



# The Bradford Bridge

Volume 2, Number 2

February 1992

## Bradford and Warner lose court case involving school tax by Kathleen Bigford

Early in January the NH Superior Court gave its decision on the suit brought by the towns of Bradford and Warner. The decision stated that the 1988 vote not to change the Kearsarge Regional School District tax formula is legal and constitutional. This means the present tax method will stay in place.

The issue in question is the way in which the school district determines how much each town must pay for the schools. In 1987, a committee made up of representatives from each town in the district studied the issue and recommended that the tax formula be changed. The original formula was and still is based 75% on the number of students from each town and 25% on the total property value of the town. The committee proposed to change the formula to base each town's share 50% on the number of students and 50% on the town's property value. This proposal was placed on the district warrant for the 1988 meeting. While a majority of the votes cast at the meeting were in favor of the proposal, a two-thirds majority is required to change the tax formula.

If the proposal had passed, Bradford would be paying approximately \$200,000 per year less in school tax.

■ See APPORTIONMENT, page 8

### Town Issue Forum Kickoff

The Town Issues Forum, held on January 22, provided those in attendance with a wide-ranging discussion of matters currently affecting Bradford. In his opening remarks, Moderator Brackett Scheffy welcomed the large gathering and encouraged discussion and questions. Fred Winch then made a surprise presentation. As a representative of the Bradford Voters Coalition, he presented Tillie Wheeler with a Distinguished Citizen award for her lifelong contributions to Bradford. Nancy Hibbard, President of the Bradford Women's Club, then presented Tillie with a bouquet of flowers. Tillie responded with thanks and noted that everything she did, she enjoyed doing.

Scheffy called on Selectmen Hambrecht and Pickman to open the discussions because their presence was needed at the Budget Committee meeting taking place at the same time. In a lengthy question and answer session, they provided townspeople with updates on the school apportionment suit (will be appealed; Attorney Gartrell will provide his services for a fixed fee), the Naughton site clean-up (in the hands of the State), property tax

■ See FORUM, page 8

### Kearsarge Regional School District News

On January 27, the Kearsarge Regional School Board voted to accept the budget recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee for the 1992-93 school year. This figure (\$11,805,622) represents an increase of \$178,131 or 1.61% over 1991-92. It does not include any raises or step increases for teachers. At present, negotiations between the school board and the teachers' union are at impasse as they were last year at this time. As in the past, a settlement may be reached before the March district meeting.

A separate warrant article (not included in the 1.6% budget increase) which will also

■ See SCHOOL, page 10

## PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Remember to vote on February 18  
Polls open from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Absentee ballots available now from  
Town Clerk and must be returned by  
5:00 pm on February 18.



*Tillie Wheeler presented with  
Distinguished Citizen award*

This is the text of the Bradford Distinguished Citizen award presentation, made by Fred Winch on January 22:

The civic-minded citizen has been the backbone of New Hampshire life. We are here this evening to honor such a person, a lady who has been active here through the years, though she was born and raised in Warner.

Graduating from Simonds Free High School in Warner as Valedictorian, she went on to attend Plymouth Teachers College and lived in Boston and Concord before moving here to Bradford more than forty years ago with her husband, whom she married in 1935. While her family, now numbering four children, twelve grandchildren, and five great grandchildren and her late husband, has always been most important in her life, there have always been other outlets for her boundless energy and enthusiasm.

Bradford is fortunate indeed to be the home of Tillie Wheeler, a staunch member of the Bradford Baptist Church for many years, where she was active in its charitable committees, the American Baptist Women, and she is on the Board of Trustees of the Church as Secretary.

Since 1942 she has been active in the Bradford Women's Club, serving twice as

■ See TILLIE WHEELER, page 2

### Last call to register to vote for presidential primary

Saturday, February 8 from 10:00 am - noon (at the Town Hall) is the last opportunity to register to vote in the presidential primary.

Saturday, February 29 from 10:00 am - noon (at the Town Hall) is the last opportunity to register to vote at town meeting.

### Warrant articles by petition

Tuesday, February 4 is the deadline for submitting warrant articles for March town meeting by petition. The petition must be signed by at least 25 voters.

### TILLIE WHEELER, continued

President and focusing many of its activities to better the Town. She is presently on its Executive Board and on the Honor Roll of the National Federation of Women's Clubs. Tillie's love for flowers focused many of the club's activities on Town beautification. Those activities led her to the Conservation Commission, where I first knew her. There she was a leader in the development of the Fitness Trail along a stretch of the railroad bed; the protection of the Bradford Bog and its nature trails; and support for the acceptance of the Town Forest. The plantings along Route 103 and tree planting elsewhere were all a part of her interests. She is presently Chairman of the Conservation Commission. Among her many other concerns were Supervisor of the Checklist and her activities with the Women's Christian Guild (a member since 1953).

While she was a parent of a growing family, she also served on the Parent Teachers Club as a member and as President.

Tillie Wheeler, Bradford thanks you for your thoughtfulness and your dedication to Bradford, our community.

*Heard on the street: Brackett may be second at King Ridge Racquet Club, but he takes a first in Bradford.*

*J. Albert's*  
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### Odds Bodkin and the Bradford Co-op Kindergarten

Do you have cabin fever? Is there a cure right here in Bradford? On Sunday, February 16th, there is! Come hear Master Talesman Odds Bodkin. He'll be telling tales at 2:00 pm at the Bradford Elementary School. Forget the cold, the sleet, and the fuel bills while Odds delights the young and the young-at-heart with stories and songs of enchantment, humor and mystery.

While you and your family enjoy the performance, you will know that you are supporting a valuable town institution: the Bradford Cooperative Kindergarten and Preschool. All proceeds will benefit the school and they do need your continued support!

