



Three Rivers News



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

MONDAY, JAN 17, 2005 VOLUME 4 NUMBER 10

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

HELP GIVE HOPE TO CHILDREN

The elementary schools in MSAD #41 are pooling their efforts to raise money for the Tsunami Relief Effort. On Jan 20, staff and students will have a HAT DAY at Brownville Elementary. For a donation, students will be allowed to wear a hat in school that day. The same thing will be done at Milo Elementary on the 21st. At M. C. Cook School the staff and students are donating to COINS for KIDS throughout the month. Donation cans are also available in the other schools and at some of the Penquis Basketball games. Outside donations are also most welcome. Contact any school for more information.



Middle School Boys and Girls Undefeated

Both the PVMS boys and girls basketball teams are have perfect 7-0 records as of this writing and are enjoying fine seasons.

The boys are coached by former Penquis High standout Mike Harris and are led in scoring by Ryan Bailey (13 points per game) and Brad Brown (10 points per game). Leading rebounder is Leigh Dolley (eight rebounds per game). Other starters are Kiel Larson (eight points per game) and Joe Leland (six points per game). Kris Foss is usually the first player off the bench.

Other players on the squad include Shane Woodard, Chad Badger, Caleb Stanley, Bruce Benoit, Jake Lyford, Justin McLaughlin, Justin Artus, and Drew Bellatty.

The Railroaders were down by 10 twice in a game against SEDOMOCHA this year and came back to win by three in overtime and also beat Greenville in overtime.

The girls are coached by UMPI hall-of-famer Dawn Russell and are paced by center Erica Lyford (20 points per game), forwards Kelsey Ottman (10 Points per game) and Morgan Royal (10 points per game). Leading rebounders are Erica Lyford and Shelby Fowles, who are each hauling down eight to 10 boards a contest.

Others on the team are Britnee Genter, Kristyn Chapman, Ashley Burch, Shelby Weston, Kayla Webb, Shelisha Clark, Kim Herbest, Breanne Mckinley, Alissa Maguire, and Caitlin Ballard.

According to their coach, the girls have been in quite a few "dog fights" this season.

A Holiday "Thank-You"

Everett and Freda Cook would like to thank everyone who helped make the 7th Annual Christmas Dinner a success. A special thank you to the merchants for their donations of food and finances, the kitchen crew, the people who baked and donated desserts, those who delivered the meals to shut-ins, the folks who served the meals at the town hall, and most especially the community members who came together to enjoy Christmas dinner. We look forward to serving you again next year!

Both Beagles Safe!

The second of the lost beagles showed up safe and sound at the home she has been staying at in Sebec. Abby, the younger and smaller of the two lost dogs, found her way from the Rips Road in Brownville to Sebec. The dog, which had been missing for 10 days, was hungry and thin, but otherwise unharmed!

Class of 1948 to Meet January 18th

The Milo High School Class of 1948 will hold its next bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 18th at Freda and Everett Cook's Bread & Breakfast on High Street. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. All classmates are urged to attend.



LIVE!
Milo Webcam

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

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

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. 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 to the following addresses:

Valerie Robertson, PO Box 81, Milo, Maine 04463 or e-mailed to, val04463@verizon.net or call 943-2324.

Nancy Grant, 10 Belmont St. Milo, Maine 04463, e-mailed to 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. A large print edition is available by subscription only and is \$1.00 per week. If you would like to sign up to get the news delivered, send your name, address and a check to:

Valerie Robertson
P.O. Box 81
Milo, Maine 04463

Nancy Grant
10 Belmont Street
Milo, Maine 04463

BINGO...BINGO...BINGO!!!

THE MILO AMERICAN LEGION POST 41 HAS BINGO EVERY FRIDAY 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!

M.S.A.D. #41-Personal Enrichment Classes

Creative Writing (Milo)

Eight weeks of writing stories, poems, memoirs or whatever you'd like to write!

