



# Three Rivers News



<http://news.trcmaine.org/>

MONDAY, DEC. 13, 2004 VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6

SPONSORED AND PUBLISHED BY THREE RIVERS KIWANIS CLUB AND THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

IF YOU SEE THE SECRETARY AT GERRISH INC. ON DEC. 13,  
BE SURE TO WISH HER A HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY!!



**LIVE!**  
**Milo Webcam**

<http://www.trcmaine.org/webcam/>

Webcam is located at  
Trask Insurance, 3 Main Street, Milo

The Milo Garden Club will hold its Christmas pot luck dinner at the Town Hall on Dec. 14 at 12:00 noon. Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert, your place setting, a wrapped gift for exchange and things for the Ronald McDonald House. Any potential member is welcome to attend.. Call Joanne at 943-2486.



Linda Lougee gets ready to cut her ice cream cake at her Christmas/retirement party held at Cook's Bed and Breakfast this past Monday night. Her sister Judy is helping pass out the cake.

Linda is retiring from the Kitchen at M.S.A.D. #41 after (29) years of dedicated service. We wish her a happy retirement.

## SANTA CLAUS HAS COME TO TOWN!!!

Santa arrived at the Milo Town Hall on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and will be at the Milo Town Hall again on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Santa is sponsored by the Milo Three Rivers Kiwanis.



## BLOOD DRIVE

DECEMBER 15, 2004  
3:00 – 7:00  
PENQUIS VALLEY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM



To Schedule an appointment please call  
Trish Hayes at 943-7317.

Please help us meet our goal of 50 Units!  
Sponsored by the PVHS Key Club

**BEST WISHES LINDA!!**

## Chocolate Pizza Orders For Christmas

You can still order CHOCOLATE PIZZA for the chocolate lovers on your Christmas list! The pizzas come in three sizes: mini (3"), regular (8"), and large (10")



There are two varieties: chocolate and chocolate/peanut butter.

Ingredients include Rice Krispies, marshmallows, coconut and M&Ms as well as chocolate (and peanut butter, if requested).

Prices are:

	Chocolate	Chocolate/Peanut Butter
Mini	\$1.50	\$2.00
Regular	\$6.00	\$7.00
Large	\$8.00	\$9.00

Available only at Christmas time!

To order call Susan at 965-8070 evenings 5-9pm.

Last day to order is Friday, Dec. 17

## TOWN OF MILO NOTICE

FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON THE TOWN OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> AND FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

THE TOWN OF MILO EMPLOYEES WOULD LIKE  
TO WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**NOTICE FOR THE TOWNS OF BROWNVILLE AND MILO**

The towns of Milo and Brownville will be accepting Christmas trees to recycle. Please drop trees at the **JSI parking lot** in the roped off area on the Maine Savings Federal Credit Union side of the parking lot. The trees can be dropped off on **Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> until 12:00 p.m.** To make removal more efficient we ask that everyone place the trees butt end out. Many thanks to **JSI Store Fixtures, Inc.** for their assistance.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

*Three River News* is published weekly by Three Rivers Kiwanis. It is available Tuesdays at the Milo Farmer's Union, BJ's Market, Graves' Service Station, Robinson's Fuel Mart, Reuben's Farmer's Market, The Restaurant, Milo Exxon, Rite Aid, and Milo True Value. The paper can also be viewed online at [news.trcmaine.org](http://news.trcmaine.org). Donations can be mailed to Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463.

Letters to the editor, social news, school news, items of interest, or coming social events may be submitted NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOON on the following addresses:

Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463 or e-mailed to, [val04463@verizon.net](mailto:val04463@verizon.net) or call 943-2324.

Nancy Grant, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to [nlg1@verizon.net](mailto:nlg1@verizon.net) or call 943-5809.

Please drop suggestions and comments into the donation box or contact one of us. We welcome your ideas. All opinions are those of the editors unless otherwise stated. We will publish no negative or controversial comments. The paper is written, printed, and distributed by unpaid volunteers. Donations are used to cover the expense of printing, paper and materials.

Valerie Robertson Nancy Grant Virgil Valente Seth Barden Kirby Robertson  
**HOW TO RECEIVE THE THREE RIVERS NEWS BY MAIL**

We have received many inquiries from readers as to how they can get the *Three Rivers News* delivered to their mailbox each week. The news is available by subscription in 30-week increments. For each 30-week subscription we ask for a donation of \$25.00 to cover the cost of printing and mailing. If you would like to sign up to get the news delivered, send your name, address and a check for \$25.00 to:

Valerie Robertson	Nancy Grant
P.O. Box 81	10 Belmont Street
Milo, Maine 04463	Milo, Maine 04463

**MEALS FOR ME. MENU**

TUES., DEC. 14	SPANISH RICE, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT COCKTAIL
WED., DEC. 15	VEAL PARMESAN, SPAGHETTI, TOSSED SALAD, BREAD STICKS, BANANA PUDDING,
THUR., DEC. 16	CHRISTMAS DINNER: ROAST BEEF, GRAVY, BAKED POTATO, TURNIP, PEAS AND ONIONS, CRANAPPLE CRISP
FRI., DEC. 17	HOT TURKEY SANDWICH, MASHED POTATO, CARROTS, PICKLED BEETS, FROSTED CAKE
MON. DEC. 20	GRAPE JUICE, PORK RIBLET ON A FRESH BAKED ROLL, SPINACH SALAD, FUDGE PUDDING CAKE

ANYONE 60 OR OVER IS INVITED TO ATTEND OUR MEALS. WE MEET AT THE MILO TOWN HALL DINING ROOM ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 11:45 AM AND AT THE QUARRY PINES COMMUNITY ROOM ON FRIDAYS AT 11:45 AM.

**PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!**  
**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 943-2488.**

BI NGO...BI NGO...BI NGO !!  
THE MILO AMERICAN LEGION POST 41 HAS BINGO EVERY FRI DAY NIGHT  
A MEAL IS SERVED FROM 5:00PM UNTIL 6:15 PM  
BINGO STARTS AT 6:15 AND ENDS AT 9:30  
SEE YOU THERE!

**A message of thanks  
from the Milo  
Historical Society:**

On November 28, the Milo Historical Society hosted a Holiday Craft and Merchants

Fair to raise money for recently discovered roof repair needs at our museum. With just two months of planning and with the



help of volunteers, newspapers, businesses and especially the talents of artisans, small business owners and local organizations the fair was a wonderful success. The Milo

Historical Society would like to thank everyone who participated in any way. A special thanks is extended to Victoria Eastman for conceiving, organizing, and participating in the fair. Also thanks go to the Town of

Milo for providing the town hall dining room. Encouragement and cheer were certainly apparent in all who supported our endeavor and we look forward to hosting a similar event in the future.

**Brownville Trivia**

By Bill Sawtell  
Choose the best answer.

1. The longest serving selectman was (a) Neil Arbo (b) Will Crozier (c) Walter McClain (d) Dennis Green.
2. The first woman selectman was (a) Nancy Cook (b) Sophie Wilson (c) Pauline Thomas (d) Greta Connors.
3. Susan Sawtell once set a high score at the Rocket Lanes in Dover-Foxcroft with a (a) 125 (b) 137 (c) 169 (d) 177.
4. The Herrick Hotel was once used as a (n) (a) dance hall (b) hospital (c) school (d) insurance office.
5. The stage was on the (a) north (b) east (c) west (d) south side of the BJHS gym
6. The stage was on the (a) north (b) east (c) west (d) south side of the BHS gym.
7. The stage was on the (a) north (b) east (c) west (d) south side of the Grange Hall.
8. The Stickney's have been known for their (a) music (b) poetry (c) height (d) athleticism.
9. Charlie Foulkes and Walter McClain were (a) lawyers (b) engineers (c) constables (d) meat men.
10. Albion Farnham and Arthur Strout were (a) pitchers (b) catchers (c) third baseman (d) centerfielders.

Answers: 1-b 2-d 3-c 4-c 5-b 6-c 7-d 8-a 9-c 10-a

**Memories of a Brownville Junction  
Railroader** BY BILL SAWTELL

**Baseball: The Tom Wallace Era and Beyond**

One of my earliest memories involves standing in PE Ward's in Dover-Foxcroft and watching part of a game in the 1954 World Series between the Giants and the Indians. It was the New York Giants then. They moved to San Francisco four years later.

Next to my beloved Red Sox, I liked the Cleveland Indians in the American League. In 1954 they won 111 games and had six great pitchers including four 20-game winners.

In the National League, it was the Brooklyn Dodgers, who took the World Series from the Yankees in 1955. I can still name every starter on those teams.

Willie Mays drank Pepsi. So I began drinking it. Ted Williams drank Moxie, but I couldn't stand it. Whitey Ford and Jackie Jensen

smoked Camels, but I never smoked in my life. Frank Malzone smoked cigars. I never did.

This was the Tom Wallace Era, the era of baseball, apple pie, and the flag, of great and colorful announcers, like Dizzy Dean and "Come on in" Buddy Blackner, of Curt Gowdy, of Mel Allen, etc.

Our National Anthem was and is one of my favorite parts of the game. It was for Ron Kovic, too, whose life story is told in [Born on the Fourth of July](#).

"Say Hey" Willie popularized the basket catch. Roberto Clemente jumped to hit balls over his head. Jimmy Piersall ran around the bases backwards and sat down behind the flagpole.

At the Y field, I remember Jim Owens hitting balls at a little Wayne Kirby, who became a great one. Mr. Conley made Wayne and me practice the double play in Little League daily, threatening not to give me a ride home if we didn't. I played shortstop and Wayne second, Allan Butterfield third. Later it was Kirby shortstop, Sawtell third, and Butterfield second-a rotation of sorts.

We played high flies and grounders by the hour, as well as 500 and Scrub. Bryan Artes, my successor at third base at BJHS, and I hit 100 ground balls at each other to see how many we could handle. I threw balls off of trees and off of the roof.

Mr. Conley had pitchers practice pitching with ropes the size of the strike zone. On the hottest afternoons of the summer he pitched batting practice to us and taught us bunting.

When I was in Little League, he once had me show some Babe Ruth League players how to field ground balls. Mr. Carroll L. Conley was a great teacher of fundamentals irrespective of the sport. He was greatly helped when he had players who wanted to learn and a community that was supportive. His sparkling record during the Tom Wallace Era and beyond can vouch for that in the sport of baseball alone.



## December 7

BY BILL SAWTELL

While most Americans will always associate this date with Pearl Harbor, I will always associate it with the birthday of my grandfather, Will Roberts.

Will's father, Richard, came to Montreal alone from Wales and began to work in a slate quarry in New Rockland, Quebec, before borrowing money from the quarry owner to bring his wife Mary and five children including my grandfather Will over in 1889.