No matter what your age, you will be captivated as Odds performs his stories with uncanny character voices, a variety of sound effects, and background music on 6-string and 12-string guitar, Celtic harp, and rare music. Odds has achieved a national reputation as a quality recording artist, performer and educator.

The Co-op Kindergarten will also be selling their famous homemade pies. (Do you remember us at the Fourth of July celebration or at the Christmas Crafts Fair?) Refreshments will also be served.

So, bring the entire family ... and some friends too! And be prepared to "Take a journey into your own imagination."

Admission is \$2.50 for children under 12 and senior citizens; \$3.50 for adults; and \$10 for a family. For more information, contact Debbie Bruss, 938-2621.

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### House numbers needed

Mike Ripberger, Bradford Postmaster, says "The time is right" for Bradford to establish permanent house numbers. In discussions with residents and Selectmen, he notes that the rural route box numbers must be changed periodically to accommodate new construction, and "they're a year overdue." He says he doesn't want to revise rural box numbers if the town will be instituting a numbering system.

Ripberger comments that a proper numbering system will have many benefits, including easy identification of homes for emergency services. Numbering needs to be undertaken by the town because guidelines for new development should be incorporated in a town ordinance.

When a committee of volunteers is established, Ripberger will provide it with printed guidelines to simplify the process. He has also offered his services to help the group, noting that he has participated in numbering projects for several towns.

Those interested in volunteering for this project should contact the Selectmen's Office.

### Mark Your Calendar!

## Meet the Candidates Night

Tuesday, March 3, 7:30 pm  
Bradford Elementary School

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### Bradford Bridge Subscriptions

For those wishing to receive the Bradford Bridge by mail, the annual subscription price is \$10. To subscribe, please send a check to the address below:

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**KRES at Bradford PTC news**

January and February are busy months for members of the Parent Teachers Club at the Bradford School. All of the children are participating in our winter activities program, which takes place on Friday afternoons. 112 children are taking downhill ski lessons at Mt. Sunapee State Park, 20 children are cross-country skiing at Norsk Ski Center in New London and 80 children are skating at the Lee Clement Arena in Henniker. PTC members organize these activities throughout the fall. During January and February, parent volunteers assist the school staff in making sure all the children and their equipment get to the right places and back to the school. It's great fun for the children and the staff and volunteers can participate as well.

On Friday, February 14, the PTC will be sponsoring a Valentine Day Dance for families. Parents and children from the community are invited to come to the multi-purpose room at the Bradford School to dance and socialize. Refreshments will be available. Ticket information will be sent home with the children or call Kathleen Bigford, 938-5104.

The next meeting of the PTC will take place on Wednesday, February 19. Judy Blood, Head Teacher at Bradford will give a presentation on Reality Therapy. Reality Therapy is a method of counselling based on control theory aimed at helping gain more effective control over our lives. It has been proven effective in both education and parenting. It is based on the belief that we all choose what we do and that we are responsible for those choices. Judy will use a how-to approach with some hands-on practice. This will be a stimulating as well as helpful evening.  
--Kathleen Bigford

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**Folk musician provides Valentine's Day entertainment for children**

Musician Harry Lowenthal returns to Bradford to present a program of interactive folk music for children at 10:00 am on February 14 at the Church Vestry. Children and parents are invited to participate in the music-making by singing, dancing and playing instruments.

Co-founder of the folk duo, "Ring Around the Moon," Lowenthal has performed throughout New Hampshire for several years. Mandolin, flute and guitar are among the instruments he plays, while he charms everyone with his melodic voice.

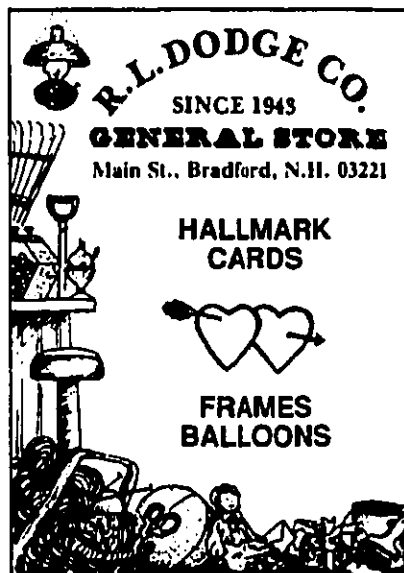
This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Brown Memorial Library and admission is free. Refreshments will be served following the concert. For information, call 938-2868.

Registration for Bradford Co-Op Preschool and Kindergarten for the 1992-93 school year will be held Monday, February 10, 7:00-8:00 pm at the Town Hall. Registration fee is \$15.

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**Community Cornerstone project presented at Issues Forum**

During the Issues Forum on January 22, Fred Winch gave a presentation concerning Community Cornerstones, a program to identify and preserve town landmarks. Several organizations in town have formed a steering committee to bring this program, administered by the UNH Extension Service, to Bradford. The steering committee met with the Selectmen on January 6 to provide an overview of the Community Cornerstones project and received their endorsement to go ahead. Members of the steering committee include the Women's Club, the Historical Society, the Conservation Commission, and the Bradford Voters Coalition.

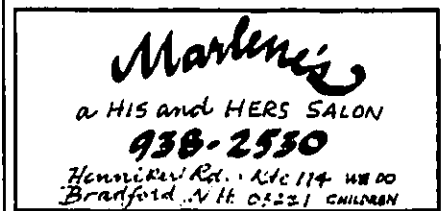
In his presentation, Winch described the establishment of the program by the Governor's Council. The Council saw the growth occurring in New Hampshire and wanted to encourage local communities to identify and protect aspects of their community that were important to them. Communities were asked to develop a survey which could be completed by all townspeople to identify 21 important landmarks in the town. The number 21 was selected because the goal of the project would be to preserve these landmarks for the 21st century.

