

# Main Street

Alton's Bicentennial 1796-1996

Volume XII Number 1

January, 1996

Alton, New Hampshire

# ALTON'S BICENTENNIAL YEAR BEGINS

### A FAMILY TRADITION

Russell Jones, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, presents the "Boston Post" cane to 96-year-old Aida Downing at recent Town Hall ceremonies.

# AIDA DOWNING HONORED WITH THE "BOSTON POST" CANE By Bob Calvert

The tradition continues! Alton's "new" oldest resident, Aida Downing at age 96, succeeds the late 101-year-old Ida Whipple as holder of the "Boston Post" cane. And the tradition continues in a second and more unique way – a kind of family tradition.

Aida's grandfather, Morrison Bennett, was the first holder of the cane in 1909. Her uncle, Fred S. Bennett held it as did her husband Lester's grandfather. More recently, her mother-in-law, Minnie I. Downing, received it in 1956.

Aida Downing has lived through the terms of 18 presidents, and this life-long resident of Alton has seen many changes and inventions in her lifetime – inventions that most of us take for granted in this day and age. Her name is synonymous with Alton, and last August when she served as grand marshal of the Old Home Week Parade, the NH Sunday News reported: "Alton's spunky grand marshal is about as well known as the Lake itself."

She has been closely related to everything of importance in Alton and Alton Bay. She and her husband, Lester, operated Downing's Garage and Marine Service from 1920 to 1960. They also ran the Bay Boat Company which offered passenger service around the Lake. And they operated the Land Ho Snack Bar at the Bay.

She is past president and a 75-year charter member of the Claude Batchelder Post American Legion Auxiliary. She has also headed the former Alton Women's Club and the Alton Garden Club, and is a past matron of the Order of Eastern Star.

A member of the Community Church of Alton, she's a member of the Women's Christian Fellowship, Wolfeboro Senior Citizens, the Alton Historical Society and the Winnipesaukee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is a

Continued on page 12

# "REFLECTIONS ON OUR HISTORY" IS THE YEAR-LONG THEME

By Judy Fry

On June 16, 1796, New Hampshire Governor J. T. Gilman placed his signature on a document which created a newly incorporated, very independent, town named Alton, located on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee.

Traditionally towns throughout New Hampshire celebrate events of historical significance. Several one hundred year old newspapers describe in detail Alton's gala centennial celebration in 1896. Our bicentennial celebration one hundred years later will be a momentous occasion as well.

In the spring of 1992, a small group of Alton residents gathered to share thoughts and ideas about the upcoming 200th birthday of the Town. From the first informal meeting, a committee was formed to start planning Alton's birthday celebration. Current members include Nancy Merrill, chairman; Judith Fry, secretary; Muriel Stinson, treasurer; Robert Calvert, program chairman; Rawland Dore; Virginia Dore; Phyllis Draper; Thomas Hoopes; Gwendolyn Jones; Henry Nowe; Jean Roberts; Patricia Rockwood; and George W. Stone Jr.

The celebrating is about to begin. Starting this month, each minister or a representative from each congregation in Alton will announce the beginning of the bicentennial celebration. Throughout the year activities sponsored by businesses and organizations have been planned for the enjoyment of the townspeople. These activities will include music concerts, presentations of projects by Alton Central School students, church services, a time capsule ceremony and programs with an historic theme. The date, June 16, has been designated as "Bicentennial Day". The big August 17 parade will be a joint effort by the Fire Department, the Old Home Week Committee, and the Bicentennial Committee.

A glass case in Town Hall will display memorabilia dating back many years including items from the Alton Bay area, summer camps, railroad, clay pipe factory, plus many old post cards, photos, newspapers and documents. The exhibit this month features Alton Bay.

The two murals, one of the village area and one of Alton Bay, have been finished by local artist Joan Chase. Numerous mini-histories covering a variety of topics related to our town's history are near completion. Main Street continues to feature an historic article in the "Bicentennial Focus" column.

The chosen theme, "Alton 1796-1996 Reflections on our History" speaks to us about our colorful history...reflecting how we have grown and changed over the past 200 years. An invitation is extended to everyone to come join in the festivities. It is truly a once in a lifetime event for each of us.

# MAIN STREET ANNOUNCES ITS 10th ANNUAL ICE-OUT CONTEST

One of the most talked about events on the Big Lake each year is the official Ice-Out date. Last year it was April 15. The earliest date was March 28 in 1921 and the latest was May 12 in 1888, the first year the event was recorded.

Ice-Out is defined as that moment when the M/S Mt. Washington can reach each of its ports unobstructed by ice.

This year for the tenth time, Main Street is again sponsoring a contest to see who can come the closest to the date as determined by the official ice-watchers around the Lake.

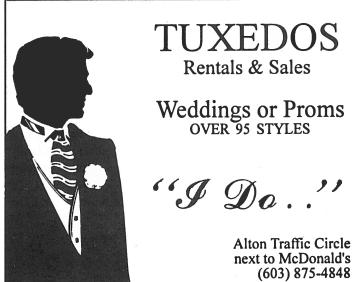
First prize is dinner for two at Shibley's at the Pier. All entries become the property of Voice of Alton, Inc., and the decision of the judges is final. Entries must be postmarked no later than February 29 and participation is limited to Alton residents and subscribers to Main Street.

| ICE-OUT ENTRY FORM                     |         |  |
|--|---------|--|
| Name:                                  |         |  |
| Address:                               |         |  |
|  |         |  |
| Phone Number:                          |         |  |
| I predict Ice-Out will occur on        | _(date) |  |
| at(time)(AM or PM).                    | i       |  |
| Mail this entry form to P. O. Box 210, |         |  |
| Alton Bay 03810 by February 29, 1996.  | i       |  |
|  |         |  |

## PLANNING BOARD HEARING

The Planning Board and Building Department has scheduled a Public Hearing on zoning and building code changes at 7p.m. in the Town Hall on Wednesday, January 10.





# **ALTON ELECTIONS ARE MARCH 12:** 19 POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE

Residents will have the opportunity to run for 19 town and school positions when the filing period opens Wednesday, January 24, through Friday, February 2, at the Town Clerk's office. Candidates must be registered voters to file and may do so Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m. Voter registration is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, from 7 to 9p.m. in the Town Hall.

A filing fee of \$1 is required for any office which receives compensation. There is no filing fee for an office that receives no compensation.

Town positions up for election and the person currently holding the office are:

One Selectman for Three Years - Russell E. Jones One Trustee of Trust Funds for Three Years - Shirley Copeland One Library Trustee for Three Years - Shirley Copeland One Fire Ward for Three Years - Russell Sample Jr. One Cemetery Trustee for Three Years - Florence Shaw One Water Commissioner for Three Years - George Jones Three Budget Committee Members for Three Years - Ann Norman-Burke, Thomas C. Hoopes, Stanley Moulton One Budget Committee Member for One Year - Stanley Czech Two Planning Board Members for Three Years - David Dolan, Richard Mongeon

One Planning Board Member for One Year - James Washburn One Supervisor of the Checklist for Six Years - Cynthia Duffek One Moderator for Two Years - John Duffek

There are four school district positions open. They are: One School Board Member for Three Years - Arnold Shibley One School Treasurer for One Year - Shirley Young One School Clerk for One Year - Jean Sullivan One School Moderator for One Year - Terri Noyes Elections for all positions are Tuesday, March 12.