When conditions in the quarry business there got worse, the Roberts's came by train to Brownville when the quarries were booming in 1893, the year of the Chicago World's Fair. At the age of 14 Grampi began working in the quarries here until the last one closed in 1915, a period of 22 years. He then went to work at the Derby shops, where Lynn Weston's grandfather, Jim Zwicker, also

worked as mentioned in a previous edition of the TRN, working in the shops until they went out on strike and never getting back in 1922. It is to be noted that the pay there was good and enabled my grandparents to pay for their home on Quarry Avenue in Brownville.

After the strike, Grampi, or "Ampi" as we affectionately called him, went to work as the superintendent of the Matthews Quarry in Northwest Monson for a year before alternating working winters for the Lewis Mill in Brownville and summers for the bridge crew of the Canadian Pacific in summers until he retired.

At the age of 72, he was called out of retirement when a quarry in Barnard was reopened temporarily to teach younger men, like Clyde Nason (Principal Shirley Wright's father) how to split slate. This was my grandfather's area of expertise. He knew how to split slate.

(It's interesting to note that in the mid-1930s, there was an effort to reopen the Crocker Quarry on the east side of the river. But a man from Kentucky named Fovargue invested too much capital in buildings and not enough in the mining of the slate.)

I got to spend much in terms of quality time with my grandfather and he taught me much, especially SCRABBLE. One of my regrets is that I had never learned the Welsh language from him except for a few words and expressions.

"Ampi" died at our dinner table January 15, 1962-the last Welsh quarryman to leave us in Brownville.

## AREA SCHOOL NEWS

**The annual holiday celebration at Brownville Elementary will be at 1:00 on Dec. 22.**

**There will be short presentations by each K-6 class, followed by refreshments and a visit by Santa Claus. All relatives and friends are invited to attend.**



## COOK SCHOOL NEWS

Mrs. Beres welcomed students, family, friends and staff to our December 10th assembly. Mrs. Wright was our Kiwanian friend. Matthew Melanson, Michelle Baker and Jeremy Moulton were recognized as **Terrific Kids**. Miss K. said that Matthew has worked very hard this week. He is an excellent student and asks wonderful questions. Matt has been able to go out for recess every day this week. Mrs. Carter praised Michelle for being Terrific every day. Michelle arrives at school and gets right to work. She is a kind friend and always asks Mrs. Carter if she needs help during recess. Ms. Ivy chose Jeremy because he has had a good week. He's been listening and trying to hold his body still during group time. He has even learned some new words this week!

Bus Students of the Week: Billy Parker, Cassidy Parker and Lilly Audibert.

We celebrated the birthdays of: Ryan Eylar (7), Andrew Vaillancourt (6), Matthew Melanson (10) and Mrs. Wright (unknown). **Congratulations to all of our Terrific Kids. Our Holiday Program will be held December 20th at 12:45.** We hope to see you there. Our students are once again taking part in our "Giving Tree" project. For each nonperishable food item that a student brings in to share with others less fortunate, he or she will add an ornament to our Christmas tree. Please help us to fill our donation box with an abundance of food and our "Giving Tree" with beautiful ornaments.



The students and staff would once again like to say a great big "Thank you" to the Lagrange PTO. We enjoyed a wonderful performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Maine Center for Performing Arts. We love our PTO.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS WIN

On Thursday, December 9, the Middle School Boys' and Girls' basketball teams both came away with wins at their first home games vs. Greenville. The boys went into overtime, but pulled out the win of 37-34 and the girls got their first win of 34-29. A large crowd was on hand, and if you want to enjoy some "good" basketball come out and see a middle school game. They play again home on Wednesday, Dec. 15th against Central.

*The following is an e-mail forward I received from Virgil Valente. He thought it would be a great article for the paper. Thanks Virgil!*

### **God Bless Bangor, Maine! Written recently from a GI's personal account:**

*I recently returned from a deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For deployed service members, travel days are typically very long days that involve much waiting around -- and this proved true for my group.*

*We departed the Middle East with two programmed stops in Europe and one stop in the U.S. before we reached home. At the first stop, we stayed on the aircraft without getting a chance to even stretch our legs. At our second stop in Shannon, Ireland, everybody deplaned, got a bite to eat, and did some quick shopping at the duty-free store. Our visit in Shannon was less than an hour -- a very unremarkable stop. Weary from hours on our jet, we all wanted to just knock out our last stop and get home to our families.*

*As we arrived in Bangor, Maine, customs officials met us at the plane and processed us through customs in the most efficient and polite manner you could imagine. We all then deplaned and made our way into the airport.*

*When we reached the walkway to the main terminal, we could see dozens of people waving flags and cheering. This town named for an Irish hymn appeared to be celebrating something at*

*the airport, and none of us knew what. As the first member of our party reached the celebrants, they began to shake hands and thank, and in some cases embrace, each military member for their service.*

*Did they have us mistaken for somebody else? How did they even know that we were coming in to that airport? These questions and many emotions raced through my mind as I descended the ramp toward the group.*

*I had thought of nothing but seeing my family for the past 24 hours, and it never once crossed my mind that anybody outside of my family and closest friends had the least bit of interest in my return. Though I had served proudly during my short time in the Middle East, I also felt that I did not deserve this kind of hero's welcome and was overcome with emotion. Bangor did not give me a vote on what kind of welcome I received. They made sure each service member who passed through their town had a memorable return to the United States.*

*Besides the cheers and hugs and waving flags, the veterans and citizens who greeted us had also set up a hospitality room. The room included refreshments and dozens of cell phones to call family and confirm our arrival time at our final destination. These great people thought of every practical way to boost our spirits.*