TUE/Mar.1 8 Weeks \$25.00
6:00 – 8:00 P.M. PVHS - Milo

Victoria Eastman Call 943-7317 to register.

Drawing (Milo)

The class work and technique is geared toward students at the novice and beginner level.

TUES/Jan. 18 10 Weeks \$25.00
6:30 – 8:00 P.M. PVHS – Milo

Suzette East Call 943-7317 to register.

Landscape Painting (Milo)

The class work and technique is aimed at the novice and beginner painter.

THURS/Jan. 20 10 Weeks \$25.00
6:00 – 8:30 P.M. PVHS – Milo

Suzette East Call 943-7317 to register.

Quilting (Milo)

This class is for the beginner or intermediate quilter. Beginning participants may work on a winning hands quilt. More advanced students may do a scrap star quilt. Quilters may also work on their own unfinished projects.

TUES or WED/Jan. 18th or 19th 12 Weeks \$25.00
6:30 – 9:30 P.M. PVHS – Milo

Sandra Haley Call 943-7317 to register.

Basic Floral Design – Milo

This class is for enjoyment only and is not designed to prepare anyone to be a professional florist. Sharon Jones, a Maine State Certified Master Florist, will provide instruction in basic floral care, preparation and design. The cost of supplies is dependent on projects chosen and will be determined in class. A supply list will be provided during the first class.

MON/Jan. 24 10 Weeks \$25.00 (plus supplies)
6:30 – 8:30 P.M. PVHS – Milo

Sharon Jones Call 943-7317 to register.

Digital Photography – Milo

This class will provide instruction on improving your skills in creating and manipulating digital photos. Bring in your camera and get ready to be creative using Adobe PhotoShop CS.

WED/Jan 19 8 Weeks

\$25.00

6:00 – 8:30 P.M. PVHS-Milo

Susan Bryand Call 943-7317 to register.

Scrapbooking

This class is for both beginning and advanced scrap bookers. This is an opportunity to work on albums and learn new techniques. Some supplies will be available for purchase through the instructor.

MON/Jan 24 11 Weeks \$25.00

6:30 – 9:00 P.M. PVHS-Milo

Katie Ladd Call 943-7317 to register.

Learning About Herbs (Milo)

In this class you will learn about the history and uses of herbs. The instructor will cover planting and drying techniques for herbs that are grown locally. Plans are also being made to have a guest speaker.

TUES/Jan 11th 6 Weeks

6:00 – 7:30 P.M. PVHS-Milo

Victoria Eastman Call 943-7317 to Register

Plans are being made to offer First Aid and CPR for either certification or for information only. Please call 943-7317 if you are interested.

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LARGE PRINT EDITION AVAILABLE!!

If you or someone you know would benefit from a larger-type edition of the Three Rivers News, we now have that option available by subscription only. The type size will be the same as this ad, and will be consistent throughout the entire paper. The cost of a subscription is \$1.00 a week, or \$50 for a year. The extra cost is due to the increased size of the paper, as well as the increased postage rate.

To order a subscription for yourself or as a gift for someone, send your payment to:

Valerie Robertson	Nancy Grant
PO Box 81	10 Belmont Street
Mio, ME 04463	Milo, ME 04463

P.E.T.S. SPRING RAFFLE UNDERWAY

Yes, Spring is on way as P.E.T.S. fundraising begins. P.E.T.S. is the local all volunteer, non-profit 501(c) 3 organization whose mission is to reduce the pet overpopulation through spaying and neutering companion animals. P.E.T.S. gives financial assistance to families and individuals who qualify for reduced cost spay/neuter.

The organization has several fundraisers planned for 2005. The Spring Raffle hopes to raise a minimum of \$1000. The Grand Prize is a "Getaway for 2" at the Bar Harbor Motel, 2 nights with dinners. Second Prize is a 14 x 18 framed acrylic wildlife

painting by local artist Suzette East. The drawing will be held April 15th. Tickets are available in Dover-Foxcroft at the *Cup and Easel* on Main Street and through various P.E.T.S. volunteers.