# RINES ROAD PIT CLOSED THOUGH MARCH

The Rines Road Pit will be closed through March 30. Christmas trees will be accepted for disposal at the Solid Waste Center throughout January.

On April 6, the Rines Road Pit will reopen Saturdays from 8a.m. to 3p.m. and Sundays from noon to 3p.m.

# **HELP WANTED ON JANUARY 25**

Anyone interested in participating in Main Street is encouraged to call Editor John Duffek at 875-7300.

No talent will be turned away! We need reporters for general and feature stories; salespersons to call on prospective advertisers; and collators and staplers to help put it all together at the Pearson Road Community Center on Thursday, January 25, at 6:30p.m. Join us!

Don't knock the weather. Nine-tenths of the population couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while.

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# ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL RECOGNIZES GOOD CITIZENS

Students In Kindergarten through grade five received special recognition in recent ceremonies at Alton Central School. Special awards were presented to those students who earned good citizenship honors for the first quarter of the school year. They are: Kindergarten: Tony Castagnaro, Derek Chase, Ryan Finethy, Jessica Harrel, Chelsea Hawkins. Daniel Hopper, Jesse Lane, Christopher Loprete, Alina Loynd, Samantha MacDonald, Karol Anne Mansfield. C.J. Moulton, Amanda Pellowe, Tara Prescott, Matthew Rojek. Jennifer Shafer, Chad Tenander, Brianna Tidd, Olivia Varney, Crystal Vigue, Caitlin Wenzlau, Jessica Wilcox, and Jonathan Yelle.

Grade 1: Dottie Jean Bailey, Erin Brackley, Kimberly Clow, Mara Cook-Hamer, Katie Dunn, Ashley Finethy, Caila Kantar, Cassandra Moulton, Bryce St. Cyr, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Ashley Sweeney, and Ben Varney.

Grade 2: Michael Ciampi, David Clifford. Shannon Cornelissen, Johanna Dickson, Nicky Divito, Christopher Finethy, Jimmy Grant, Owen Laurion, Brittany Moore, Kathryn Pellowe, Taylor Peterson, Mike Prescott, Patrick Quinn, Aimee Terravechia, Katrina Tidd, and Caitlyn Wentworth.

Grade 3: Brittany Bartlett, Kelly Eagles, Anne Farrell, Vanessa Gilbert, Erin Hannafin, Travis Hopper, Alicia Lambert, Danielle LaPouttre, Tara Loprete, Ashley Marren, Camille Niquette, Derek Rondeau, Stephanie Tanguay, Michael Tidd. and Ashley Waterman.

Grade 4: Crystal Bailey, Lyndsey Caron, Jessica Coigley, Tamara Cornelissen, David Currid, Elspeth Dana, Carl Dickson,

# TOWN CLERK GWENDOLYN JONES HONORED BY STATE ASSOCIATION

By Daryl Czech

Last month Town Clerk Gwen Jones traveled to the Sheraton White Mountain in North Conway as a member of the New Hampshire City and Town Clerk's Association. While there she received the Clerk's Association Award for 20 years of service.

She was responsible for Alton being among the first of 25 towns to be appointed as a Municipal Agent for the state to process the state part of auto registrations. She has been doing that for 12 years now.

We all know her smiling face. She has answered our questions and helped us all in some way. Our heartfelt congratulations and thank you to Gwen!

Kate Dore, Glenn Gordon, Jesse Gunn, Kristy Lefebvre, Falon Lambert, Dylan Laurion, Emily Lowthian, Samara Martin, Kyle McAuliffe, Annie-Laurie Mullins, Crista Perkins, Tonya Prescott, Dan Quinn, Kevin Roy, Meredith Roy, Krista Shibley, Matthew Sydow, Tabatha Talmadge, Isaac Tharpe. C.J. Timmons, and Kelsey Yelle.

Grade 5: Hilary Ballentine, Kendra Brown, Dennis Callahan, Jennifer Carr, Jamie Coigley, Patty Currid, Tiffeny Desmarais, Shelby Gunn, Nick Hallin, Stephanie Hillsgrove, Teresa Hopper, Amanda Jones, Daniel Laurin, Tyler Lowthian, John McGlone, Kimberly Russell, David Snell, Amanda Tharpe, Erin Wood, and Jennifer Zirpolo.

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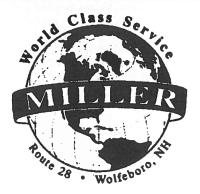


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# GILMAN LIBRARY EXPANSION CAMPAIGN OFFERS NEW DONOR OPPORTUNITY

At a recent and highly unique Gilman Library campaign event celebrating the passing of the halfway mark in the campaign, a new memorial concept was born.

The event itself was clever. Half cups of coffee, half pieces of cake from a delightful half carrot cake baked by Lisa Paola of East Alton provided the backdrop for the opportunity for Library Trustees to say "thank you" to a generous community.

Revealed at the affair was the recent death of Alton's Edward S. Gawlicki in London, England, on an anniversary trip. The 84-year old retired architect had served with prestigious architectural firms in New York City. He was a part of the informal Kitchen Cabinet which has been giving advice and counsel to the campaign. This 11-year resident was a valued volunteer consultant to the trustees on several of the proposed expansion details. One was the planning for placement of a cupola on top and the suggestion for a weather vane atop the project. With the approval of his surviving spouse, several suggested honoring his memory with the weather vane/cupola project.

Accordingly, residents of Alton are encouraged to make a contribution in any amount toward the Gawlicki project. checks should be made out to the Gilman Library Building Fund, c/o the Edward Gawlicki Project and sent to or dropped off at the Gilman Library.

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### **TOWN HALL NOTES**

By Scott Dunn, Town Administrator

# **GOODBYE 1995 & HELLO 1996**

A LOOK BACK . . . . .

For me, one of the biggest highlights of 1995 was the completion of the Alton Bay Waterfront Park. This area is a positive reflection on the entire town and its beauty portrays what we are all about as a lakeshore community.

During the course of the year, many people have come and gone from the Town Hall environs, but each has left a mark in the annals of our history. I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the well-being of the Town, and special thanks is due to the members of the Alton Garden Club. But, mostly I would like to express my appreciation to the taxpayers, on behalf of whom everyone who works for the Town has a purpose. And rest assured, a major purpose for all of us here is finding ways to stretch appropriations. From an administrative standpoint, we made two significant decisions in 1995 to reduce staff levels by reorganizing and adding responsibilities to existing employees when the Tax Collector's Assistant and the Planning and Building Clerk left.

Some of the other major accomplishments in 1995 are as follows: new highway policies, new personnel policies, new false alarm ordinance, new hawkers and vendors ordinance, revised health regulations, Town Hall renovations and office reorganization, and the completion of road construction projects on Roberts Cove Road and Rand Hill Road.

And as the year 1995 comes to a close, the Town bids a fond adieu to the Teamsters Union which served its purpose on behalf of Town Hall employees and police officers, but now ceases to exist.

