributions are both welcome; we will publish as space permits. Submit to: Walpoleclarion@gmail.com

Just because
nobody complains
doesn't mean
all parachutes
are perfect.

— Benny Hill

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The WALPOLE Clarion

is published monthly for the Walpole community. Submissions about community events and achievements are encouraged for both the calendar and features.

All submissions – ads, articles and photographs – should be sent to: walpoleclarion@gmail.com

February issue deadline: January 23

Staff: Jan Kobeski
Barbara Kasper
Ray Boas
Rob Kasper

An electronic version of the Clarion can be found at our website:
www.thewalpoleclarion.com

Letters & Commentary

Dear Walpole Residents:

I'm writing to let you know that I will not be standing for election again this coming March. Most Town Hall regulars/pundits already know this, but I wanted to let the general public know as well. Serving as your Selectman the last three years has been a great honor and a privilege. I've held myriad civic positions of varying stripes in my 60 years, and I can attest that this one has been by far the most rewarding and fulfilling. Unfortunately though, I have some obligations that, in all likelihood, will require my presence away from Walpole for extended periods of time during the next three years. I therefore, well knowing the time constraints and requirements of the position, don't feel it's fair to the other Board members, the town employees or to you to again offer my services at this time.

That said, I wanted to give other folks some time to mull it over (it always takes me awhile to consider something before I decide to do it) and encourage any and all of you to consider filing for this non-partisan position at the Town offices during the week of January 26-30. I can think of 20-25 folks, just off the top of my head, who I think would make extremely good candidates, and I'm sure there's another 20 out there I don't know. So whether native-born or flatlander transplant with some local roots like me, one of the beauties of Walpole is that it has always been blessed with an abundance of very talented, competent and dedicated volunteers to fill it's appointed and elected Boards, Committees and other functional requirements like the Fire Department, Recycling Center, Walpole School, Sports and Recreation Programs,

Library and seasonal Town beautification to name just a few. I don't have to tell you that without these volunteers, and the time they donate, the cost of keeping Town operations running would be considerably higher.

We do have our "issues" here from time-to-time that the real world forces us to deal with, but when you look around and "rack-and-stack", I think the Town of Walpole is still a pretty incredible place (and maybe the best) to live and raise a family or maybe just to be able to grow old gracefully (except maybe in late winter/mud season when Florida usually sounds like a good alternative - smile). So, on behalf of the Selectboard and Town employees, let me also take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2015! Very respectfully,

Chas Street, 2014 Chairman
Walpole Selectboard

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(603)756-4861
tara.eric@gmail.com

Representative Lucy Weber

217 Old Keene Road
Walpole NH 03608
lwmcv@comcast.net

MILESTONES

Passed:

Diana Moore Dunning,
December 17

Announcing

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If you wish to forget anything on the spot, make a note that this thing is to be remembered.

— Edgar Allan Poe



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Walpole AED Locations

(Automated External Defibrillators)

This information could save a life.

Do you know where to find the closest AED in town in the event of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) emergency?

Locations:

Walpole School – Elementary
 (during school season)
 8 Bemis Lane

Walpole Town Pool
 (during summer season)
 14 Bundy Lane

Walpole School – Primary
 18 Primary Lane

North Walpole School
 17 Cray Road, NW
Walpole Town Hall
 34 Elm Street

Walpole Recycling Center
 Rte 123, North Walpole

Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Walpole Clinic
 11 Westminster Street

Benson's Woodworking
 6 & 10 Blackjack Crossing Road

LaValley's Building Supply
 40 Meadow Access Lane

Hooper Golf Course
 166 Prospect Hill Road

Congregational Church
 15 Washington Street

Vehicles:

WFD – Rescue 4

WFD – Engines 1 & 2

2 Police Cruisers

Mark Houghton, Assistant Fire Chief

Herb Hurlburt, Captain

Mike Flynn, FF/EMT-I

Bryan Wetherby, FF/EMT-I

Dennis Croteau, EMT-I

HCS

Yoga Weekend, 2015

Save the Date! All residents of Walpole and surrounding towns are invited to attend YogaWeekend, set for Saturday, January 24, and Sunday, January 25. YogaWeekend is an opportunity for those new to yoga, as well as the more experienced student, to try a variety of yoga styles first-hand with classes led by several local instructors. Doors will open at 8AM each day. Classes will begin at 9AM and the last class will start at 3 PM.

Massage and Reiki will be available throughout each day. Continental breakfast and a light lunch are provided. There will be a raffle for a stay at the famed Kripalu in Stockbridge, MA, and a silent auction with many items donated from area businesses and individuals.