Additional fundraisers for 2005 include the annual yard sale in March, bottle drive in April, quilt raffle during the summer and early fall.

P.E.T.S. Community Project – the spaying and neutering of companion animals in a very poor neighborhood, is more than half completed. P.E.T.S. would like to thank everyone who supported us through donations and fundraisers. Without the support of Foxcroft Veterinary our reduced cost spay/neuter would not be successful.

For donations or information about the program contact: Sue Slate, 379-2809, Phyllis Dyer, 564-8092, Salley Sue Pearson, 876-2757, Julie Gallagher at 943-5087 or Mary Shapleigh, 564-8092.

Brownville Trivia

BY BILL SAWTELL

Choose the best answer.

1. Allan Butterfield and Carolyn Thomas have PhD's in (a) math (b) English (c) chemistry (d) physics.
2. Gwil Roberts taught (a) math (b) history (c) English (d) accounting.
3. Bill Sawtell played basketball at (a) Farmington (b) McGill (d) Lasalle (d) Laval.
4. Gary Larson played baseball and basketball at (a) Aroostook State (b) UMaine (c) Colby (d) UMM.
5. Bilodeau's Restaurant was in (a) Dillon's Hall (b) the Pleasant River Hotel (c) the YMCA (d) Briggs Hall.
6. Taffy was a (n) (a) Englishman (b) Swede (c) Welshman (d) Irishman.
7. Mesach Jones was a (n) (a) quarry owner (b) quarry foreman (c) slate splitter (d) slate hauler.
8. The Millinocket road was completed in the (a) 20s (b) 30s (c) 40s (b) 50s.
9. The Short Line through Maine saved Canadians (a) 100 miles (b) 158 miles (c) 250 miles (d) 272 Miles.
10. (a) The Affair at Mileage 3.20 (b) the Sugar Wreck (d) the Onawa Wreck (d) the Long Pond Wreck was the worst wreck in the state's history.

BROWNVILLE DAYS COMMITTEE 2005

Submitted By: Linda Coburn, Publicity Chairperson

Kick off to Brownville Days 2005- On Saturday, January 22, 2005, a Brownville Days Buffet Public Supper will be held at 5-6pm at the BJHS ALUMNI HALL in Brownville Junction. Adults \$5.00 and children under 12 \$2.00. (Baked beans, casseroles, salads and desserts, home made rolls). If you would like to bring something for the buffet, please contact Felice Sickler 965-2561, Linda Coburn 965-8421 or Toni Mihalik 965-7351. Also bring an item for the auction that will be held immediately following the Buffet.

Do you recognize this person? If you do please contact Priscilla Bass at prissb@trcmaine.org or call 943-2839. I have

this photo and would like to restore it to its rightful owner. Thank you.



students did an excellent job learning about Dr. King and memorizing their lines for the presentation. They concluded their program with the Rick Charette song, "Friends."

Terrific Kid Certificates were awarded to Ethan Neal, April Morgan and Dawn Moulton. Ms. Ivy is very proud of Ethan. He did not have his name on the board this week. He is trying very hard to follow all of the rules and was a good listener. April is a hardworking student. Mrs. Carter said that April is using all of the reading strategies and is self-editing her written work. She uses her time wisely. Dawn is always Terrific. She is very responsible.

Miss K. can count on Dawn to get her homework completed and to return her planner each day. Dawn is a wonderful role model.

Bus Kids: Shae Grant, Josh Leighton and Lillis Noke.

Artists of the Week: Haley Morel and She Grant.

We celebrated the birthdays of Cassidy Parker (7), Hannah Bess (10) and Miss K.

Congratulations to all of our Terrific Kids.