### A LOOK AHEAD . . . .

Although most of our work load right now evolves around preparing for Town Meeting, the following is a brief list of other tasks facing the Town in 1996: reconstruction of New Durham Road and Route 11-D, having an address system that meets the needs of E-911, going out to bid on the Town's property and liability insurance, improving our ability to maintain the Town's buildings and grounds, completing the revaluation process, negotiating with the cable television company over a franchise renewal, up-dating the Master Plan, assisting those in need, and celebrating the Town's Bicentennial in style. All of these things are in addition to our everyday jobs of providing the services which are expected by our residents.

Naturally, the Town could not function at all without the continued support of taxpayers and employees. Towards this end, I look forward to the challenges of the new year and hope that I am able to satisfy our customers while finding ways to express my sincere thankfulness for the efforts of some deserving staff members.

Best wishes to all for a happy and prosperous new year! Next month . . . the 1996 Town Meeting Warrant and the debate over future voting using the official written ballot.

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# **FIRESIDE CHATS**

By Stan Czech

# **DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

The members of the Alton Firefighters' Association want to thank the following for their generous donations for construction of the addition to the Central Fire Station:

Bob DeRoche - paint

Russ Sample - waste container

Alton School Board - roofing shingles

Thank you again! It's nice to know our efforts are appreciated. Happy New Year!

### **HELP**

The Fire Department Photograph Committee is looking for pictures of Alton fires from the past to the present. Anyone with photos is asked to call Assistant Chief Norman Barrett at 776-6301 or Deputy Chief Robert Witham at 859-4122.

# WOODSTOVE INFORMATION

Anyone contemplating the installation of a woodstove is urged to contact Fire Department Lieutenant Jack Woodland, 875-2691, for a free consultation on guidelines and safety measures. Lt. Woodland also is available to inspect existing installations.

# SUPPORT MAIN STREET ADVERTISERS

The publication of <u>Main Street</u> is made possible by the Alton businesses who advertise each month. Support these businesses and mention that you saw their ad in <u>Main Street</u>.

Many individual residents have expressed their appreciation for <u>Main Street</u> and have indicated an interest in supporting this activity financially.

We welcome individual support and accept donations sent to Main Street, P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay NH 03810.

### SANTA'S HELPERS EXPRESS THANKS

We would like to thank all the wonderful people who made donations to the Mrs. Santa Fund. Everything was wonderful and the children were very happy!

Never burn your bridges. You'll be surprised at how many times you have to cross the same river.



# STUDENT- ATHLETES HONORED

Eight students at Alton Central School received Student-Athlete Awards at the recent Fall Sports Awards Banquet. The Student-Athlete Award, presented by Athletic Director Scott Hutchins is presented to members of a varsity sport who were on the honor roll for the first quarter. They are (left to right, back row) Senior Diane Carr, volleyball; Junior Becky Miller, volleyball; Freshman Andrea Guttormsen, volleyball; (middle row) Sophomore Jennifer Emanouil, soccer; Senior Kristina Gerdt, volleyball; Senior Stephanie Osborn, soccer; (front) Freshman Andy Fuller, Cross Country. Senior Paula Hufschmid, volleyball, was unavailable for the photo.



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# SANTA GOES TO SCHOOL

Santa Claus was on hand last month at Alton Central School to visit with youngsters after the elementary holiday concert. It was hard to tell who was having more fun!

# ALL NIGHT PARKING BAN IN EFFECT THROUGH APRIL 1

According to a town ordinance, motor vehicles or trailers are not permitted to be parked or stopped on any highway in Alton between 10p.m. and 6a.m. from November 15 through April 1 or at any other time during snow storms when snow removal maintenance is being performed.

The fine is \$10 and vehicles in violation of this ordinance may be towed away at the owner's expense.

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# FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL AT ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

The following students were named to the honor roll for the first quarter at Alton Central School. High Honors requires a grade of at least 92 in all subjects and Honors requires a grade of at least 83 in all subjects.

Grade 4- High Honors: Elspeth Dana, Tonya Prescott, Dan Quinn, Krista Shibley, and Matthew Sydow; Honors: Lyndsey Caron, Tamara Cornelissen, David Currid, Carl Dickson, Jillian Green, Falon Lambert, Dylan Laurion, Emily Lowthian, Kyle McAuliffe, Jennel Mitchell, Anne Mullins, Chris Ryan, Isaac Tharpe, Carl Timmons, Dakotah Walker, Kelsey Yelle.

Grade 5 - High Honors; Scott Baumgartner, Dennis Callahan, Nicholas Hallin, Terese Hopper, Amanda Jones, Tyler Lowthian, David Snell, Erin Wood; Honors: Jeremy Albair, Adam Ames, Megan Audette, David Bailey, Hilary Ballentine, Heath Berthiaume, Katie Brooks, Jamie Coigley, Patty Currid, Jonathan Dexter, Christopher Duffy, Stephanie Hillsgrove, Daniel Laurin, John McGlone, Kristin Murray, Patrick Quann, Tommy Ryan, Matthew Scott, Amanda Tharpe, and Jennifer Zirpolo.

Grade 6-High Honors: Joshua Albair, Derek Bernier, Joanna Kimionakis, Dana Lang, Marissa Peterson, and Jane Varney; Honors: Kayla Ballentine, David Benedetto, Kathleen Bristol, Krystal Cornelissen, Matthew Currid, Randi Desmarais, Morgan Fuller, Taylor Gunn, Serry Hayward, Reed Holway, Leeanne Kenerson, Chris Kimball, Christopher Martin, John McAuliffe, Jillian Moulton, Kathryn Moulton, David Shibley, Dennis Sweeney, and Steven Wood.

Grade 7 - High Honors: William Bristol, Sara Dore, Renee LaFreniere, and Katie Morrill; Honors: Ryan Loynd, Ashley Southwell, Meghan St. Cyr, Emily Sydow, and Amanda Talmadge.

Grade 8 - High Honors: Jenny Martin and Victor Stone; Honors: Jessica Benedetto, Jessica Brownell, Dawna Cornelissen, Amanda Coughlin, Joshua Dewey, Deborah Gallant, Jerusha Hayward, Deanna Hillsgrove, Elvira Hufschmid, Frederick LaCrosse, Tanya Lewis, Danielle Moore, Eric Morrill, Nicholas Moulton, Jillian Sample, Marissa Southwell, and Bridgette Temple.

Grade 9 - High Honors: Amanda Lambert; Honors: Timothy Croes, Desiree Crossley, Jennifer Emanouil, Andrew Fuller, Andrea Guttormsen, Christy Holway, James Kenerson, and Nadine Vailette. Grade 10 - Honors: Blake Kellar, Tarsia Kenny, Jennifer Merfeld, and Tammy Murtagh.

Grade 11 - High Honors: Matthew Fenton; Honors: Diana Daniels, and Rebecca Miller.

Grade 12 - Honors: Diane Carr, Christopher Choquette, Krista Gerdt, Paula Hufschmid, Hilary Jacques, Marisa Kelley, Eric O'Brien, and Stephanie Osborn.

Many people think they're generous because they give free advice.