*Our whole group buzzed around in the hospitality room, suddenly enjoying the long trip home. Young people asked each of us to sign T-shirts that commemorated our brief stop in this town as if we were celebrities. President Bush, who won re-election the day we set down in Bangor, had recently visited Bangor, and I was sure that our welcome had rivaled even his.*

*Come to find out, President Bush had actually participated in welcoming troops back to the U.S. during his visit. I am sure the troops returning that day saw as we did: an island of red in a sea of blue welcoming them back home in what has to be one of the most patriotic communities in our country.*

*As we visited and enjoyed the hospitality showered upon us, we learned a few facts about Bangor and the people who met us. Bangor was once considered the lumber capital of the world and is the birthplace of the legendary Paul Bunyan. I do not know for sure that any of the folks we met were Paul's descendants, but the size of their hearts indicated that they all were. These people arrange to meet every scheduled planeload of service members returning to the states.*

*Many who greeted us were veterans, with each conflict back to World War II represented in the cheering crowd. I truly felt that I should be celebrating these people instead of vice versa. True to the nature of heroes, none of them checked to see how long we were gone or how much action we saw or whether our service was equal to theirs before they came out -- they believed and acted on the premise that every service member who returns to the United States deserves that kind of welcome. That tells me everything I need to know about them and their town.*

*As I stood signing a young man's T-shirt as if I were a rock star or the President himself, let me share with you all an overwhelmed boy from Alabama could think to write above his name: God **Bless Bangor, Maine!***

## METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

BY CAROLYN SINCLAIR

*A big Thank you to all who made our Christmas Fair a huge success. I won't try to mention names because I would certainly omit someone as there were so many who helped from those who provided cooked goods, who helped set up, who helped clean up, who came and made purchases. Without each and every one of you we couldn't have done it so successfully. Again thank you. Our Christmas Eve Service will be held at Park Street United Methodist Church on Dec. 24th at 11:00 PM. Join us for a great start to your Christmas Celebration.*

## MILO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

By Judith Macdougall

*I'm sorry I did not get a column written for last week's paper, but due to the Thanksgiving observance holiday and the fact that I had to go to Portland on Wednesday with Walter, I was not in*

the library very often. It was a quiet week for the most part as folks were getting ready for the holidays.

Monday, as we expected, was busy. That day we also got out the juvenile Christmas books. My, we have a lot! If any of you need more books with Christmas themes, we have them. Especially parents, teachers or day care providers who want a change from their own Christmas assortment might like to come and get more of a variety with our books. Earlier this fall, Esperanza Crackel who donated books and Beanie Baby toys to the summer reading program sent us a batch of holiday books. Her Christmas assortment is quite different as it includes Coyote Christmas and The Cajun Night Before Christmas among others. As Pam and I processed them, we were quite surprised at these titles, but if you'd like something different in a Christmas theme these books might be of interest.

On Wednesday we had some great volunteer help. Two weeks ago two Mormon elders came into the library to ask if we could use some help. At the time I couldn't think of anything, but I'll never turn down free help. I suggested they come back in a week, and we'd have some work for them. Soon Pam and I began to think of ways in which we could use the time and strength of these young men. This past Wednesday they arrived to work and what a help they were for two hours. They folded up the tables and chairs from the Kiwanis Kids Korner that won't be used again until spring. They washed shelves and then moved little used reference books from prime shelf space to lesser available shelves. They will come in every Wednesday afternoon that we can use them. Pam and I have a few projects lined up. If we can get organized enough, we should be able to make progress this winter on ideas we have had.

We have had more donated books. Our patrons and staff think of us when they have books to spare, and it all benefits our patrons. Nancy Scroggins has donated several books that will be a great addition to our World War II collection. They are:

Brinkley, Douglas  
Clancy, Tom  
Garrison, Gene

VOICES OF VALOR  
BATTLE READY  
UNLESS VICTORY COMES  
WORLD WAR II DESK  
REFERENCE

Nancy also donated a book of another war-THE VIETNAM WAR ALMANAC by Harry G. Summers Jr.

We have had several requests for Dr. Phil books, and Kathy Witham has donated two of his titles. They are SELF MATTERS and COMPANION And THE ULTIMATE WEIGHT SOLUTION. Both of these books are by Dr. Phillip C. McGraw. We are pleased to be able to offer these to our patrons thanks to Kathy's generosity.

**Library Winter Hours**  
**Mon.-Weds. -Fri.---2:00-8:00**  
**Saturday 2:00-4:00**  
**Telephone 943-2612**

**LIBRARY**  
**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
**CLOSED Friday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**CLOSED Saturday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**OPEN Friday Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**2:00-4:00 p.m.**  
**CLOSED Saturday Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**

## The Milo District Schools

By Lloyd J. Treworgy  
Continued Part XXXVIII

The schoolhouse, like the houses, was gone – a long time gone. No one had attended school there since 1921 and the building was torn down shortly after the school ceased to call its scholars to it. Most of the teachers whose ruling arm had swung the peremptory clapper bell from the doorway, two generations before were dead.

Two relics, however, these visitors from another time recognized.

In front of what had been one of the two entrances, the stone doorstep maintained its unwearied vigil. It had once served as third base at recess time when boys and girls, without distinction as to sex, had played ball together. And across what had once been the schoolyard was the crotched cedar tree that had served as first base. The old tree lay on its side on the ground now, but it was the old landmark, without any doubt. Cedar lasts a long time.

"I remember just as plain as yesterday," Ira told me, three years after that nostalgic visit. "I remember the first day I went to school there. I sat with Virginia (an older sister). The bench that went with the desk was wide enough for two.