Lady Pats Down BC By Bill Sawtell

Milo, January 11-Dani Graves hit a 10-footer in the early going and the home team never looked back as the Lady Pats swept the season series from the Bangor Christian girls here 32-21, nearly shutting out the taller visitors from the city in the third period.

Once more it was Kate Hamlin who led the way with seven points for Brent Bailey and Company, with Jenny Stetson coming in off the Lady Pats pine and doing a great job on the offensive boards and sophomore Mindy Dolley returning to the lineup after an illness.

Kaitlyn French Paced the Christians with seven.

Quarter Scores:

BC	7	11	14	21
Penquis	11	19	24	31

Officials: Heath and Walls

From Brownville Elementary:

The 5th and 6th grades at Brownville Elementary have been reading and studying earthquakes, volcanoes & tsunamis. A concluding activity was to explain what they'd learned to the kindergarten class and erupt a model of a volcano. Here, Stephanie Vachon and Taylor Lovejoy explain the process.

Dottie Harris and Don Brown would like to announce they are the proud grandparents of a healthy baby girl named Olivia. The sweet little redhead was born at 11:43 P. M. on

AREA SCHOOL NEWS

Cook School Terrific Kids and Mrs. Beres



The 4th and 5th grade class opened our January 14 assembly with a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The



January 15th, 2005 and weighed 7lb 9oz. The proud parents are Rob and Eva Marie Cooper

FROM MATT IN MALI

Greetings everyone,

All is going very well in this part of the world. I came to Kayes today because my friends told me that I had a package in the post office.



Turns out that I had 7! I had to strap a couple to my bike and then pay some children to carry the others for me. But I definitely appreciate the letters and things you all send. Thanks a bunch.

Life is very interesting and exciting here for me. My bambara is really starting to come along and I have a lot of ideas for my work in the community. I am currently building a backboard for the school's basketball hoop. Mom sent me a ball and net, so I am all set up and should have the wood by next week.

Listen to this story. Last week some fishermen were heading out in their pirogue in the river next to my village. As they were crossing, they saw a hippopotamus heading straight at them. Hippos here tend to flip over boats, so obviously the guys started to panic. They laid down in the pirogue to either stabilize it or so that the hippo couldn't see them, and they started yelling because they were afraid. Many of the villagers rushed to the riverbank to see what was happening and when they looked at the pirogues out in the water, they couldn't see the fishermen, but heard them yelling, so they thought that the hippo had knocked them into the water and that they were drowning. I heard that one man's wife was at the bank going crazy because she thought that her husband was dead. But, when they sent out a second pirogue, they found the men safe...still lying down in their boat. Pretty crazy stuff...I was studying at the time and heard about it later that day...I still haven't seen any hippos but there are a lot from what I have been told.

I also ate some interesting cuisine last week. Goat head...quite tasty actually...kind of tastes like liver. I don't get to eat a lot of meat, so I'm up for just about anything. I had some chicken neck too, also quite appetizing. :)

If you can all email me at this address (yahoo, not hotmail) I would appreciate it very much. Hotmail gives me problems and this never does, so I will use it from now on. Also, please no forwards or big files (pictures) on here too because I don't check my mail as often as I would like to and I don't want my inbox getting filled up with attach-ments. Thanks.

I suppose that is all for now. I hope that you all had a great holiday and I wish you all good health and prosperity in '05. Take care and I will write again when I get a chance.

Peace and love,
Matt

MILO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

By Judith Macdougall

All of the Christmas decorations and most of the juvenile Christmas books at the library have been put away, and we are ready to get on with the materials of the new year. Of course, not

all the Christmas related books have been put away as they are often brought back slowly over the next few weeks. However, the juvenile Christmas books have been cleared away from the top of the bookcase by the door and now income tax forms are taking that place of prominence. So far we have the Maine Income Tax-Long Form. This is just the opposite of our usual situation as the federal income tax forms usually arrive early in January and our Maine forms come much later. We're sure the federal forms will be here soon as they were ordered early in the fall too. We will use this column to inform townspeople as we get the various income tax papers.