### **ALTON OUTDOORS**

By Jack Miller

# HARD WATER FISHING COMING SOON

Happy New Year! With this month we start a new year's worth of seasons for the outdoors person. As most try to stay warm this month, one can still enjoy Alton's outdoors by dressing properly.

The hard water fishing season should get underway this month. Some good fishing can be had soon after ice forms, but this year one must be especially aware. With the amount of snow we had last month, safe ice will be slow to form as snow acts as an insulator to the formation of solid ice.

With the large amount of snow we have had already, deer will head for their winter yarding areas early. Hopefully they had a chance to fatten up after the hunting season as "yarding up" will limit their feeding possibilities. Snowmobilers must be aware not to bother any deer they encounter. Chasing deer in deep snow uses up the valuable energy they might need just to survive the month.

Coyote can raise havoc in a deer yard at this time of the year. January is a good month to hunt coyotes. A predator call which makes the sound of a dying rabbit is used to attract hungry predators within shooting range. There is a thriving population in the local woods and some excitement can be had when a coyote comes looking for something to eat. Night hunting for coyote is now legal. A \$3 license and written land owner permission is required. As always, be sure to check the rule book.

The Manchester Gun Show takes place on January 13-14 at the NH State Armory in Manchester. If you are looking for a firearm, this is a good place as there are over 100 dealers in attendance.



# DENISE MERRITT, MD JAMES CUBEDDU, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT



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# JUSTIN HERMAN PERFORMS AT NEW ENGLAND BAND FESTIVAL

Justin Herman, a sophomore trumpet player for the Alton Central School Concert Band, traveled to Plymouth State College, along with Band Director Anne Stevens, to participate in the 1995 All New England Band Festival. This one-day festival brings together high school instrumentalists from all six New England states.

The students rehearsed all day with the Festival's guest conductor, Timothy Mahr, an associate professor of music and band conductor at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

The concert opened with an appearance by the Plymouth State College Band, which under the direction of Dr. Gary Corcoran performed five pieces. The All New England Festival Band then took the stage and wowed the audience with a spectacular program. Highlights included "Flourish for Band" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Timothy Mahr's "Hymn and Celebration", and the funfilled, but always dangerous "Snakes!"

Why is it that no scientist has developed a lawn seed that grows miniature grass?

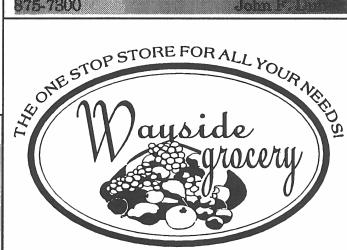
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# **Boards and Committees**

ADDRESS COMMITTEE - Meets on Call. Chairman David Jensen, 875-5637.

AD HOC COMMITTEE - Meets on Call.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE - 4th Wednesday, 4p.m., Gilman Library, Chairman Nancy Merrill, 875-2626.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN - 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday, 6:30 -9:30p.m., Chairman Russell Jones, Call 875-2161 for Appointment.

BUDGET COMMITTEE - 3rd Thursday, 7p.m. Chairman Gregory Fuller, 875-5546

CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Meets on Call. Chairman Robert Boudreau, 875-6368.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES - 1st & 3rd Monday, 1p.m., Chairman Florence Shaw, 875-2220.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Thursday, 7p.m. Chairman Lisa Erickson Harris.

FIRE WARDS - Meet on Call. Chief Russell Jones, 875-7510. GILMAN MUSEUM TRUSTEES - Meet on Call. Chairman Ellamarie Carr, 776-4833.

LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM - Meets on Call, Chairman Juliet Peverley, 875-7232.

LEVY PARK TRUSTEES - Meet on Call. Chairman Jonathan Downing, 875-7243.

OLD HOME WEEK COMMITTEE - Meets on Call. Chairman Debbie Burton, 875-5188

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION - 1st Thursday, 6:30p.m., Chairman Debbie Burton, 875-5188.

PLANNING BOARD - 2nd Monday, 7p.m., Chairman Harold Bothwick, Call 875-5095 for Appointment.

SCHOOL BOARD - 2nd & 4th Monday, 6p.m., Chairman Arnold P. Shibley, 875-2849.

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST - Meet on Call. Chairman Alice Ziegra, 875-2151.

TRUSTEES OF THE GILMAN LIBRARY - 3rd Monday, 3:30p.m. Chairman Ellamarie Carr, 776-4833.

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS - Meet on Call. Chairman Joseph R. Houle, 875-7321.

WATER COMMISSION - 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 8a.m. Chairman George Jones, 364-6870. Office, 875-4200.

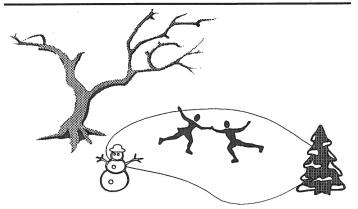
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - 2nd Thursday, 7p.m. Chairman Milton Jensen, 875-5990.

> \*DENOTES A CHANGE OF INFORMATION CALL 875-7300 OR FAX 875-3162 TO UP-DATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

### NO SCHOOL TODAY?

You wake up and find it snowed during the night and the roads are iced over! Will there be school today? How do you find out? Call the school? Your teacher? Your bus driver? NO! NO! NO!

You tune your radio to WASR(1420AM), WLNH(98.3FM), WOKQ(97.5FM), or WZNN(930AM) for official school closing announcements.



# **Schedules**

CHURCHES:

Baha'i Fireside - Thursday, 7:30p.m., Holway Residence, Old New **Durham Road** 

Bay Church - Sunday, 11a.m. and 6p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7p.m., Pastor Roy Ames

Community Church -

Congregational Meeting House, October-April, 11a.m., Baptist Meeting House, May and September, 11a.m., June-August, 10a.m., Dr. Peter E. Roussaki, Pastor

First Free Will Baptist Church - Sunday School, 9:45a.m., Church, 11a.m., Evening Service, 6p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7p.m., Depot St., New Durham, James Nason, Pastor

St. Joan of Arc - Saturday, 5p.m., Sunday, 8 & 11a.m., Msgr. Leo F. Hines, Pastor

Wolfeboro Bible Fellowship, Sunday School, 9:30a.m., Worship Service, 10:30a.m. (Summer 10a.m.), Evening Service, 6p.m., Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7p.m., Route 28, Lee Button, Pastor GILMAN LIBRARY:

Monday & Wednesday 2 to 8p.m., Friday 9a.m. to 5p.m., Saturday 9a.m. to Noon

SENIOR MEAL SITE:

Monday - Friday, 10a.m. to 2p.m., Pearson Road Community Center SOLID WASTE CENTER

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday - 8a.m. to 3p.m.

Sunday - Noon to 3p.m.; Closed Tuesday & Thursday

Rines Road Pit - Closed

TOWN HALL:

Selectmen's Office, Tax Collector, Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and Welfare Officer - 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Town Planner - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30a.m. to 3:30p.m., Wednesday 1 to 3:30p.m., Meetings by Appointment, Closed Noon to 1p.m.