Charlie Whittemore, a member of the Sutton Community Cornerstones Committee, described his town's project. They asked each resident to list 21 places or other items, such as events, they felt represented their community. The Community Cornerstones Committee then sifted through the surveys and came up with a final list of 21 which they felt should be preserved. They are now in the process of determining how best to protect their landmarks, some of which are private property.

Fred Winch then concluded the presentation by emphasizing the volunteer effort involved in such a project, and that the costs would be minimal.

The steering committee will be meeting regularly to develop a plan to implement this project. A public meeting will be held in the spring. Anyone interested in participating may call Dick Whall, 938-2650, or Fred Winch, 938-2124.

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# Letters



To the Selectmen:

I'd like to express my appreciation for your efforts on behalf of the Town of Bradford in paying the taxes we owe to the Kearsarge Regional School District. I understand that you have made arrangements so that payment of the school tax will be made on time.

Thank you for rectifying this difficult and embarrassing situation.

Kathleen M. Bigford



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To the Selectmen:

I would like to dispense some of the deceptive assertions by yourselves regarding the status of the formation and implementation of the Bradford Road Committee. I have become aware of public statements by yourselves placing the blame on me for the delay in getting this committee started. It is my opinion that I have been stonewalled by yourselves, "The Board."

The so-called "Bradford Road Committee" was first suggested by Joe Battles at a Selectmen's meeting in March of 1991. At that meeting, I had complained about the poor condition of Howlett Rd. and the lack of attention given to an open gravel bank that had been left exposed for almost two years. Mr. Battles suggested I form a Road Committee to help improve road conditions like those found on Howlett Rd.

In April of 1991, I presented to the Board several short and long term goals of a Road Committee, as well as computer software obtained from the Technology Transfer Center, UNH Department of Engineering. This software was designed to help inventory town road networks.

The following are suggested goals that I presented to the Board:

1. Form a Road Committee consisting of interested citizens, contractors, engineers.
2. Improve existing road infrastructure.
3. Create a master plan for maintenance and upgrading of existing roads presently to 3-5-10 year plans.
4. Have a member of the Road Committee on the Planning Board or vice versa.
5. Update and add to the subdivision regulations design requirements for proposed roads.
6. Create an inventory of all roads in town to make logical and reasonable suggestions to the Selectmen for road maintenance and upgrading.
7. Create subdivision regulations requiring all proposed roads to be reviewed by the Road Committee. (Recommendations from the committee to be given to the Planning Board for consideration prior to subdivision approval.)
8. Study ways of obtaining grants and technical assistance from state and federal agencies.
9. Work with the Board of Selectmen to accomplish these goals.

After I had presented the goals, the Board decided that selection of initial members of the committee would be made by the Board and myself.

It was always my intention to include the Board in the formation and selection of this committee. This was very important to the success of the committee because it had been expressed to me in private, by Board members, that if they were not included in the recommendations of the committee members, the committee would never be recognized by the Board. Several times I contacted a Board member regarding selections; each time no progress had been made.

I was approached by a Board member in September 1991 and was asked to "put off" the Road Committee until things had settled down concerning an audit by the state. In an effort to assure the success of the Road Committee, I agreed to do so.

Since November of 1991, I have made contact with board members for their recommendations with no results.

If the Board has been so eager to assist me with the Road Committee, why haven't I received any cooperation? I will NOT accept responsibility for the delays that have occurred regarding this committee.

If you believe there is anything stated in this letter that you do not find to be correct, I would gladly accept the opportunity to discuss it with you in a public forum. It is time to take responsibility for your incompetent handling of this situation. I would appreciate an effort by yourselves to take measures to get this committee in motion. I will be available to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience.

Robert C. Stewart, Jr.

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### First Baptist Church News

On Sunday, January 5, the church sponsored a "Make your own pizza" party for local teenagers interested in participating in an ecumenical, activity-oriented youth fellowship. The donation of dough, sauce and cheese, as well as the loan of pans by the Village Mart contributed to the success of the event. The group remains open to all young persons in the community enrolled in grades six through twelve. As a general rule, it meets on the first and third Sundays of the month from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the parsonage (across from the IGA). New members and drop-in guests are always welcome.

A special eight-week adult Christian Education series continues through the end of this month. Focusing on the theme, "becoming Alive in Christ," it meets every Wednesday evening at the home of one of the participants.

Members of the Sunday School program (and parents) enjoyed an afternoon of ice skating at the arena in Henniker on January 12. Hot chocolate and brownies provided by the Board of Christian Education and Missions kept the skaters going.

On Saturday, January 18, members and friends braved subzero temperatures to attend a Hawaiian Luau, held at the parsonage. For a few hours, party-goers found tropical relief from the winter freeze and warmth in fellowship together.

The American Baptist Women's group sponsored a "Clothes Sorting Party" in the vestry on January 22. A considerable amount of clothes has been donated to the church. Persons in need of attire are asked to call the church office. (In addition to a clothes closet, the church maintains an emergency food pantry year round. If anyone knows of individuals/families in the community in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Joyce at 938-2899. Confidence will be kept.)

On Saturday, February 22, the American Baptist Women will host a special fellowship evening centering on the theme "The Love Connection." Attendees are asked to bring their favorite dish and an object/keepsake that inspires love in their hearts. Participants will be tested on how well they know each other by guessing who brought what. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm in the vestry, and newcomers are invited.

A Sunday School sledding party for persons of all ages will be held on Sunday, February 23, at 1:30 pm. Location will be announced. A back-up activity will also be planned. --Pastor Joyce Ditlevson

### Library Friends Offer Story/Film Program

Again this winter, the Friends of Brown Memorial Library have obtained a grant from the NH Humanities Council to sponsor a reading/film/discussion program featuring American short stories. Many of America's best short stories have been transformed into film by some of our most gifted directors, performers, writers and literary scholars. The films offer both entertainment and insight into the life and mind of our nation. The group meets from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Patrick Anderson, Department of Humanities, Colby-Sawyer College, will join us again as the discussion leader.