I don't think I have mentioned this before. We have several strong library tools that could prove useful to patrons or townspeople. We have a large paper cutter that would be handy if one had to cut a great amount of paper in a tiresome or painful way if it had to be done with scissors. We have a giant stapler that can easily staple a large number of sheets of paper together. We also have a very strong paper punch, which can easily punch holes through a _ inch catalog or an equal amount of paper. These tools will have to be used in the library, of course, but they are available for anyone who needs to use such tools now and then and certainly doesn't wish to purchase them. If you need to use these tools, be sure to come in to see if they can be helpful to you. We at the library want to help make 2005 a greater year for you.

We have been given a box of books about Islam from CAIR (Coordination of American and Islam Relationships). The following are a list of books we have received and all have been processed ready to circulate.

Emerick, Yahiya	MUHAMMAD
Emerick, Yahiya	THE COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ISLAM
Eposito, John L	THE ISLAMIC THREAT
Lunde, Paul	ISLAM-Faith-Culture-History
Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane	juvenile CELEBRATING RAMADAN

This past week I have also placed an order for new books that should arrive this week. We will process them as fast as we are able. There is a new Barbara Taylor Bradford and a new "Cat Who". John Grisham and J. D. Robb have also gotten new books out. We will list them all next week.

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

The Milo District Schools

By Lloyd J. Treworgy
Continued Part XXXXII

Sometimes a scholar could exasperate a teacher just because he was he! Take Bud Webster, for instance. Bud was good-natured, very big and probably at the time-deserved punishment – Mrs. Carey didn't remember what he had done. Miss Soper, the teacher, grabbed him and tried to drag him out of his seat to strap him. Strapping was laborious and ineffective unless it could be applied directly to the bottom. A seated bottom was no kind of bottom at all to work on. And it could be humiliating to a teacher to do half a job when the code called for a good strapping.

So Miss Soper knew it was incumbent on her to yank or drag or somehow huff Bud out of his seat.

Bud was so big, however, that he himself could just squeeze in behind the desk and there was no way to get him out without his cooperation. To be sure, Mrs. Carey recalled, Bud didn't interpose any resistance. But he did sit there and grin. So the battle ended in a draw with a very angry, frustrated teacher, an unstrapped bottom and a grinning, unresisting, very big and unrepentant scholar.

Miss Soper later married a Charles Ellis – not the one we know on Pleasant St. Her husband lived on Elm St. Bud Webster lived on Curve St., where Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blanchard live today.

On the other hand, speaking of teachers, there was Jennie Cranmore, who afterward became Jennie C. Ladd and lived next house to where the Hatch Auto Body Shop is today.

"She was the best loved teacher we had," said Edna Hanscom, who was Edna Tibbetts then. "She took care of us like a mother."

Jennie lived here in the village but during her period of teaching at the Tollbridge School, she boarded with the Fred Grovers. They lived in the house just on the Bangor side of the bridge, left side going toward Bangor. (It seems as if almost everybody lived in that house at one time or another).

This gives an idea of the roads and the nature of transportation in those days. Today one might say to his wife, along about supper time, in late August: "If you'll put water on to boil, I'll drive down to Rhoda's and pick up a dozen ears of corn. I won't be gone more'n ten minutes."

Jennie had a daughter, Ruth – a very pretty girl. Ruth later married and moved to Wiscasset and Jennie went with her.

Teachers, as the story noted earlier, didn't balk at either hard work or primitive working conditions or applying the strap where it would do the most good.

Earlier I noted that Alice Gould, later Alice Chase, drove daily from her home on Main St. to the Lovejoy School, three miles away and arrived there at 7 o'clock. And remember, she was driving a horse. In winter especially, it was necessary to get there early in order to get a fire started, sometimes shovel a path to the road and have the place tidied up, so far as a district schoolhouse could be tidied up, before the scholars arrived.