Building Inspector - Call 875-5095 for Office Hours and **Appointments** 

**ORGANIZATIONS:** 

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - Tuesday, 8p.m., Alton Bay Community Center

AMERICAN LEGION - 2nd Monday, 7p.m., Legion Hall AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - 2nd Monday 7p.m., Legion

COUNTRY DRIFTERS DANCE CLUB - Wednesday, 7p.m., Alton **Bay Community Center** 

CUB SCOUT PACK 53 - Last Tuesday, 6:30p.m., Legion Hall EASTERN STAR - 2nd Tuesday

GARDEN CLUB - 4th Tuesday

FLYING CLUB - 2nd Wednesday

HAPPY HOBBY DOLL CLUB - 4th Friday, 7p.m., Alton Bay Community Center

HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 3rd Tuesday, April - October KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - 1st Wednesday, 7:30p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church Hall

LIONS CLUB - 1st & 3rd Thursday, 6:30p.m., Mama Rina's Restaurant

MASONIC LODGE - 2nd Tuesday

PARENT TEACHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

ST. JOAN OF ARC LADIES GUILD - Last Thursday, 7:30p.m., Church Hall

SENIOR CITIZENS - 2nd Wednesday, 2p.m., Pearson Road Community Center

VFW - 3rd Monday 7:30p.m., Pearson Road Community Center CALL 875-7300 OR FAX 875-3162 TO UP-DATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

# Remove & Save

# MAIN STREET INFORMATION CENTER

# January Events

| Mon.1   | - | NEW YEARS DAY                                    |
|---------|---|--|
| Tue. 2  | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Calvary Christian,          |
|         |   | 6:30p.m.   |
|         |   | BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Calvary Christian, 8p.m.     |
| Fri. 5  | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL at Linwood, 6p.m.               |
|         |   | BOYS BASKETBALL at Linwood, 7:30p.m.             |
| Tue. 9  | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL at Derryfield, 4:30p.m.         |
|         |   | BOYS BASKETBALL at Derryfield, 6p.m.             |
| Wed.10  | - | PUBLIC HEARING, Zoning & Building Code           |
|         |   | Changes, 7p.m., Town Hall                        |
| Fri. 12 | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Sunapee, 5p.m.              |
|         |   | BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Sunapee, 6:30p.m.            |
| Mon.15  | - | MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY                           |
| Tue. 16 | - | BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Coe Brown, 7:30p.m.          |
| Wed.17  | - | LAKES REGION CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB,             |
|         |   | 11:30a.m., Alton Bay Christian Conference Center |
| Fri. 19 | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL at Sunapee, 6:30p.m.            |
|         |   | BOYS BASKETBALL at Sunapee, 6:30p.m.             |
| Tue. 23 | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Coe Brown, 7:30p.m.         |
| Wed.24  | - | FILING BEGINS for Town and School Elections      |
| Sat. 27 | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL at Calvary Christian,           |
|         |   | 6:30p.m.   |
|         |   | BOYS BASKETBALL at Calvary Christian, 8p.m.      |
| Tue. 30 | - | GIRLS BASKETBALL at Moultonboro, 6:30p.m.        |

# 10 YEARS AGO.....

BOYS BASKETBALL at Moultonboro, 8p.m.

....the first homes were connected to cable television as a result of the efforts of the Cable TV Committee - Jill Stein, Linda Mazalewski, Richard Downing, Herbert Persan, Robert Sederquist, Jr., Harvey Sanders, Elaine McDonald, and Charles Adams....President Jean Irving announced plans for the first anniversary of the Lioness Club.....Alton Chapter 316 of the Young Astronaut Program was designated a "Pilot Chapter" due to the efforts of chapter leaders Mary Batchelder and Rolf Dutzmann....10th grader Debbie Laurion was selected as second soprano for the New England Music Festival. **5 YEARS AGO.....** 

....The Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours was hosted by Alton Country Supply.....Music students Jill Dunham, Archie Thibeault, and Heather Patterson performed in the Lakes Region Music Festival....the Alton Garden Club was presented a special meritorious award for "enhancing the quality of life for all in Alton"....eight servicemen from Alton were serving in Operation Desert Storm - Russell Wetherbee, Steven Brouillette, Earl Joy, Paul Pearson, Jr., Craig Pearson, Matthew Rogers, Gary Desautell, and Michael Roche.

# **SUBMIT YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS**

Information may be submitted in writing to Main Street about special events sponsored by Alton organizations, club meetings, and news of interest to the general public. Color or black and white photos of your organization's events are also welcome

Send any material to P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay, 03810, or fax to 875-3162 by the 15th of each month for the following month's issue.

Main Street reserves the right to limit or edit all material. For additional information call 875-7300.

### HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

The winners in the Holiday Decorating Contest sponsored by the Alton-Alton Bay Chamber of Commerce are: First Place -The Glidden Family on Pearson Road; Second Place - William Anctil, Keewaydin Park; and Third Place - Cynthia Kroon, Mt. Major Park. In the Commercial Division, the winner was the Dockside Restaurant.

# Classified Ads

Alton residents may place classified ads in Main Street each month. Ads are limited to non-commercial, private individuals who have items for sale, items wanted, free items, personals, or help wanted notices. The rate is \$1 for each ad. Main Street reserves the right to refuse any ad. Ads must be mailed with payment to P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay, 03810, by the 15th of the preceding month.

# **HELP WANTED**

Tupperware dealers, Full or Part-Time, No Cash Outlay, You may also purchase Tupperware, Call Leslie, 875-4237

### **FOUND**

Calico Cat in the South Alton Area, 875-7323

### **Main Street**

Published Monthly Since 1985 by Voice of Alton, Inc., A Non-Profit Organization P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay NH 03810

| Editor                   | John Duffek                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                          | Robert Boyce                  |
|                          | Jeanne Cole                   |
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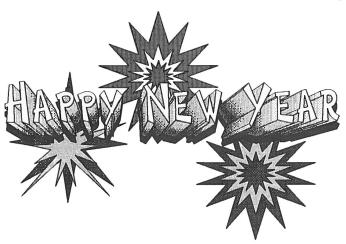




# **BICENTENNIAL MEMORABILIA** AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The Bicentennial Medallions may be purchased from committee members Muriel Stinson, 875-5211, or Virginia Dore, 875-3451. The Town Hall Medallion is \$12.50 and the Bandstand in Alton Bay is \$15. These also are available at the Farmington National Bank and First NH Bank in Alton.

The colorful tee shirts and sweatshirts with the Bicentennial logo on display at the Village Store, Wayside, and the East Alton Store.



# **COMPUTER DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

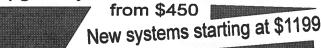
The Alton Central School extends its appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Steve Sheldon of Tenant Credit Reports in Alton for his generous donation of computer equipment.

The school continues to solicit 386-level used computers to expend its network within classrooms. Did you upgrade to multimedia for Christmas? Your old equipment could be a tax deductible gift to Alton Central School. Call Curt Nichols at 875-7500 for more details.



