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Jockey Hill Journal

News of Landaff, New Hampshire

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Check us on the web at www.landaffnh.org



Inside the Jockey Hill Journal:

- Another lame joke
- Old Home Day essay from the past
- Restoring the curtain

Photo above: Fire chief Harry McGovern admires the cache for the auction.

Events added to Old Home Day

This year there will be a lot less reminiscing about events from past Old Home Days and what used to happen. There will be much more happening in the center of town the third Saturday in August.

Auction czar Don Beaudin will keep that part of the day the same. Al Roberts returns to his favorite auction of the year. The proceedings will run from 9am to 1pm next to the fire station. As we keep our fingers crossed, we know that it will happen under the tent, rain or shine. The concession stand will be wo-manned by the usual suspects including Patty "Buttercup" Murray, who makes her way up from Marshfield, Massachusetts every year to help out.

While all of that is going on, raffle tickets will be sold. They are available before the big day from any firefighter. The grange hall will be busy as well. Tractors from all over town will line the town center. Inside, an agricultural, flower and wildflower display will be set up all day. Florence Webb is collecting interesting artifacts, artwork, and oddities to show in the hall also. Call her if you have something of interest...no people please! Meanwhile, Sally Boivin is in charge of an afghan show in the church.

Sometime during all that, painted tiles from the town hall roof will be on sale. Artisans have been busy creating them the last couple of months.

After the auction The Parker Hill Band will play from 2pm until just before the supper. The popular group features Landaff musician Paul Amey, along with Chris and Tim Cate, Tom Rappa and Mike "Woody" Woods.

The first dinner setting is at 5pm for the eat and go crowd. The second follows an hour later. Reservations can be made by calling 838-6055 or at the payment table at the auction.

The following day the Landaff Church has its Old Home Day service at 10 am. Then it will truly be a day of rest.

A committee made up of the Webbs, the Richard Bronsons, the Beaudins, Jane Smalley, Heidi Sagar and David Clement planned the day's events.

Send news and information to:

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Old Home Day-by Agnes Poore, written in the 1930's

What does it mean to you and me? Let us define the phrase: first, "Old" in this sense means former; then Old Home means where we, our parents, grandparents and even further back, once lived. Therefore, Old Home Day means the day when they who are still carrying on welcome old friends and relatives back to the old scenes, clasping hands again with those that have answered the Homing call.

To those that have left the home town, the Day means coming back and bringing their children to greet old friends and meet new ones. Old Home Day brings the opportunity to travel over familiar grounds, gaze at familiar scenes, to keep in touch with the Home Town.


Just take a look at the happy crowd. You see hand-shaking, smiles, yes and tears; yet on all faces, eagerness, for they are meeting old friends.

Let us join a group of older visitors. They stand at the Four Corners. First look north and "There [sits] the Schoolhouse by the road," where many present received their early training in B's (books and birches). One will say, "Wonder if the old wood desks are there. We used to carve our names on them with jackknives."

Now turn west. The Church meets our eye. Remember when all the pews were filled with people on Sundays? That was when all roads led to Church on the Sabbath. Beyond the church is the glorious view of the western hills.

Now let the eye travel slowly south. There we see many old homes of those present. Perhaps you can hear one say, "See that set of buildings way over there? That was my birthplace."

Or another bids his children, "Look beyond that hill; I used to log that section in winter and draw the logs miles to mill." And so on with reminiscences. (Continued next page)



*A welcome back to
school ice cream
social will be held at
the Blue School
August 23rd at 6pm*

Old Home Day reminiscence--continued

Now let us look east; and our eyes sadden, for there we see the white reminders that man who have been very dear to us have answered the last call Home. Many will visit this silent spot, for hardly a visitor present but has memories there.

Brushing aside the sadness, we turn back to the noisy crowd, some of whom traveled many miles to spend this day in the Home town, and will remember it as one of the happiest of the year. As the day ends and they return to their distant homes and duties, we hear the call from all sides, "God be with you till we meet again."

The author, Agnes Poore, lived in Landaff and died at age 55 in 1937. She is buried in Landaff Cemetery. This was written sometime in the 1930's.

Town Receives Grant

The Town of Landaff received a check for \$3823.56 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for expenses incurred during the April 15th Nor'easter windstorm. The amount covers overtime and equipment costs for the Road Agent as he cleaned up downed trees, opened roads, and did repairs to culverts that were washed out. It also includes reimbursement to citizens whose property was damaged by overflow from roads and culverts.

Because this is "unanticipated revenue", a hearing will need to be held by the Selectmen to properly place the money into the town's treasury.

Special thanks are due to former Road Agent Tom Smith, who took extensive photos of the damage, especially along Pearl Lake Road, which was closed for a week. Tom also kept good notes and records, which made filling in the FEMA forms easy. Also, when the FEMA field representative visited, Tom took him around town to show the damage spots.

Lame jokes of the month

An older man is sitting in a bar when a beautiful young woman walks up and whispers, "I'll do anything you want for fifty bucks."

The man desperately searches through his pockets and comes up with 50 dollars in crumpled bills, "Here," he says breathing heavily and excited by this offer, "Paint my house!"

Two cars are involved in an accident when one car rear-ends the other. The second driver is shocked when a dwarf gets out of the first car and walks back to confront him.

"I'm not happy," the dwarf says with a shake of his head.

"Okay, which one are you?" the driver asks.

Help needed in preserving curtain

It is no surprise to Landaff residents that the beautiful theatre curtain in the town hall is a real historic treasure. The wonderful condition of this curtain attests to the great care and respect with which it has been treated throughout the years. Many of these curtains have been found in disrepair; many lost completely.

Andrea Fitzgerald's recent article and photo in *The Bridge Weekly* has brought to the forefront the need for repairs and preservation if the curtain is to last another lifetime. With that intention, the Landaff Selectboard has approved the move toward a preservation project.

The curtain has been assessed by *Curtains Without Borders*, the group who recently preserved the Haverhill curtain. They were impressed with its condition, advising repairing rips and tears, stabilizing raw edges, creating a new top wooden support and a new padded roller. The proposed cost is \$2,245.

The Mount Hope Grange is assisting in efforts to obtain grant money for the project. It is hoped that through grants, fundraising, and contributions that it will be accomplished. Those folks interested in helping or in commenting, please call Claudia Lavoie at 838-5257.

-submitted by Claudia Lavoie

Old Home Day Schedule

Auction 9 am to 1 pm
 Concession stand, decorative tile sale and raffle during the auction
 Mt. Hope Grange exhibits all day
 Tractor display all day
 Afghan Show 9 am to 1 pm
 Parker Hill Road Band 2 pm
 Dinner- two settings, 5 pm and 6pm