On occasion, one of the scholars served as janitor of the school. Eddie Mayo remembers that he held that position for a time. His job was to sweep mornings, dust the seats, bring in the wood, get a pail of water and put up the flag. It wasn't a highly competitive position. Pay was ten cents so that he could often get other scholars to sweep, etc, in exchange for doing it and still keep the ten cents.

Alice stabled her horse at Lovejoy's, across from Fred Mayo's, which was pretty close to the schoolhouse. Mrs. Lovejoy was a Manter. The Manters used to live down on Elm St. where the Wibberlys lived of late year and the Ed Daggetts before them. The Manter house was on the same site but burned years ago before the present residence was built.

The Mayo and the Brockway families were especially dear to Alice. She said the Mayos were "awfully nice", and that Mrs. Brockway used to bring over something hot for her at the school every day. The Brockways were of German descent. The family name was Graustein. Mrs. Brockway's parents lived next door beyond. Their place, still standing, near the foot of the hill, was referred to as the "German farm". Mrs. Brockway spoke German fluently.

Alice's home, on Main St. was between where the Merrill Trust Company Bank and Knapp's store are now. The terrain there was on an evenly ascending grade then. The residence contained a millinery and women's wear shop. The stable was back of the house.

One of Eddie Mayo's recollections had to do with Alice Gould when she was teaching. Eddie said he was standing in the entry, telling a story to the boys. The story called for a bit of profanity and Eddie filled it in where it was supposed to be. He said that a heavy hand suddenly descended on his shoulder and yanked him into the schoolroom. He remembered being seated with considerable dispatch. The hand was Alice's.

Quite a number of local woman are still remembered as teachers at the Tollbridge School. There were Nora Downes of Sebec; Blanche Mayo, sister of Iris Mayo Davis; Martha Jones, later Martha Prescott, mother of Rachel and Jane Prescott; Flora Wiley, who later married Ed Wingler; and Alice Wiley, later Mrs. Don Brown. Ivan Brown is their son.

Edith Perry remembers best Helen Wingate, now Helen Livermore. Edith was Edith Kenney then and lived on lower Elm St., in that same house just beyond the bridge that I have mentioned before.

Helen Wingate was Edith's first teacher. "She was good," Edith said, "and a good disciplinarian."

It was in 1913 when Helen taught at the Tollbridge School. Her wage was \$7.50 a week. In 1914, she taught at the Sargent Hill School at \$8 a week. Out of this wage, she said, she paid her board.

During this period she also worked as bookkeeper evenings and Saturdays at Freese's Garage. The garage was located in a space, which is today part of the parking lot off Main St.

Helen's ideal of a good learning environment she expressed as having more than one grade in a room. Strangely I heard this same ideal mentioned recently by a young man of today. The reasoning behind both was the same: the younger would learn by listening to the older ones.

The second principle Helen expressed was effective discipline. The third, a dedicated teacher.

"I ranked my scholars every day," she told me. "I corrected every paper and marked all errors in it. And I spent many a recess and noon hour teaching some scholar who couldn't learn easily but wanted to learn to read."

Her fourth principle was that school officials should stand behind their teachers.

"When I went to teach at the Sargent Hill School," she said, "Superintendent Adams told me, "You teach that school and I'll stand behind you!"

"And he did," she added.

IN MEMORIAM

C. PHILIP HARTMANN

WILLIAMSBURG - Charles Philip Hartmann, 86, husband of Betty (Fielder) Hartmann, died Jan. 8, 2005, at his residence. He was born Sept. 10, 1918, in Clayton, N.J., the son of Frank X. and Clara (Gumbracht) Hartmann. Mr. Hartmann was a self-employed guide. He is survived by his wife, Betty, of Dover-Foxcroft; three sons, Charles Philip Jr. of Stillwater, George E. of LaGrange, and Frederick J. of Ebeeme Lake; and several grandchildren. A memorial service will be conducted 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005, at Hibbard Nursing Home, Dover-Foxcroft, with the Rev. Ron Libby officiating. Arrangements are in the care of the Lary Funeral Home.