# New Year Sale

All in stock Computer Books 50% off Upgrade your 386 or 486 to Pentium



28.8kbps fax/modems from \$120 Sound Blaster/4x CD-ROM kits from \$249



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### FOR THE FUN OF IT

By Kellie McGrath, Recreation Director

# **DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES BEGIN JAN. 8**

A Dog Obedience Class will be held on Monday evenings from 6:3Op.m. - 7:3Op.m. for six weeks at the Alton Bay Community Center. The program begins on Monday, January 8. Your dog will learn to walk on a leash without pulling, to stand, sit, lie down and come when called. The class is open to all dogs 12 weeks and older. This is a great program to help you and your pet work together. The six week program fee is \$50. For more information contact the Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 875-0109 or the instructor, Monique Tenander, at 569-9457.

# **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

A Red Cross Blood Drive in memory of Mike Burke will be held on Wednesday, February 7, at the Alton Central School gymnasium from 3 to 7p.m. Please mark the date on your calendar and support the Red Cross by being a blood donor. More information is available from Ann Norman-Burke at 875-5492 or Lisa Finethy at 875-7653.

## THE "REC" ING CREW AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

After school activities for students in grades 2-7 will be held at the Gilman Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 16 - February 15. The "Rec"ing crew after school program includes: arts and crafts, cooperative games, movies and more. The program fee is \$5 and is limited to 15 participants. For more information or to register by phone contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 875-0109.

### **HOCKEY LESSONS**

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring hockey lessons for participants age 13 and under. Lessons will be held at the Town Ice Rink, located on Route 140, on Saturdays from 10a.m. - noon starting January 20 until February 24, with instruction by Jason Racine. Participants will learn skating, stick and puck handling, eye/hand coordination and positioning for offense and defense. Helmets, pucks and mouth guards are provided. Participants are responsible for their own ice hockey stick, skates and pads. The program fee is \$10.

### WINTER CARNIVAL DATE SET

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department will be sponsoring its annual Winter Carnival on Sunday, February 18, from 1 to 4p.m. at the Alton Bay Bandstand. Activities include a snowshoe obstacle course, limbo, broom ball, polar volleyball, snowball throw, bed race, DJ and more. Mark the date on your calendar and come join in the fun.

### CANCELLATION INFORMATION

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department will announce all program cancellations due to inclement weather on radio station 97.5fm.

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# ALTON BAND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NORTHEAST INSTRUMENTAL FESTIVAL

Thirteen members of the Alton Central School Concert Band recently traveled to Lake Placid, New York, to participate in the 1995 Northeast Instrumental Music Festival. The four-day gathering of over 100 students attracts schools from New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

The students from Alton were Rebecca Miller, flute; Jennifer Laurin, flute; Elvira Hufschmid, flute; Elizabeth Quindley, flute; Rebecca Blair, flute; SaraJane Peck, flute; Tarsia Kenny, clarinet; Andrea Guttormsen, clarinet; Tammy Murtagh, clarinet; Jill Gagnon, tenor sax; Jennifer Emanouil, alto sax; Justin Herman, trumpet; and Jeremy Collins, percussion. The students were

accompanied by Band Director Anne Stevens.

After rehearsing for three long days, the weekend culminated in a Sunday afternoon concert. The guest conductor 'was Dr. James Herbert, formerly director of bands at Temple University. The difficult and varied program consisted of such numbers as selections from Verdi's opera, "La Forza Del Destino"; George Gershwin's "Strike Up The Band"; highlights from Jerome Kern's "Showboat"; and the popular Gillette "Look Sharp March" and "On the Mall".

The Festival originated In Burlington, Vermont, and was held in that state for a number of years. The Festival moved to Lake Placid in 1986 and celebrated its 10th consecutive year in the famous Olympic city. The Festival brings together musicians of all ages, proving that music is a lifelong experience. Many students of past festivals have gone on to successful careers in music; almost 100% have continued to be active in music long after high school graduation.

### MAIN STREET SALUTE TO .....

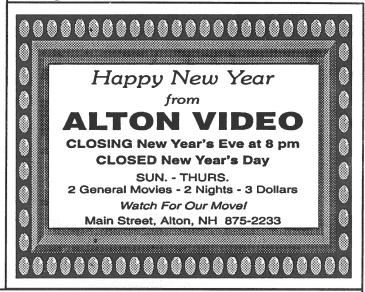
.....all the business and home owners who took the time to decorate for the holiday season and brighten our community.....to all residents who responded to the various gift programs for the needy such as the Wish Upon A Star programs and the Mrs. Santa Fund.....Leslie Borelli who was observed in an act of honesty at the Alton 5 & 10 that makes us all proud to know she's a member of our community.....

Our Highway Department for their efforts during the early season snow storms:



# **FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS**

Participants in the Northeast Instrumental Music Festival were (front row, left to right) Justin Herman, Tammy Murtagh, Elizabeth Quindley, Anne Stevens, Rebecca Clair, Andrea Guttormsen, Jennifer Emanouil, and Rebecca Miller; (back row, left to right) Jennifer Laurin, Jeremy Collins, Tarsia Kenny, Elvira Hufschmid, Jill Gagnon, and SaraJane Peck.



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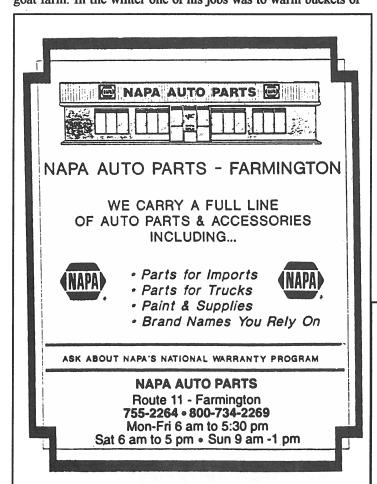
# MUNICIPAL SPOTLIGHT ON **GEORGE WOODMAN TOWN CUSTODIAN**

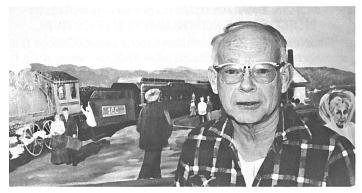
By Muriel Walker

The town-owned buildings in Alton all appear to have a "wellmaintained" look. This is mainly due to the efforts of George Woodman, our Town Custodian for the last 11 years. It is not an easy task since George is responsible for five buildings which include the Town Hall, Police Station, Gilman Library, Alton Bay Community Center, and Pearson Road Community Center. George takes care of general cleaning, small repairs, shoveling doorways, and sanitizes rest rooms in all five buildings. He even winds the clock in the Town Hall! "The hardest job", says George, "is keeping up with washing and waxing the floors. There are several steps involved. It's not as easy as it looks, so I rotate the job between the various buildings to keep up with it.

George begins his custodial duties early in the morning and works late in order to work for several hours midday delivering "Meals on Wheels" for the Community Action Program. George has about 14 deliveries now and has had as many as 20. He travels 30 to 55 miles around Alton, East Alton, and Gilmanton. Besides delivering the meals, the job includes checking on the recipient's welfare. George says, "It's part of the job, but you get to be concerned about the people. They look forward to seeing you as much as getting the food. I try to talk to each of them a few minutes. They need a feeling of warmth and I try to give them that." George has been delivering the meals for 22 years.