This year's selections and dates are:

Thursday, February 6: "Rappaccini's Daughter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne. In eighteenth century Padua, Italy, romantic love and cold science clash in an Edenic but deadly garden.

Thursday, February 20: "The Greatest Man in the World" by James Thurber. Jack Smurch, a stunt pilot who becomes the first person to fly solo around the world without stopping, refuses to fit the standard criteria for a hero. Since Smurch clearly threatens public illusions about what a hero is, he must be silenced.

Thursday, March 5: "The Displaced Person" by Flannery O'Connor. A Polish refugee of World War II seems a threat to the farm workers in Georgia where he is relocated.

Copies of the stories will be available at the Library the week before each meeting. However, it is not necessary to pre-read the story to enjoy the film and discussion. It's a stimulating way to combat cabin fever! Please come join the fun.

--Kathleen Bigford

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### Bradford Bog slide show with Debra Dunlop

The Bradford Conservation Commission will present a slide talk about the Bradford Bog on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:30, at the First Baptist Church. Refreshments will follow the program.

Debra Dunlop, Assistant Professor of Biology at New England College, will be the speaker. Dr. Dunlop has a long association with Bradford. She lived in the house at the corner of Jones and Center roads (now Lamach's) while she attended college in Henniker during the '70s. Later she moved to Newbury, and commuted to Durham to get her Doctorate degree at UNH.

While Dr. Dunlop was studying at NEC, she volunteered in the CETA program, improving the trails and identifying plants in the Bradford Bog. Some of the slides she will show us go back to those days.

She has always been generous with her time, and enthusiastically guided groups on walks through the bog. The Conservation Commission hopes to arrange another bog walk with her this spring.  
--Amy Blitzer

Dancers and gymnasts from Camille's Dance Studio are selling carnations for Valentine's Day (\$1.00 each) to raise money for a trip to Boston in June for a week-long dance workshop.



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# State House News



by Marcia Keller

This column wraps up the summary of changes of local interest made by the 1991 Legislature. By now, the 1992 Legislative Session is well underway and a whole new crop of amendments are developing in the State House. The single topic for this month is Chapter 281, which makes many changes to RSA 79-A, the Current Use Law.

Some of the changes include reducing the number of current use categories to three (farm land, forest land, and unproductive land); removing the management requirement for forest land; prescribing the time when local officials must send the land use change tax bill; and clarifying how much land comes out of current use when a change of use occurs. Local officials responsible for administering this program and any landowner currently or potentially involved are urged to contact the NH Department of Revenue Administration at 271-2191 to receive a copy of the administrative rules adopted by the Current Use Board to carry out the provisions of this statute and setting the assessment rates for 1992.



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## Selectmen's Commentary

The first month of the new year finds Bradford, as well as most small towns, struggling to preserve the fine balance between saving and spending. It is one thing to hold down our expenditures; it is quite another to do so while properly maintaining the services and accommodations which we deserve and expect from our town.

The recession is still with us and is causing hardship to nearly everyone. This is not making the balancing job any easier.

Bradford is holding the line on spending. We have underspent our town budget by \$19,000. Our town tax rate is again down by over \$1.00 per thousand. Considering the recession, taxes are coming in quite well, and our school assessments are current.

Since August of 1990, the Highway Department has been faced with repairing flood damage areas. Andy Anderson and his crew have completed the project. Our cost was \$60,000, and the town has been reimbursed by the federal and state governments to the tune of \$51,000.

Andy has continued to organize, improve and maintain the town shed. He has lowered the cost of electricity, fuel, telephone and vehicle maintenance. Aside from repaving Main Street, outside contracts have just about been eliminated. The selectmen have received many letters of commendation from residents praising Andy and his crew.

Chris Mock and Ken Anderson continue to do a superlative job at the solid waste area. Other towns use our area as a model.

Officer Steve Johnson headed up the Police Explorers program which engaged the participation of fourteen young adults and has been quite successful.

Chief Grindle reports his police force has remained constant for the year with officers attending mandatory training programs administered to help alleviate liability problems, not to mention a higher quality of protection for the community.

Chief Grindle, with help from Bud Morse, applied and was approved for three grants totaling \$2,700.

Al reminds everyone who is going on vacation to notify the police. They will keep a close eye on the property.

Projects planned for 1992:

1. Finish paving Main Street.
2. Continue to oil all roads that need it.
3. Townwide revaluation by Dept. of Revenue Administration.
4. Begin bridge repairs (bid process already started).
5. Appeal school apportionment case to Supreme Court if we do not achieve our goals at the school meeting in March.

Bradford continues to be a pleasant place to live. Enjoy!

Selectmen Dick Hambrecht, Dave Pickman, Joe Battles



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## THE COZY CORNER

by Mildred Schmidt



These are great for Valentine's Day! They're so easy, young ones can help!

### Magic Cookie Bars

1/2 C margarine OR butter	1 1/2 C graham cracker crumbs
1 can (14 oz) condensed milk	1 pkg (6 oz) semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 can (3 1/2 oz) flaked coconut	1 C chopped walnuts

Melt margarine or butter. Pour into a 13" X 9" baking pan. Sprinkle crumbs over butter. Pour condensed milk evenly over crumbs. Top with chocolate chips, coconut and nuts. Press down gently with the palm of your hand. Bake at 350° (metal pan) or 325° (glass pan) for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool thoroughly. Cut into small squares, as they are very rich. (When cutting, wipe knife blade each time.)