All classes, massage, Reiki, and breakfast and lunch are by donation, with proceeds benefiting Hospice at HCS, the local non-profit hospice providing end-of-life care to people at home, in assisted-living facilities and in long-term care facilities in southwestern New Hampshire. HCS is a Monadnock United Way agency with offices in Keene, Peterborough and Charlestown.

YogaWeekend 2015 will be held at HCS, 312 Marlboro Street in Keene. For more information call 352-2253 or visit HCSservices.org.

Friendly Meal: North Walpole

The Friendly Meals for senior citizens will hold its regular monthly dinner at noon on Friday, January 23, at St. Peter's Church in North Walpole. Friendly Meals are open to senior citizens (60+) from all area towns, and are available on a donation basis. Reservations are essential, as seating is limited; call Donovan at 352-2253 by noon on January 22.

Arrive early and have your blood pressure taken at the Nurse Is In clinic. A wellness nurse from Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services will be available from 11:30AM to 12:30PM to check blood pressures and answer any health related questions you have.

Walk-in Hours

HCS welcomes residents of Walpole to "Walk-in Wednesdays." The first Wednesday of every month, our staff members who specialize in home care, geriatric care management and hospice will be on hand to talk with you individually about your specific concerns. Drop by for completely free, off-the-record, no-commitment advice.

Walk-in Wednesdays will be held the first Wednesday of each month from 3pm-5pm at the HCS office in Charlestown, located in the Medical Center Building on Arborway off Elm Street, and at the Keene HCS office at 312 Marlboro Street. The next Walk-in Wednesdays are scheduled for January 7 and February 4. Those who are not able to stop by are encouraged to call 352-2253 for information any time.

– Susan Ashworth

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From the Far Side of Walpole

Observations by William Moses

Being asked to write about Christmas two weeks before Christmas can put a strain on the creative juices – not that I have now, nor ever have had, any creative juices.

We hope the Christmas season was happy and joyful for each and everyone.

For some, Christmas is a year-long event of purchasing that special gift, while others wait until the store shelves are nearly bare. The recipients of the gifts from people who wait until the last minute then have the opportunity of trying to exchange the gift after Christmas.

Each year I find myself at the big box store with a gift from Aunt Bessie from Washington State for which we have no use. I only met Aunt Bessie once when I was around seven. I have no idea why she continues to send presents. It's like she signed up for a perpetual gift-giving program. I fear that I or my family will continue receiving these gifts in perpetuity.

So, the most recent gift the Brown Truck delivered was a Handy-Dandy Kiwi Slicer-Dicer/Seeder/Peeler/Juicer combination. Before you panic, it is not to be used on the Kiwi bird from New Zealand (although that might be an alternative use...no, no, I am just kidding). It is for use on kiwi fruit. As we are not kiwi eaters -- neither the fruit or the bird -- we took it to the Big Box store from whence it was purchased. Of course, it was not the one in Seattle but the local one in New Hampshire.

The return line at Big Box was long and the wait time was estimated at forty-five minutes.

"So let's leave and come back tomorrow," says the Attitude Adjuster. "Why?" says I. "We are slowly but surely moving forward."

"Because you know how irritated you get when you have to wait. Your face is already getting red."

"Why don't you go and do some shopping or get a hot chocolate and I will meet you when I am finished?" I suggested.

Giving up, she heads for the lunch room to get a hot chocolate.

As I get closer to the return desk, I hear the following comments coming from the clerk behind the counter:

"Sorry we do not carry that here, so we cannot exchange it. We cannot take that without a sales receipt. No cash refunds. You must have the original receipt, we cannot accept photo copies."

Ok, I can see I am in trouble. First off, Aunt Bessie purchased the item in Seattle, three thousand miles from here; secondly, I have no sales receipt -- original or copy; and thirdly, I am not sure Aunt Bessie purchased in this particular Big Box store.

Finally, it is my turn at the counter. Just as I step up, the clerk turns away and I deftly slide the Handy-Dandy Kiwi Slicer-Dicer/Seeder/Peeler/Juicer combination to one side of the counter and quickly turn to leave. Apparently

not quickly enough because I hear, "Sir, we cannot take this return without an original sales receipt" as someone takes hold of my arm. Cringing at the thought that I am stuck with this useless item, I turn around and the young lady places a Keurig coffee maker in my arms. I start to protest but am told, "Sorry that is our policy!"

Five minutes later I meet up with the AA and she asks, "What are you doing with that?"

"Well," I respond, "they like the Handy-Dandy Kiwi Slicer-Dicer/Seeder/Peeler/Juicer combination so much they gave me this in exchange. Let's go home before they change their minds."

Happy New Year and may all your returns be good ones.

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– Ernie Kovacs

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almost as big
as he is
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this Grade 5
musician...
See Concerts,
page 6.*

The Bottom Line

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