George was born and raised in Alton. He said that his mother enjoyed telling him about how he was born during a blizzard (on a January 15) and that their car was the last one allowed on the road to Wolfeboro. Road conditions were so poor that the road was closed for the duration of the storm. George attended school here. He lived in Florida for a short time and attended school there as well. Returning to Alton, George helped on his mother's goat farm. In the winter one of his jobs was to warm buckets of





water on a woodstove and carry them out to the goats. As a young man he worked at the First National Store and at Joe Cotton's Greenhouse. He also helped his step-father in his plumbing business and Clyde Clafton on his rubbish truck. George was employed 23 years at the Scott and Williams Company, a manufacturer of knitting machines. He worked six days a week and in the winter plowed snow as well. (Shoveling snow for the town was done by hand in earlier days, using a steel shovel. George shoveled the snow onto a dump truck and then the truck removed

Mentioning several family members, George told of Lewis Woodman, who worked on the first ski jump at Gunstock Ski Area, and Jim Woodman, George's great-grandfather. Jim had a blacksmith shop and lumber mill in Alton. Much of the lumber used in the town buildings came from that mill. George told of his step-father's father being the town custodian and said with a smile,
"He was here then, and look – here I am now."

George had an older brother, now deceased, and has two nieces

- Cherie Mann of Rochester and Laurie Dudley of Portsmouth.

George has difficulty finding much time for hobbies, but does enjoy listening to music, particularly the older songs. He used to enjoy rock-collecting, photography and fishing and looks forward to these activities again in his retirement years.

Remarking on his varied life experiences, George said, "I have seen the age of the horse and buggy, the steam train, the ice man, fish man and peddlar. Now it's the age of the computer." His favorite life experience came in 1993 when George was the Grand Marshal of the Old Home Week Parade. "It was a highlight of my life," he said.

When asked what he liked best about his job, George replied, "I like people. I like working for my town and for all the people in

### Continued from page 1

charter member of the Belknap Mill Society, has been active in the Alton-Alton Bay Community Club, the Leavey Park Committee, the Merrymeeting Grange and the American Red Cross.

Most of us admired for years the flowers in the traffic island at the intersection of Routes 11 and 28A. Yes, you guessed it! Aida Downing planted and tended those flowers for years! Main Street salutes an extremely worthy holder of the "Boston Post" cane!

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### **SENIOR CITIZENS CORNER**

By Nancy Mooney

# SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OFFERS VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

Although we do not toot our own horn very often, the Alton Senior Citizens Association is a very active organization open to those who are 60 or older, and we gladly welcome new members. The Alton Seniors sponsor many social activities. If you like bridge or whist, the Alton Card Party group plays every Thursday after lunch at the Senior Center in Alton and every Monday afternoon in Wolfeboro. On December 14, the group had a gala Christmas party at the Alton Bay Inn.

Interested in taking short bus trips either for shopping or touring? The Seniors regularly sign up for shopping and dinner at Fox Run Mall or Steeplegate Mall in Concord. Foliage trips to Vermont and northern New Hampshire are popular, as are tours along the coast of Maine or to the Cape Cod Seashore. Our trip coordinator, Ginny Myers, is always busy trying to line up interesting places to take us.

We have many fund-raising activities throughout the year. Our 1/10 Club is coming to an end, but another one will be staffed In February with ticket sales. The first drawing will take place the first week in June. The Seniors have put on many community suppers under the able direction of our chef, Tony Mariano.

In the community spirit, we donate finds to such groups as the Police Association, the Alton Volunteer Ambulance, Hospice, and the Library Building Fund.

As is the case with most organizations in Alton, our group is smaller and quieter in the winter, as we have many "snow birds" who leave us for warmer climes. We always wish them a safe and happy winter and eagerly look forward to their return in the Spring.

Why don't you consider joining us? Most of us enjoy a great noon-time meal at our Center, Monday through Friday, sponsored by the Community Action Program. Our membership dues can't be beat - only \$2!

If you would like more Information about the ACS, contact one of our officers: President - Chris Russell - 875-5920; Vice-president - Betty McGlone - 873-3080; Treasurer - Warren Nott - 879-2943; or Secretary - Nancy Mooney - 875-3374. We would love to see the Alton Senior Citizens Association grow. The more, the livelier! Come up to the Senior Center on the Pearson Road and see for yourselves there are no rocking chairs there!

In a more serious vein, the Alton Senior Citizens were deeply saddened by the loss of our beloved member, Helen Guiliano, on November 17. She was also the Community Action Program site manager, as well as being a very active member of our group. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband of 34 years, Dominic Guiliano, and her family.

Watch for our column next month - hope to see you at the center!

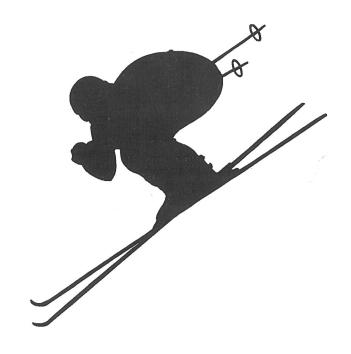


Worship Sunday 11 AM & 6 PM Wednesday Prayer & Study 7 PM

We wish you God's richest blessing in 1996.

Roy Ames, Pastor

office (603) 875-6765



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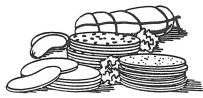
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# **BICENTENNIAL FOCUS**

By George W. Stone Jr.

# INDUSTRY IN ALTON Part 4

This fourth and final part, about the Shoe Factory and the Toy Factory, will bring the "Industry in Alton" series to a conclusion.

### THE SHOE FACTORY

A manufacturer that once loomed large (building-wise) opposite the White Lodge was the Alton Shoe Factory. Local memories suggest that Alton once had a number of shops making and selling footwear by independent cobblers. By all odds the largest and most productive was "the Shoe Factory" – a four-story building on the corner of Main Street and Route 140. Extant photographs show the building decorated for Alton's centennial exercises in 1896. The building also housed the post office, a meat market, and had rooms for use by the Masonic Lodge. The Noxall Diner was attached. Four rooms were used by the Shoe Factory – one for cutting the leather, one for stitching, one for attaching soles, and one for finishing. In the basement, large steam-powered machinery cut out soles and linings. At full operation the factory fashioned 300,000 pairs of shoes annually, and employed over 100 people.

The shop was first owned by George A. Coburn and Melvin Mooney. In 1920 it was owned by Amariah Fuller from Hudson, Massachusetts. His granddaughter, Dr. Polly Fuller Parsons, (of Vero Beach, Florida) remembers visiting it and recalls the production there of work boots. Its specialties, however, were "misses' and children's shoes, by John Collins, Manufacturer." Shoes were probably sold locally, but most were shipped to Portsmouth and Boston. On June 14, 1929, the building was put up for auction and described in a fly sheet as "A splendid built, three story factory about 80 x 150 feet, equipped with a new brick



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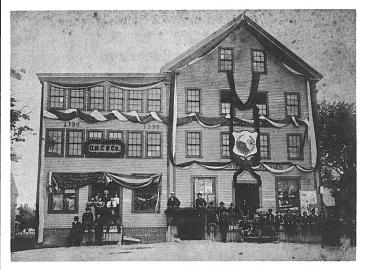
Call for Appointment Barn 569-6896 Home 435-7996

Happy New Year from

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# **ALTON HOME & GARDEN CENTER**

Where The Customer Comes First Rte 11, Alton, (603) 875-3900 Mon. - Thurs., Sat. 7:30 - 6:00 PM Friday 7:30 AM - 7:00 PM Sun. 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM



The Shoe Factory Decorated for the Alton Centennial in 1896

boiler room with a splendid power and heating plant that cost over \$6,000 to equip recently. Also a full line of pulleys, shafting, and hangers . . . . The factory is adapted for most any kind of business, and is in a picturesque town where there is plenty of help, and no labor troubles to contend with."