### Newcomers Sue and Dick Vitale

Sue and Dick Vitale bought Swope's house on High Street in October. They had been Port Jefferson, Long Island, NY residents for 23 years. They have three children, Richard, 28, Christine, 26, and Stephen, 25, who lives with them in the High Street home. They chose Bradford because the commute was easy for Dick and the Swope house and lakeside property was much to their liking.

Dick was a Navy lieutenant from 1957 to 1965, and then a Captain for Pan American Airlines until his retirement last fall. He is now Chief Flight Instructor at Maruzen Hawthorne Aviation in Antrim. Stephen is also a flight instructor there.

Sue was a teacher in Florida before Richard was born. She returned to teaching 1983-85, to work with learning disabled children. For the past six years, she was a volunteer with the group "Healing the Children." She has escorted one to three children at a time from Guatemala to the U.S. for surgery or medical care. They were cardiac, colon, burn, or cleft palate patients.

Sue describes herself as an avid counted cross-stitch addict. She hikes, and enjoys cross-country and down-hill skiing. Dick also likes hiking and cross-country skiing. They have traveled extensively in Europe and have lived in France and England.

For sixteen years, Dick and Sue were Eucharistic Ministers in the Catholic Church, and were also involved with presenting the Pre Cana (marriage preparation program for engaged couples) and "National Marriage Encounter." The Vitales have always been active in their community. Dick was Chairman of the Port Jefferson Planning Board and plans to run for the Bradford Planning Board in March. They were co-presidents of the PTO in their former town. They are already members of the Bradford Historical Society and look forward to taking part in many town events. --Elinor Robie

### Bradford seniors accepted to colleges

Congratulations to Bradford KRHS seniors who have already been accepted by colleges:

Emmy Keays, UNH (early acceptance)  
Mel Fleming, D'Youville College,  
Buffalo, NY

### The Workshop, active local crafts group

The Workshop is a local group that meets once a month, usually the second Thursday of the month, at the Friendship House in South Newbury. Members and friends come from Bradford and Newbury to work together on projects for the community and to learn and share ideas with one another.

Sewing quilts for the Pediatric Unit at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital, knitting lap robes for the Veterans Hospital, and making stuffed toys for young children being transported by ambulance, are some of the current projects.

The work session is followed by a bag luncheon at noon. For the program, members can present a topic or guest speakers are invited to share their expertise on a particular topic. Recent speakers have presented programs on Elderhostel, financial planning, and ecology.

Programs presented by members have included home decorating ideas, herbs and gardening, and guidelines for those who find themselves suddenly single. Every year, the UNH Extension Group, of which the Workshop is a spin-off, sponsors a six-month living abroad experience for a New Hampshire young person. This person then presents a program based on her/his experiences in the foreign country, complete with slides, lecture and a meal based on the country's cuisine - a popular event.

At the next meeting, on February 13, two members, Greta Rule and Elinor Robie, will demonstrate the early American craft of quilting. They'll discuss its history, show how it's done, and then provide an opportunity for people to try it. If you're curious and would like to know more about it, come to the next meeting.

Lou Doten is currently president of the Workshop. For more information, you may contact her at 938-2754.

--Clare Bensley

John McKew

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**FORUM, continued**

receipts (75% collected; 9 houses taken for taxes), Highway Committee (waiting for chairman to bring nominees to Selectmen), elimination of plastics from recycling (cost of recycling outweighs possible income). In discussing the apportionment issue, Hambrecht noted that there will be a school warrant article on the 50-50 formula this year. Hugh Keays suggested a campaign to get a large turnout to the meeting and solicited volunteers to help with transportation.

Audrey Sylvester and Barbara Hall then turned the discussions to library matters. There were several questions concerning the hours the library was open and how to increase them. Hall noted that State guidelines for hours are based on town population and Bradford meets their requirements. When Hall mentioned limitations to increasing the size of the library, a suggestion was made to consider moving to the old elementary school, James House. As the abutter with a deeded interest in the building, George Cilley informed the assembly that his grandfather had signed off rights to regain control of the building if it were not used for a school. His deed now says simply that the building must be maintained in good repair. The issue now would be whether the school district might at some time allow the town to acquire the building.

Kathleen Bigford described the school volunteer program and the Parent-Teacher Club's contributions to the elementary school. She noted that last year the volunteers had contributed over 7,000 hours of work at the school. Ellen Hersh encouraged everyone to attend the school budget meetings now being held and the school district meeting on March 21.

Fred Winch was called on to make a presentation concerning an upcoming town project, called Community Cornerstones. (see page 3 article) After Winch's presentation, Scheffy noted that the meeting was running late and it might not be possible for everyone to make a presentation. The consensus of the group was to continue the meeting until all who wanted to had spoken. Presenters discussed contributions and issues of the Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission, Rescue Squad, Fire Department, Police Department, Health Officer, Town Treasurer, and Trustees of the Trust Funds. The final presenter, Parker McCartney, Public Safety Officer, ended the meeting on a light note with the comment, "Blessed be they who volunteer. They shall be good for nothing."

**APPORTIONMENT, continued**

After the 1988 District meeting Selectmen from Bradford and Warner decided to sue the School District and the NH Department of Education. The legal issues involved in the case are complicated. However, at the basis of the suit was the argument that the 1988 District vote was unconstitutional.

The Court's decision clearly supports local control of cooperative school systems. Traditionally, the NH Dept. of Education has been unwilling to change the tax formulas set up by school districts.

At a meeting of the Bradford Women's Club on January 21 Selectman Dick Hambrecht confirmed that the Selectmen from Bradford and Warner had agreed to go ahead with a Supreme Court appeal of the case. When asked how much the case had cost the town, Mr. Hambrecht replied that Bradford's share was approximately \$22,000. At the Town Issues Forum on January 22, Mr. Hambrecht reported that Bradford's share of the planned Supreme Court appeal would be \$5,000.