"I remember that I had to go to the toilet. So I raised my hand and spoke right up: "Can I go out?" I don't remember what the teacher said – probably just 'Yes'."

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So much for the Stanchfield Ridge School for the present. We'll come back to it later.

Just how many of the nine district schools listed in the records of 1890 were still operating in 1910 isn't exactly clear. We do know from the town records that there were 570 children attending schools in Milo in 1910.

Closing of the Murray District School, on the back Brownville road, in 1895, I mentioned earlier. And it is certain that the Holbrook School, at the foot of Billington Road, closed permanently after the Milo Junction School was built in 1907-1908. Others of the original nine were voted, from time to time, for consolidation – but would bob up later in the records as repaired and functioning again. The Hobbstown and the Drake Schools, as an instance, were forever teetering on the edge of oblivion, and forever returning to service, with their little contingent of scholars.

From the records we know that the Lovejoy School closed in 1920. The Stanchfield Ridge School may have been one year later in suspending operation. The Sargent Hill School, after 1921, was the only one left. The record for 1922 lists one teacher as "rural". After that – nothing.

The 5<sup>th</sup> District School, in the village, and the Milo Junction School, which took over for the 9<sup>th</sup> District, became the central schools into which consolidation emptied the outlying scholars after 1923.

So this story will concern itself mostly with these six schools.

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One of the most striking stories of "crime and punishment", in those golden years of irresponsible boyhood, came from John Rowe, who attended the Tollbridge School, just beyond the bridge on lower Elm St. The exact date doesn't matter. John didn't remember it. Somewhere between 1910 and 1915, he guessed.

John, along with Carroll Hughes and John Kazoota (who later studied medicine and became a doctor, John thought), liked very much to fish for trout. Their favorite brook ran under the road and the railroad track on the Lyford Road near where the Ernest DesChamps family lives today. There were some pretty good trout in it then, John said.

The boys always carried fish hooks stuck in their cap so to be ready when the urge was on them. A boy could carry a rolled-up line in his pock together with a light sinker, if he wanted it. Then tie a hook on the line, cut an alder pole, dig a worm or two and he was ready to fish.

Well, these three boys went trouting early one morning – a school morning. And the pleasure they got from following the brook and matching wits with the trout made them late for school – quite late indeed.

The teacher at that time, John remembers, was Dorice Clark. She was Arthur Clark's sister, Judge F. Davis Clark's aunt.

School discipline was strict in those days and learning was considered important. Teachers took a dim view of tardiness unless it was for some good, excusable reason – which fishing was not. And if you're a successful fisherman, there's no disguising the fact. You smell of fish.

So the teacher kept the three after school. She talked to them a little, then called them up front, one by one. She took their right hand firmly in her left and spanked the palm with her ruler.

The punishment hurt, not a doubt of it. It didn't prevent them, however, from repeating the offense. There was something about trouting that appealed to primal instincts. It couldn't be resisted when the weather was warm and the trout were biting. So they went fishing again on three more occasions, were late and twice got the ruler.

The fourth time they were tardy, John said, they had a surprise waiting for them. When Dorice called them up front, after school, she said: "Now we're going to do it a little differently this time. You're going to put the ruler on My hand."

"And she made us do it, too, all three of us," John added. "I never felt so foolish in my life. I didn't hit her hand hard at all and the others didn't."

"What effect did it have on you? I asked him.

"Well, we never went fishing again mornings," John answered ruefully.

If we can omit World War I, which brought heartache to many lands (and so to Milo, one little town in them), in the years between 1914 and 1918 – if we can omit that, then the years between 1910 and 1922 were golden years. Electricity, telephone and running water were creeping into the outlying sections after 1910. Automobiles had arrived although they were something of a curiosity between 1910 and 1915. They had not yet become a plaything. They were still not a deadly weapon in the hands of the irresponsible. And they had not become a universal necessity to meet speeded-up schedules. Roads weren't that fast in those days.

Radio was being talked about, in awed tones, as a definite future possibility. Television wasn't talked about; wasn't even dreamed about except in those restless, questing minds to whom nothing is impossible.

The silent movie was already in operation. It necessitated a pianist down front, facing the screen, ready to change pace and theme at a second's notice to keep along with the momentary mood of the picture. There was a lot of running and pursuit and speeding trains bearing down on a victim tied to the railroad track. One of the silent picture pianists in Milo was Grace Day, now Mrs. Charles Doble, who lives on Stoddard St. Another was Althea Cole Moore, not dead. A third, who played as substitute, was Mrs. Ruby Inman, wife of Arthur Inman, who operated the theatre. The Inman's moved away from Milo years ago.

The Milo Theatre, as you may have noticed on the ruin of its front, was built in 1913.

## Traditions of a Milo-ite

By Kathy Witham

The countdown has begun....or should I say the countdown began. Yes folks, only a few short days left to git-r-done! If you haven't started shopping yet, you are going to find that things are pretty well picked over. If you haven't started wrapping, you're in the same boat with me. If you haven't put your decorations up by now, why bother? What about your cards? What a shame that lots of people have given up this tradition because it takes too much time, and it's gotten expensive. We still send lots of cards. It's a collaborative effort between the two of us. I write the letter....he approves it....this year he addressed the envelopes and I signed the cards. They get stuffed and sealed and stamped and away they go. I really love Christmas cards with pictures either on or in them. This year we just didn't get one taken. Whenever the whole family was together, our faces were really not picture worthy! YIKES!!