On January 13, 1930, flames engulfed the factory and burned it to the ground along with the Noxall Diner.

### **TOY FACTORY**

Finally, the Toy Factory, located smack in the middle of town in the building of the old Meeting House on Main Street. A New Yorker, one Paul Alexander, came up in the middle 1930s to establish it. Plenty of space existed for his lathes, benches and tools – planes, jig-saws, scrapers, chisels, rulers, architect's triangles, nails, screws, and hammers. His work force consisted of himself, his wife, his brother-in-law, and one other – namely Steve Rollins (just out of Alton High School) – who remembers the red paint barrel in which finished small toys were "tumbled" for coloring.

Robert Carr remembers a similar one with black paint. Products included wooden balls (3" in diameter) for children's croquet or bowling, many dowels of varying thickness, and parts for children's small carts. Young Steve Rollins, employed as a general handy-man was responsible for washing out the barrels and seeing to it that sufficient paint was in them for the next round of dipping. Alexander traveled to New York to solicit buyers, so few, if any of his products remain in Alton. Seemingly competition with Japanese toy-makers eventually put the factory out of business.

The building was offered to the Alton Historical Society, which, lacking funds, took no action. It was taken down in multiple pieces which lay for a long time in the space where the new Police

# **Alton Funeral Home**

School Street Alton, N.H. 03809 (603) 875-3311 Station now stands. A committee made heroic efforts to save the structure, not because it was a toy factory, but because of its ancient heritage (and architectural features) as the original town Meeting House. They came to naught. The Historical Society did place two granite markers near the site which may be seen there today. EPILOGUE

And so the story goes of the rise and fall of 12 "industries" in Alton about which we can find details. We know of some nine others, but can discover little but their names. Two employed many Altonians, but were just over the edge of the East Alton/New Durham line – a powder mill (which exploded) and a fish hatchery – still going. The seven others were the Lucifer Match Company, a wash-board company (which went under when the washing machine appeared), coffin and piano-case makers (near Oak Hill), a wood splitting company with a machine which came to one's door. Then there were the sail-making and glass-blowing operations about which we have spoken.

Steve Rollins tells about remembering one Ed Berry, who in the 1930s made from his home bird houses and bird feeders, which he peddled around town, and advertised on the side of his vehicle – "The Only Industry in the Town of Alton."

As "industry" according to our definition closed down or was burned out, and as population grew – business, commerce and trade in general expanded to serve some 75 needs in a myriad of specialties – from air conditioning to metal pipe equipment, from antique and real estate operations to laundromats, gas stations, video rentals, and youth-camp supplies. These specialties involve more than 135 individuals as owners, operators, managers and salesmen (1994). This compensatory growth is the subject of another story in our "Bicentennial Mini-History Series".

So think of Alton's "industrial culture" and heritage as one of quarrying, clay pipes, milling, ice-harvesting, corkscrews and paper clips, jackets, shoes, toys, boats, boxes, and grist for flour.





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# LIONS CLUB OFFERS EYE CARE TO NEEDY RESIDENTS

The Alton-New Durham Lions Club participates in a special program with Lenscrafters at the Steeplegate Mall to provide eye exams and eyeglasses at reduced costs for needy residents.

If any needy person in Alton or New Durham requires eye glasses they can get in touch with any member of the Club or Eye Care Chairman Eldon Swim, P. O. Box 278, Alton Bay 03810, 875-5158 for further information on this or any other program the Club provides in giving "The Gift of Sight".

# CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Club will meet at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center from 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m. on Wednesday, January 17.

The program includes a presentation on stenciling by Judy Barker, music by Harriet Litteer, and a speaker to be announced. The cost is \$6 and reservations are required. Call Muriel Stinson at 875-5211. A free pre-school nursery is provided.

## ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?

Main Street is distributed free to all residents of Alton. Each postal patron with the Zip Code 03809 or 03810 should receive a copy automatically.

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# **OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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Robert C. Smith, 332 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, 800-922-2230.

<u>Judd Gregg</u>, 393 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, 202-224-3324.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

<u>Bill Zeliff</u>, 224 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515, 800-649-7290.

NH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ray Burton, 271-3632(w), 747-3662(h).

NH SENATE

Leo Fraser, 225-3664(w), 435-6626(h).

NH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gordon Bartlett, 524-1220(w), 524-6536(h).

<u>Paul Golden</u>, 269-4071(w), 269-5511(h). <u>Linda Ann Smith</u>, 293-9637.

Alice Ziegra, 875-2151.

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Arnold Shibley, 875-2849

# ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL INITIATES ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

Alton Central School is finalizing plans to implement an alternative program for students in grades four through eight. This program is in response to the recognition that the learning process involves students in all of their environments; home, school and community and that some students are in need of more structure than others to meet with success in these various settings.

The alternative program will provide a structured learning environment, strong behavioral expectations and activities which enhance social and emotional growth. Providing these experiences as part of the educational program of the identified students will help them become future productive members of their schools, homes and communities.

A limited number of students will be afforded the opportunity to take part in this program. An identification process that involves teachers, administrators, counselors and parents will take place prior to any placement in the program.

Parents who have questions about this program or would like additional information may contact Assistant Principals Dot Bristol or Tom Parker at 875-7500.

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Abenaki Family Physicians have opened a new office in Alton Bay, NH and are accepting new patients at both offices.

Abenaki Family Physicians provides continuing and comprehensive care to all patients in the family, including newborns, children and the elderly. As our patient, you can expect the highest quality of care in obstetrics (including prenatal, delivery and postpartum care), adult medicine, pediatrics, and gynecology.

All three of the doctors at Abenaki Family Physicians are highly-trained physicians from outstanding medical programs in the United States.

Claire Martin, ARNP, is also providing health care at our Wolfeboro Falls office location.



Robert J. Mathes, MD

- has provided Family Medical Care, including Obstetrics, in Wolfeboro since 1988.
- completed residency in Family Practice at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Dayton, OH.
- received Medical Degree from Wright State University School of Medicine.
- Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Dayton.
- Board Certified Family Practitioner.



William G. Griever, Jr., MD

- received Medical Degree from the Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA.
- completed residency in Family Practice at Lancaster General Hospital in Pennsylvania.
- earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in functional biology & chemistry from California State University, Fresno, CA.
- Board Certified Family Practitioner.



AnnMarie Zimmermann, MD

- received Medical degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- completed residency in Family Practice at the MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland, OH.
- completed a post-residency fellowship in Obstetrics at MetroHealth.
- Board Certified Family Practitioner.



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