Also at the Forum Mr. Hambrecht was asked if there was an alternative to taking this case further and paying legal fees that might not effect the desired change. He replied that an article would again be placed on the school district warrant to change the tax formula to the 50/50 cost split. Anyone wishing to change the formula should attend the meeting and vote on this article.

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**GARDENING**

by Fred Winch

Yesterday I was reaching into the freezer for a homegrown frozen vegetable for dinner. The choice was peas, beans and broccoli - the raccoons had had their way with the corn last summer. I spotted a package of my favorite beans, Royalty ... a purple bean ... until it is cooked, at which time it turns to green. We have been growing it since the early sixties as it has a fine flavor, starts early, and is not the favorite of the Mexican Bean Beetles.

It came to mind how I got started with that bean. Farmer Seed & Nursery Co. of Fairbault, MN had sent me a catalog and there were several varieties of vegetables that were different from those I usually planted. Among them were Royalty bean and some peppers the company noted were developed in New Hampshire. It was then I first heard of Elwyn Meador, the plant breeder at UNH. Varieties of fruits and vegetables appeared from time to time with his name in catalogs of other companies. Melons, blueberries, shell beans, popcorn, and the Reliance peach are on the list of great plants Meador has bred.

His contributions are recognized beyond New England. Though he retired recently, he has not ceased his work with genes. He has been followed by Doctors Gerry Dunn and Brent Loy at the University. Dunn has developed a new multicolored corn that is marketed at farm stands for autumn decoration. Loy last year introduced and placed on the market the Passport melon, which is well adapted to our climate and growing season. His other contributions are new cultivation techniques for growing strawberries, the use of spun fabric row covers and this year, the marketing of a new I.R.T. mulch which warms the soil rapidly and promotes rapid early development of plants. The products of these three research men have made it possible for commercial growers or home gardeners to extend the value of their efforts. They each deserve a large vote of thanks.

Many backyard gardeners complain that normal seed packs contain more seed than they need. Seedsmen regionally have responded by putting out inexpensive minipacks. They have also developed test gardens in northern New England as proving grounds for their seeds. Typical among them are Johnny's Seeds of Albion ME, Pinetree Seeds of New Gloucester ME, The Cook's Garden of Londonderry VT. If you do not have a catalog, they will be happy to supply one.



# At Work ~ At Home

by Audrey V Sylvester

Not everyone in Bradford who works at home has a business partner 500 miles away. But designer Oona Tropeano finds having the other half of her business in Washington, D.C., an advantage. Tropeano designs foil-stamped, embossed greeting cards and stationery for her company, *Mercury Designs*. The cards are produced in D.C. at Raff Embossing & Foilcraft, the company that embosses all programs for White House ceremonial functions.



Oona Tropeano of Mercury Designs

Tropeano once owned an antique business on Newbury Street in Boston (from 1971 - 1976). She had a knack even then for arranging displays of antiques, so much so that customers wanted her to design interiors of their homes, businesses, restaurants and nightclubs. Although she had trained in art at The International Academy in Salzburg, Austria and The Art Institute in Boston, she realized she needed more training. At 35, she enrolled in The Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, emerging herself in "one of the best ... and hardest ... things I have ever done."

After living in Los Angeles, she returned to New England and opened a new Boston business, the "Twentieth Century Gallery." She met an old friend from her Newbury Street days, Stephen Labadie, who worked at Raff Embossing. He added classy embossed designs to the gallery's announcements. After eight months, admitting that she was "truly bored," she went to D.C. to see the embossing process at Raff. She and Labadie decided to go into the greeting card business and formed *Mercury Designs*. Tropeano described Raff as "the highest quality company in the country that does this kind of work."

*Mercury Designs* produces elegant cards--the ultimate quality. Glowing foils of gold, silver, iridescent colors, brilliant greens, reds, blues and subtle colors sparkle on the surfaces of rich, textured card stock. Designs vary from historical architectural fragments to cherubim and hearts. With meticulous attention to the smallest detail, they even design and foil-stamp the card boxes. The cards are a feast to the eye and to the hand.

How do the designs evolve? Tropeano begins with a line drawing, then a shaded drawing, then color separations. A flat die is made of each color. In Washington, Tropeano and Labadie fabricate the card designs with different combinations of foils and papers. A fourth die, a brass raised surface of the entire image is made. Using heat and pressure, this die pushes up the imprint from the back of the paper making a raised (embossed) surface on the top side of the card. *Mercury Designs* has won awards for its cards from The Print Institute of America for "Excellence in Print" and from the Greeting Card Association for "Outstanding Design and Workmanship."

Tropeano's Bradford neighbors have been involved in her designs. When she drew a horse and sleigh for a Christmas card, she checked out the details of her drawing with history buff Sonny Harris and horse owner Janna Perkins.

Oona Tropeano has lived in her parents' Bradford home since 1987. Living for years in urban environments, she wanted to try out living in a semi-rural area. She observes, "The cycle of life up here is very important. Everyone has something to do at every season...and it's a hard life up here, compared to living in urban areas. It's more physical and I guess it's the kind of stuff you have to do yourself, like shovel off the roofs--things that I have never done in my entire life. But I enjoy it."

Passing by her Main St. garden, one would think gardening came naturally to her. She described herself as overly enthusiastic when the first seed catalogues came. "I planted 35 different kinds of seeds....Well, you live and learn." She laughed as she reported removing old rose bushes, "I pulled the bumper off the car getting them out, they were in so deep." Oona Tropeano's garden is like her cards--a deliciously designed combination of color, texture and beauty.