I had a wonderful Christmas shopping experience the other day. I got to go to Bangor, Christmas shopping all by myself. If the hubby goes with me, he makes me nervous. He follows around behind me trying to hurry me along, and we seldom agree on items that I pick out. He always has to eat, and I waste no time eating out when I'm by myself shopping. If we do separate in a store, I have to set a time when we'll meet back in a specific spot and



I hate that. I always feel like I have to give myself a shorter time than I'm going to need. I don't mind shopping with him when it isn't Christmas time...but this time of year I like to shop by myself. Even when you go with girlfriends, one or the other of you always wastes minutes waiting. When you work all day, and you only have a few short hours in the evening to shop, every second counts.

In Filenes I met a woman who was also shopping by herself. She had an armload of sweet sweaters that she'd been trying on. I was shopping for my Lori Lee and was having some trouble finding something I really liked. Here was this woman lugging around an armload of clothes that I loved. She looked to be about Lori's age, and also her size. We chitchatted about where she had found the cute items. She retraced her steps to help me locate the different designer's racks. We formed a camaraderie; and before we finished at Filenes, I felt like I knew her well. I knew about her family and she mine. I was aware of what she did for a living, what she was doing in Bangor, and where she was staying for the night. At the checkout we shared my 15% off coupon, and bid each other a very Merry Christmas.

Before we finished our transactions the stranger and I were sharing specifics about where we lived. When I was telling her about where Milo was, the woman in line behind us piped up and said that her sister was from Milo. "Who might that sister be?" Turned out her sister was Jackie Willinski. "I've known Jackie for years!" The cute clerk behind the counter chimed in with, "My grandmother is from Milo!" Turns out her grandparents are Bob and Kay Trickey. "Oh, she taught me to sing!" I trilled excitedly to the whole group. "Me, too." said the sweet little clerk. Turns out we all had the Milo connection, and the checkout experience felt like a little reunion.

My husband has just informed me that our clothes dryer is on the bum. We're talking about a dryer that has been touch and go for way more than a year. One of those deals where you don't know if it's going to dry a load of clothes or not....and you hold your breath with each cycle....and you certainly don't leave the house with the dryer running! I'd say that the Milo-ite is probably going to have a new clothes dryer for Christmas. So much for that nice bottle of perfume and the Jimmy Buffet CD that I had on my list! Ah well, there's always another year.

Before the day is over I've got to make a batch of **Currant Tarts**. They are a favorite holiday treat of my Morrison family....and that's who we're celebrating with tonight.

### The crust:

1 heaped cup of flour  
1/2 tsp. baking powder salt  
1/3 cup brimming of oil  
1/3 cup boiling water

This stirs up easily in a bowl and feels wonderful to work with. Apportion this dough into 12 equal parts and put into ungreased muffin cups. Work with your fingers so that the dough covers the bottom and up the sides of each cup.

### The Filling:

1 cup brown sugar  
2 eggs  
piece of butter the size of an egg (melted)  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 cup of currants  
dash of salt

Beat the eggs, add the brown sugar and salt and stir by hand until well blended. Add the melted butter, vanilla and currants. Divide the filling into each of the cups. Bake at 375 degrees for 1/2 hour. I take them out of the pan and let them cool on a rack. We have some friends here in Milo who love these delicacies as well. My mother made these as Christmas gifts for their friends for many years.

## IN MEMORIAM

### GRETA M. CONNORS

**BROWNVILLE JCT.** - Greta M. Connors, 92, wife of the late Clayton E. Connors, died Dec. 8, 2004, at a Bangor nursing home. She was born June 22, 1912, in Brownville Jct., the daughter of Andrew and Mary E. (McLean) Murray. Mrs. Connors had taught at Brownville Jct. High School for 20 years. She was a member of Delta Kappa

Gamma, Maine Teachers Association, Piscataquis County Retired Teachers Association, Brownville Jct. United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Gold Star Wives of America, and the Brownville Historical Society. She is survived by a son, Roland Connors of Golden, Colo., three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. Spring interment will be in the family lot in Pinetree Cemetery

#### **LEON K. BEMIS**

OWLS HEAD - Leon K. Bemis, 88, of Owls Head, formerly of Leavitt Ave., Lewiston, died Dec. 8, 2004 in Owls Head, where he had resided for the past two years. Born in Brownville, April 21, 1915, he was the son of Ezra and Nellie (Copeland) Bemis. He attended Brownville Junction High School. After living in Gardiner and Hampden, he moved with his family to Lewiston in 1951. He was married for 63 years to Julia B. (McGrath) Bemis, who passed away Aug. 31, 2000. As a World War II Army veteran, he served as a Sergeant with the 2nd Infantry Division. The Presidential Citation Combat Infantry Badge, four Battle Stars, Good Conduct Medal, and a Bronze Star were among the honors awarded during his tours of duty in France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia. He was a lifelong member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He retired in 1976 after working as meat manager at various Lewiston grocery stores as well as being employed at Snows, Inc. After his retirement, he was employed part time at Service Merchandise. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed woodworking in his retirement years. Survivors include two sisters, Elizabeth Chase of Brownville Junction, Rosalie Fogg of Lake Placid, Fla.; two daughters, Maxine and her husband, Philip Ruggles of Las Vegas, Nev., Patricia and her husband, Walter Wotton of Owls Head; a son, Robert and his wife, Suzanne Bemis of Sun City Center, Fla.; six grandchildren, Robert Jr. and his wife, Gina Bemis of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Major Scot and his wife, Brienne Bemis of Illesheim, Germany, Judy and her husband, Larry Russell of Corona, Calif., John Ruggles of Oxnard, Calif., Tracey and her husband, Chris McDermott of Abington, Mass., Stacey and her husband, Tony Fournier of Auburn; nine great-grandchildren, Bobby, Scotty, Abby, Bret, Michelle, Robby, Nick, Caitlin, and Erin, along with several nieces and nephews. Mr. Bemis was predeceased by five brothers, Linwood, Harold, Nat, Charles, and Manley; three sisters, Ruth Stiles, Helen Vose, and Pauline Tufts. Spring interment will be in the family lot in Pinetree Cemetery, Brownville Junction. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Brownville Junction High School Alumni Assoc., PO Box 151, Brownville Junction, ME 04415.