Traditions of a Milo-ite

By Kathy Witham

You gotta love a January day in Milo, Maine that starts off at 55 degrees. Yes siree, that's my kind of day. And, to add to my delight, it rained so hard that it completely cleaned my car off. That's right, spiffy clean - spit shined - looked like a million bucks. I didn't even recognize it when I stepped out of the Farmer's Union tonight with my order of groceries. I'd dawdled along in the store...took me the better part of an hour. I knew I'd been in there too long when I was pushing the cart out the door and couldn't remember where I'd parked the car. Then, to add to my confusion, the car was incognito in its cleanliness.

When my husband and I and our friends were all young marrieds with little kids, we got together every Saturday night to play cards. The guys drank a few beers, we girls drank Tab and we all feasted on great tasting snacks. We entertained ourselves royally...on a very limited budget. No such a thing as a boring Saturday night for our crowd! Ever! With time and age and family obligations, we got out of the habit of entertaining ourselves. Now that we are retiring, and once again



watching our pennies, we've decided that we've got to get back to our old ways of having fun on a budget. Today's balmy temperatures fit right in with what we are doing to beat the winter blues. We're doing some fun summer things.

Early this week I hosted a picnic. That's right, you heard me correctly. Paper plates, plastic cups, potato salad, grilled burgers, pickles and chips....it was a great meal. While we were at it, we had cake and ice cream for dessert to belatedly celebrate the birthdays of Cheryl and Louise. I've been over the hill for a few years now, and so thought it only fair that my friends, who are catching up to me, be reminded that they're not far behind.

In mid-picnic Cheryl thought of another fun get-together that we could celebrate. She and Steve are hosting a tailgate party this weekend prior to the Patriots game. Out in their driveway we'll roast hot dogs and feast on chili and seafood chowder and heaven only knows what else. Of course, word has spread fast about the fun we're planning. Funny how our kids, who have pretty much spent their lives living in the fast lane, are now finding out that their old parents actually do know how to have a good time.

The fifty-five degree weather, even though it was short lived, just souped me right up this morning. Schoodic Lake hasn't even frozen over yet, and I've managed to wish the winter away. I'm spending a week and a half in Florida next month, and that will just add fuel to my fire. By the end of February I'll be in one big pucker to get this winter behind us. I've always told you that I'm a weather malcontent. I'm never satisfied with the weather. Never! I'm going to continue to plan picnics and creative outdoor activities until the day that I can hang my polar fleece in the closet for good. I can't wait!

I was approached this week by a teacher who was looking to help a high school student find some information on the Flood of '87. We searched our video archives (that would be a cardboard box in the cellar) and found two VHS tapes that we had kept of the local news during the week of the flood. Since we didn't have any electrical power during the flood, someone "from away" must have taped the news for us. We watched those tapes with fascination. The flood was eighteen years ago this coming April. Where has the time gone? My memories are as vivid as if it happened last week. If you will pardon the feeble pun, there has been a lot of water over the dam since then. (I can't believe I said that!)

What a mess this town was in that week. And, Dover Foxcroft was in worse shape than we were. I remember that I was amazed that there were communities who were going about their business totally unaffected, when we were in such dire straits. If you didn't have a river in your town you were lucky, indeed. We had a river.

Everyone in Milo was affected in one way or another....some slightly....some grossly. Everyone had their own story to tell. Personally, we had it relatively easy. We used some old nasty hard packed snow that was left in our back yard for our coolers. We kept cold what we could salvage out of the refrigerator and freezer....and had plenty of food to get us through. Our next door neighbor, Mike Clark, broke a hole through the ice in his pool and we lugged water by the bucketful to flush the toilets. We kept a big kettle of that pool water warming on top of the wood furnace in our cellar. We used that warm water for dishes and bathing. The Clarks let us use the gas range in their kitchen to do the majority of our cooking. We did have one

adventure in baking when Carroll rigged the wood stove up with racks and we made biscuits. We all found out that we were a resourceful and resilient community.