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# TECH TALK

## by Howard Brooks

To continue from last month, I would like to pass on one other "did you know" when using DOS...a changing from directory to directory short cut. When in a sub-directory of a directory, you can go directly to a second sub-directory in the same directory. This command is: CD.\name. For example, to change from a directory called C:\WPFILES to a directory called C:\WPLETTERS, type CD.\LETTERS from C:\WPFILES.

Also, if you have not put the command PROMPT \$PSG in your Autoexec.bat file, be sure to add it. The new Edit command that comes with DOS 5.0 is excellent for this type of file maintenance. (MicroSoft finally did something with the tired old Edlin when 5.0 came with Edit.) Also with DOS 5.0 be sure to put the command DOSKEY in that same Autoexec.bat file. This will let you recall past DOS commands that you typed simply by touching the up and down arrow keys.

Enough of "did you knows"! Let's move on to something less technical. I'll talk more in the future about some of the memory management features of DOS 5.0

Have you or your children tried my daughter's favorite game, called "Commander Keen?" We just received part two from a friend to continue the challenge after "beating" part one. Billy Blaze, an 8 year old genius, working in his backyard clubhouse, has created an interstellar star ship from old soup cans, rubber cement, and plastic tubing. He builds a megarocket from his brother's video game controls and his mother's vacuum cleaner (for propulsion), his fathers' liquor stock (for propellant) and the family car battery (for running it all).

He dons his brother's football helmet and sets off on a space quest by boarding the Vorticon mother ship which hovers above Earth. In game one, his quest is to Mars where he must destroy the Vorticons. The game is not as macabre as it may sound.

"Commander Keen" has many pluses ... first it uses VGA graphics and second it is shareware. Once played and enjoyed you can register for \$30 and receive all three games in the series. Registration can be mailed to Apogee Software, P. O. Box 476389, Garland, TX 75047 or use 1-800-852-5659 to order. We recommend "Commander Keen" to children of all ages.

### SCHOOL, continued

appear on the March 21 ballot is a proposal to add several classrooms to the overcrowded Sutton Elementary School. Cost of the addition is projected at \$720,000 for the building, plus an additional \$70,000 to cover the cost of anticipated new equipment, a possible new staff member, and the first-year interest of the bond. Please note that the School Board voted merely to put this article on the warrant for district-wide voter consideration; it has not yet decided whether it can support the building proposal in the current economic climate.

School apportionment formula issues are covered elsewhere in The Bradford Bridge. School board members will begin an intensive review of the curriculum on January 30. Dates to remember: February 6, district-wide budget hearing (7:00 pm at the high school), and March 21, annual school district meeting (9:00 am at the high school). BE THERE! To find out more, please call me at 938-2196.

--Ellen Hersh, Kearsarge Regional School Board representative from Bradford



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### Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter


A winter birding trip to Plum Island, Newburyport, Massachusetts, sponsored by the Soo-Nipi Audubon Chapter, will take place February 8th (snow date February 15). Call trip leader Gary Stansfield at 763-5652 for meeting place and time.

Lillian Files, renown bluebird enthusiast and past president of the North American Bluebird Society and Tyngsboro Bird Society of Massachusetts, has been invited to present her slide program, "Bring Back the Bluebirds," at St. Andrews Episcopal Church on February 14 at 7:30 pm. For many years Ms. Files has maintained and monitored 100 nesting boxes on a New England Bluebird Trail. And on her own property, she has maintained 45-50 bluebird boxes for the past 45 years, with a high rate of successful nestings. Her program will explain the bluebirds' plight and steps to be taken for good, effective bluebird conservation. A donation of \$2.00 would be appreciated. Call John Robie at 938-2057 for more information.

The Chapter has announced the following slate of officers for 1992: president, Gary Stansfield, Sunapee; vice-president and program chairman, John Robie, Bradford; treasurer, Virginia Buckley, New London; secretary, Alison Hayward, Grantham; publicity, Phyllis Curtiss, New London; field trip coordinator, Clare Bensley, Bradford; and membership and liaison for Audubon New Hampshire bird hotline, Fred Sladen, Bradford.

Regular chapter meetings, which include slide programs, are held the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in New London. For more information on programming, call John Robie, 938-2057. Field trips are planned for each month, under the direction of Clare Bensley, 938-5482.

--Phyllis Curtiss

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# Library Lantern

by Maggi Ainslie

As your librarian, a fair amount of my time is spent reading book reviews - it goes with the territory. The journals announce what is to be published in the upcoming months. This gives us a three-four month advance notice and alerts us to acquire choice titles that will be in high demand. The reviews cover adult and young adult titles of fiction and non-fiction, as well as books for children being read to. Reference books, including encyclopedias and dictionaries are also included.

The New York Times Book Review, as well as Booklist, a bi-monthly journal, Forecast and Booking Ahead, and announcement publications from Baker & Taylor (our major supplier) are used. We belong to a Baker & Taylor Co-op, giving us the best possible discount for our titles.

Most magazines have book reviews of some sort and I check these. Sometimes a library customer will bring in a review! One of the nicest parts of this job is when a young student rushes in to tell you about a great new book being read at the moment.

Luckily, I like reading reviews and find people's reading habits and tastes interesting because they are so varied.

Recently my assistant, Elsa Weir, Trustees Janet Sillars and Barbara Hall, and I went book buying. Here are some of the new titles at Brown Memorial Library:

- Breakdown*, by Pronzini
- Cold Times*, by Moore
- Complete Book of Tax Deductions 1992*, by Holzman
- Damon Runyon*, by Breslin
- Day the Rabbi Resigned*, by Kemelman
- Fugitive Nights*, by Wambaugh
- Hook!* A novel for young readers, by Gravel (PB)
- The Light Book*, by Hyman (PB)
- ME*, by Hepburn
- Mountain Bikes*, by Abramowski
- Snowshoe Thomson*, by Levinson
- Sovereign--Elizabeth II and the Windsor Dynasty*

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Edward L. Brooks

## Budget Committee prepares for hearing

The Bradford Budget Committee is meeting weekly to formulate the proposed budget for consideration at public hearing.