#### **ELIZABETH A. CHASE**

BROWNVILLE JCT. - Elizabeth "Bunny" A. Chase, 94, wife of the late Donald Chase, died Dec. 10, 2004, at a Dover-Foxcroft nursing home. She was born Sept. 28, 1910, in Dexter, the daughter of Ezra and Ellen (Copeland) Bemis. Mrs. Chase was a graduate of Brownville Jct. High School, Class of 1928, and Farmington Normal School. She taught school at Brownville Elementary for 31 years and volunteered for another 15 years until 1993. She was a member of the National Education Association, the Maine Teachers Association, Piscataquis County Retired Teachers Association, Brownville Jct. High School Alumni Association, Brownville Jct. Service Club, a member and past matron of Echo Chapter No. 90 OES, a member of Miriam Chapter No. 40 OES, and past grand marshal of the Grand Chapter Maine OES. She was one of the organizers and past mother advisor of the Brownville Rainbow for Girls. Mrs. Chase was an active member of the Brownville Jct. United Methodist Church, where she had served as organist for 65 years and choir member for 60 years. She was also a member and past president of the Brownville Jct. United Methodist Women. She is survived by a daughter, Rosalie Ober of Brunswick; a sister, Rosalie Fogg of Lake Placid, Fla.; three grandchildren, Ann Cosgrove of West Gardiner, Steven Ober of Westport Island, and David B. Ober of Reston, Va.; four great-grandchildren, Kaitlin and Kristin Cosgrove, and Samantha and Elizabeth Ober. Friends are invited to call 2-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, 2004, at the Lary Funeral Home, Milo. Funeral services will be conducted 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the Brownville Jct. United Methodist Church with the Rev. Michelle St. Cyr and the Rev. Ron Chaffee officiating. Those who wish may make memorial

contributions to the Brownville Elementary School, 774 Main Road, Brownville, ME 04414. Spring burial will be in the family lot in Pinetree Cemetery

### ***DINNER AT QUARRY PINES***

Residents from Brownville Jct. and the Brownville and Milo Girl Scout Troop #712 served a turkey dinner to nine guests in the recreation room and delivered five dinners on December 4. Santa presented gifts to all and Rodney Washburn entertained with his guitar. Among those donating and serving were J.D.'s Emporium and girls, the Quarry Pines Ward Directors, Gert and Gene Burnham, Jared and Anne Weston, and Ron and Mim Bolduc.

### ***FROM GRAMMIE MCLEARY'S WEATHER DIARY DECEMBER - 1969***

13-Fair-36° at 7 am. 14-Sunny-24° at 7:15 am. 15-L snow-30° at 7 am. 16-Fair-32° at 4 pm. 17-Cloudy-26° at 4 pm. 18-Fair-8° at 6:50 am. 19-Snow 10°-34° at 4 pm.

## **TO ALL AMERICAN LEGION POST #41 MEMBERS**

**A Christmas party, with free gift, lunch and goodies, will be hosted at the post on December 21, 2004 at 1:00 pm.**

**On December 22, 2004 at 8:00a.m. there will be a free breakfast and door prize at The Restaurant. Bring a prospective member!**

## **UP ON THE FARM**

BY VALERIE ROBERTSON

Today is December 11<sup>th</sup> and we received the first significant snowfall of the year. About an inch and a half of wet slush lies all over the yard. I always love letting the critters out of their respective coops and stalls after it has snowed. They are all always filled with a wonder and amazement that seems a lot like I remember feeling as a child after a snowfall. When I open the door on any other morning, they all come running/flapping/squawking/flying out in a wave of feathers and feet.

On a snowy morning as soon as I open the door they all start out, then stop up quick upon spying the white stuff and go instantly quiet. They guys in the back are still oblivious to the wondrous snow spectacle and go barreling into the front line in a manner that would rival any "Three Stooges" skit. After every duck, guinea, chicken and last but not least, goat has come to a silent, abrupt halt, the ducks start whisper-quacking in a questioning manner. Very quietly they seem to be saying "Goodness—what is this? Do we like this? I think we do...yes, yes we do ...very much!" And then they start the stampede of slipping and fluttering and skidding and quacking and cock-a-doodle-doing and goat-blating!

The barnyard looks pristine for exactly 30 seconds before footprints and wing prints and claw prints and little cloven hoof prints make the most delightful patterns. The ducks actually bathe in the snow; much like a dog taking a dust bath. Their glee is contagious and pretty soon the chickens and guineas have joined in the snow-party. The guineas do a sort of sashaying dance that reminds me of old ladies doing the minuet. They strut their stuff, all the while not letting any thing that isn't a guinea anywhere near them. They are the most stuck up and conceited of the barn-yard fowl, and some day I'd like to

bring home a full-grown peacock to show them what a truly majestic bird is. They would probably put it in its place the same way they do every other bird.