The students doing their Milo History Projects this year weren't even born when the Flood of '87 occurred. Hard to believe that our vivid recollections are ancient history to them. Those kids will be absolutely amazed. What a wonderful thing, VHS tapes.

My good friend Louise learned to make this wonderful Potato Chip Dip on her honeymoon. She taught me how to make it thirty some years ago. It's still one of our favorites. In Millinocket they call this Lula Paste....I haven't a clue why. We've always called it **Potato Chip Dip**.

- 1 Tablespoon water
- 1 Tablespoon vinegar
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 8 oz package cream cheese
- 2 Tablespoons finely chopped onion
- 2 Tablespoons finely chopped green pepper
- 1 small jar pimentos

In the top of a double boiler over boiling water stir the first 4 ingredients until they thicken. (I always use a wooden spoon to stir this) This will only take a minute after the water comes to a boil in the bottom pan. Remove from heat and add the package of cream cheese. Stir until the cream cheese completely melts and is smoothly incorporated in the thickened mixture. (You might want to cut the cream cheese into chunks to speed this along). Add the chopped onion, green pepper and jar of pimentos...juice and all. Serve hot or cold with potato



chips. This looks very festive and you should put it in a little serving bowl, but I'm not kidding you, it's so good you will start eating it while it's still in the pan.

THREE RIVERS KIWANIS



January 12, 2005 Meeting Notes

President Murrel Harris welcomed twenty-one members and guests Hoyt, Joe, Bonnie, Doc, and Sugar Bob from the Dover-Foxcroft club; Key Club members Sarah and Amber; and Bill Sawtell.

Lt. Gov. Eben DeWitt led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ed Treworgy led us in prayer.

The Orono/Old Town newsletter was shared.

Tyler Trask celebrates his birthday on the 17th.

Happy and sad dollars were donated for a lost beagle found, Addison Marie being born, Murrel and Laurel expecting a grandchild in August, being away but having a good time, Val's animal stories, a 6th grandchild, missed meeting, and only four more courses to go!

Trish Hayes reported that the Key Club is continuing to sell snacks at the home basketball games and plan on a trip to Manna in Bangor on the 24th.

Chris Almy told us about the interclub to Bangor. Eben, Joanne, Ed, Ethelyn, and Chris enjoyed the different style of meeting they attended.

A chili/chowder cook-off is being planned for March, possibly coinciding with the PVHS Senior play.

Permission has been obtained for storage of auction items in one of the buildings at the former Dorman/Kroemer farm site.

The Town Hall dressing rooms are in immediate need of painting.

There is a pressing need to sort the items that have already been donated for the auction.

President Harris called for a short board of directors meeting at 7 am. It had been postponed twice earlier in the month. Board members retired to a separate room while everyone else played a game introduced by Ethelyn Treworgy.

Our speaker for January 19 will be a representative of the ambulance service.

Tom Lizotte will be our guest speaker on the 26th. He will present Mayo Regional Hospital Health Initiative.
Respectfully submitted by Nancy Grant, Temp. Sec.

CALLING ALL COOKS!!!



Three Rivers Kiwanis and P.A.W.S have teamed up to present the area with a unique way to welcome Spring. On Saturday, March 19, 2005, we will hold the First Annual Chili/Chowder Contest. Area cooks are invited to prepare their favorite chowder and or chili and bring it to the Milo Town Hall for an anonymous public judging. The public will then pay for the opportunity to sample and judge the entries.



This is a wonderful opportunity for area restaurants to showcase their recipes and for area cooks to show their culinary talents. Please contact Valerie Robertson at 943-2324 to enter or for more details. We anticipate this event will be a blast that will blow away Winter. **CALL NOW TO ENTER!!!**