All town department budgets have been submitted and discussed with those responsible. The effort now is to "gel" the operating budget into a package that satisfies the collective judgment of the Budget Committee and, hopefully, the voters.

The Municipal Budget Act, RSA 32, requires town departments to present their budget justifications to the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. The Selectmen then review the proposals and decide on their recommendations. The Budget Committee reviews the department requests, projected operations and services to be provided, and the Selectmen's recommendations for those needs. With this information, they then construct the proposed budget for public review.

Everything that involves money must be presented to the Budget Committee. The committee must look at every item presented and pass judgment on it. That is, all items must be listed as "recommended" or "not recommended" in the formal budget.

Additional to the formal budget are warrant articles that involve money. A "recommended" or "not recommended" decision is voted by the Committee and listed in the warrant.

This year the committee expects to present an overall budget very close to last year's. The town will experience some help this year by having paid the fire station's mortgage. Salary and insurance costs involve the greatest increases.

The formal budget hearing will be held at 7:00 pm on February 12. Interested persons should attend and participate! Two committee positions will be up for election this year. We encourage everyone to participate in the election process.

--Bernie Lamach

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# SPORTS by Larrin Tucker

News briefs: The Kearsarge 5th-6th grade girls basketball team had an undefeated season--10 wins and 0 losses. Congratulations to Bradford players Jenny Gillespie, Jessie Hoffman, and Nicole Thomas, and coaches Ed Rehor and Wally Baker.

Congratulations to Brackett Scheffy, who placed second in Men's A singles tennis in the King Ridge Racquet Club's annual winter classic.

This month I want to highlight an exciting program at the High School that uses sports activities to teach students about more than "the game." The SEE Club (Seeking Environmental Education), which began a decade ago, takes kids on monthly outings designed to overcome limitations, establish a group concept of working together, and above all else, break down high school peer stereotypes.

Three Bradford students went on the most recent trip, a seven-mile cross-country ski/hike into Zealand Falls in the White Mountains. Heather Beaton, Seth Lippincott and Thorsten Lohmann were among those who planned and participated in the chilly overnight camping trip. Seth says, "It was excellent. The view was so clear you could see a mountain in New York. And I hadn't skied in so many years, it was great to get back to it."

High school math teacher Warren Brook, who leads the group, feels that the reason this non-credit extra-curricular club works at achieving its objectives is because kids of all backgrounds and types are thrown together in situations that require trust and cooperation. This will prove especially valuable in their next scheduled event... an ice climbing expedition in the White Mountains! Other upcoming trips include canoe and bike challenges...more power to you, SEE Club!

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# February Calendar

**Monday, February 3**

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00pm

Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Warner Lodge, 7:15 pm

**Tuesday, February 4**

Deadline for submitting warrant articles by petition

Zoning Board of Adjustment, 7:00 pm

**Thursday, February 6**

Friends of the Library story/film/discussion, 7:00 pm

KRSD School Budget Meeting, High School, 7:00 pm

**Saturday, February 8**

Supervisors of the Checklist, 10:00 am - noon, Town Hall

**Monday, February 10**

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 pm

Preschool and kindergarten registration, town hall, 7:00-8:00 pm

**Tuesday, February 11**

Planning Board meeting, 7:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 12**

Budget Committee hearing, 7:00 pm

**Thursday, February 13**

Workshop Group, 11:00 am.  
See article on page 7

**Friday, February 14**

Young Children's Valentine Party, 10:00 am, Church Vestry. See article on page 3

PTC Family Valentine Dance, 7:00 pm

**Sunday, February 16**

Odds Bodkin benefit performance, 2:00 pm; Bradford Elementary School  
See article on page 2

**Monday, February 17**

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 pm

Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Warner Lodge, 7:15 pm

**Tuesday, February 18**

Presidential Primary, town hall, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, February 19**

PTC meeting 7:00 pm  
Child care available 7:00-8:30

Bradford Bog slide show, Baptist Church, 7:30 pm; See article on page 5

**Thursday, February 20**

Friends of the Library story/film/discussion, 7:00 pm

**Monday, February 24**

Selectmen's meeting, 7:00 pm

24-28 School vacation

**Tuesday, February 25**

Planning Board, 7:30 pm

**Saturday, February 29**

Supervisors of the Checklist, 10:00 am - noon, Town Hall

To list events for the month of March, call Louise Signorino, Calendar Editor, at 938-2608.

# Classified Ads

**WANTED.** Volunteer with engineering background to assist the Bradford Fire Department in obtaining permits for dry hydrant installation. Call Chris at 938-2630.

**FOR RENT:** one-bedroom apartment, partial heat, hot water, plowing, cable hook-up. References, deposit. \$330/month. Call 938-5425.

**FOR SALE.** White enamel wood/coal burning kitchen range with water coil and warming ovens. \$300 or BO. Call 938-2110.

**CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.** Bradford mother at convenient location. Reasonable rates. Call 938-5225.

**PLOWTRUCK FOR SALE.** With Fisher snowplow. Needs work. Call Mike anytime at 927-4258.

**BANJO & GUITAR LESSONS.** Taught by professional instructor. Call 938-5225.

**PLAYGROUP.** At-home Mom with 9-month-old would like to form a playgroup with other moms and their babies. Call Melanie at 456-2137.

**CONSIGNMENT CRAFTS.** Local crafts shop looking for consignment crafts. Call anytime 938-2222.

**FOR SALE.** Snowblower attachment for John Deere 111 tractor. \$300 or BO. Call 938-2110.

To place a FREE classified ad, call Mary Mitchell, Classified Rep, at 938-5268.