The only two I feel kind of bad for after a storm are Ozzie and Jack, my precious goats. They HATE being wet and of course getting wet is the end result of standing or lying in the snow. I try to put hay all around where they will be hanging out, but I inevitably hear their bleats that can only mean "We'd rather be in our nice dry stall!" I try to leave them out long enough to get the stink blown off them, but I usually give in and open the gate to their corral and they scurry inside and call it a day. Goats don't need much to make them happy, just a warm dry bed and some food and water. I like to think the kisses I give them on their little goat snouts and the hugs around their big fat goat bellies are as important to them as they are to me...but probably not.

All the kitties and doggies at the Robertson house are thriving. We have a foster-dog here for a few weeks. She is a 3-year-old Shih-Tsu who thinks she is a Saint Bernard. She has already decided her main purpose in life is to keep the other five dogs away from Kirby and me. She charges at any dog or cat that tries to get on our laps, all the while yipping and ki-yi-ing in the highest pitched voice I have ever heard. It was funny at first, but she does it at all hours of the night and you can't imagine the shock to the system the yelps evoke at 4 AM!! I have heard house alarm systems that use the deep bark of a large dog as a deterrent to would-be burglars; her noises would scare off the most determined robber...and probably send them directly into therapy.

We are keeping "Mia" for two weeks, and then she is going to her new Mama and Daddy. I'm sure, being the way memories are and the way time and age smooth out the rough edges, in a few years Kirby and I will be saying "Remember that sweet little Shih-Tsu, Mia? Didn't she have the sweetest, most unique bark?!"

## THREE RIVERS KIWANIS NEWS



### CHILDREN: PRIORITY ONE

The Three Rivers Kiwanis Club meets at The Restaurant each Wednesday morning at 6:30 to eat breakfast, enjoy fellowship, hear speakers on various interesting topics, and to share ideas. All are welcome to visit with us. If you would like to join our organization, please contact Dorothy Brown or any other Kiwanian for an application. We are involved in many worthwhile local projects and would be very pleased to have you participate in them.

#### DECEMBER 8, 2004 MEETING

President Murrel Harris greeted fifteen members this icy morning.

Eben DeWitt led the flag salute. Edwin Treworgy led us in prayer and asked for guidance and blessings, especially for those in harm's way. Prayers go out to the sick and bereaved.

Our reading this morning was by Nancy Grant, a story about young and old. As an elderly gentleman was attending a college football game, a younger man told him so loud that everyone in the area about them could hear, that his older generation just could not understand the younger generation. The younger man stated that this younger generation has electric and hydrogen cars, TV, lightning fast processing...The older gent did take advantage of the pause and proclaimed "We were busy inventing them you little twit; what are you going to do in the next generation?" This story drew a chuckle from some of our members.

Correspondence this morning consisted on Orono/Old Town Newsletter that was passed for all to read.

Birthdays this week are Joe Beres on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, Neil Hamlin on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, and Heidi Finson on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. No anniversaries were noted.

Happy and Sad Dollars today: seven dollars donated for happy birthdays for both Nancy's mom and her son this week, for our good Santa's elves that shopped for Secret Santa on Saturday, for being sad because Key Club members missed breakfast, for a VERY BIG BAD dog that went to a neighbor's home and begged to get let in to "play" with their cat. Yes, fun for the fur creatures involved but, alas a home in a whirlwind! And a happy dollar for being a Santa's elf. And another happy dollar for a very special member that is happy to be "retired" again.

No report today for Terrific Kids. Trish Hayes reported on Key Club this week, with many Key Club members who were at Milo Elementary helping on Friday night with Christmas event at the school. Students will again going to Manna next week. They were unable to attend the Tuesday event because of the bad weather.

Three Rivers news continues to be of important interest to many of the area and those who are away from our area.

No interclub activity to report. Chris Almy was unavailable to determine any future interclub activity.

Secret Santa is going just wonderful. Shopping was completed in just for over three hours in Brewer last Saturday, with Janet, Neil, Sheri, Nancy, Don and Dottie acting as the elves that day. A busy, but fun time! Our club members were shopping for one hundred thirty-six youngsters from one month to eighteen years.

Joe Zamboni reported on the upcoming special events for the gazebo opening in the spring of 2005. Joe and Don will place Christmas lights on the gazebo on Saturday.

Murrel reported on the Board Meeting on Wednesday morning, Dec 2, 2004 at The Restaurant.

Approved membership for Jan Barton and Bob Ellison; a very warm WELCOME to both of you.

A resignation letter from Dennis Dorsey was read. It is regret that we accept his resignation and wish for him the very best in his new job and his new location in another part of Maine.

The Board approved a donation for the 2005 Fishing Derby poster.

At the Board meeting it was agreed to donate funds for the Christmas Day Dinner at the Milo Town Hall put on by Freda and Everett Cook this year.

A twenty-five dollar donation was given to the Kiwanis Saddlebags organization as approved by the board.

Discussion was held on the what to do about this month's fifth Wednesday, to have a regular meeting or an evening meeting as has been done in the past. It was agreed that the president would do a case by case planning in the event there is a fifth Wednesday. This month, **Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> will be a regular MORNING meeting.**

Much discussion occurred in the meeting about the draft that was shown at the regular meeting that was presented by President Murrel. Murrel, Chris Beres and Dottie met two weeks ago to revise the committee list. As this is only a draft, please make any changes if you feel that you would like to be on a committee, or chair a committee. ANY Kiwanis member can work on ANY Kiwanis project.

President Murrel reminded the members that ANY member can attend ANY board Meeting.

Speaker next week will be Eben DeWitt to speak on Kiwanis Organization.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Brown, secretary