



The Chronicler

Newsletter of the Hartland Historical Society, Inc.
Gaylord House Museum, 141 Center Street, West Hartland

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HartlandHistoricalSociety.com

Fall Edition 2014

Members Annual Fall Meeting Notice

Potluck Luncheon - Come One, Come All!

1pm, Sunday, **October 12** - West Hartland Hall/Library

Bring a dish to share. Beverages & table settings will be provided.

25th Anniversary Celebration of the Gaylord House Museum a great time at the Blueberry Picnic!

"Hartland Remembers" book revealed & dedicated

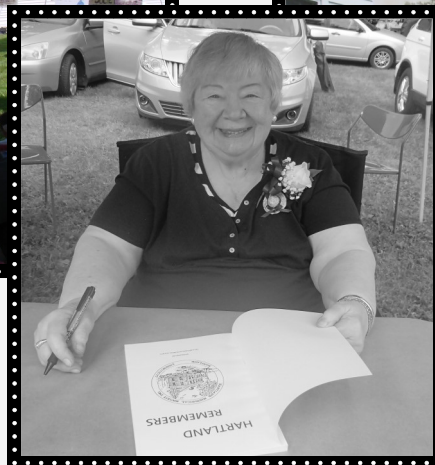
Editor, Judy Devlin, along with assistance from Joanne Groth and Pat Davis, brought this book to life. This book is a collection of 41 stories about Hartland and authored by Hartland residents. Photos from the museum's collection and a few borrowed were added. It was a twinkle in the eye of Joan Stoltze over 15 years ago to have a book for the 25th celebration. In honor of Joan's contributions to Hartland Historical Society, it was dedicated to her.

Would you like to purchase "Hartland Remembers"?

Come to any of our events: October 5, Members Meeting in W. Hartland or
December 13, Santa Breakfast at Fire House where the book and all other Hartland related items will be sold.



Mary Root and granddaughter, Emily bring blueberry pickin' song to life with dance. They also offered floral decorated hats!



Joan Stoltze signs book dedicated to her.



Hartland Historical Society House Tour by Pat Davis

On Sunday, June 8, 2014, Richard and Joan Holmes graciously opened their historic home at 249 Center Street in West Hartland to society members. Joan and Dick proudly served as tour guides to the 30 fortunate members who attended, pointing out many unique features of the home they've owned since 1994.

The ell portion, which now consists of a family room, kitchen, bathroom and the room above, was built in the 1780s. When they took ownership of the house, the wood shed and outhouse were in very poor condition so Dick restored that portion, turning it into a large, brightly-lit, comfortable family room with windows all around to view some of the lush gardens they have created. The newer front part of the house was built on the original stone foundation around 1850.

The vicinity of the current bathroom served as West Hartland's post office when Florence Ransom served as postmaster from 1940 to 1959. Residents picked up their mail from the side window. During renovation of this bathroom, Dick discovered the original 1780s well, still full of clear water.

Other interesting features of the house include Joan's doll collection which fills the upstairs room in the ell, a mural in the front hall depicting Route 20 from East to West Hartland in the 1800s painted by Marilyn Way of Granby, and kitchen cabinets made from chestnut floor boards removed from the attic. There is decorative woodwork in the more formal front parlor where Florence taught piano lessons. A post and beam garage/barn was added to the property by the Holmes and the front yard boasts the original stone hitching post.

Upon completion of the tour, guests were treated to refreshments on the side porch, which overlooks more of the beautiful gardens and stone walls. While there, several guests caught glimpses of the wild turkeys that frequent the yard. Other visitors Dick and Joan have seen in their yard include bears and bobcats.

All who spent part of their afternoon in this lovely home on June 8th experienced the warmth and comfort that Joan and Dick have created. We are so grateful they allowed us to visit!

A New Face At the Hartland Carnival by Mandy Nurge

If you walked around the East Hartland Volunteer Fire Dept Carnival this summer you would have come face to face with a new attraction! Hartland Historical Society Executive Directors decided to dress up their booth with some old fashioned fun- A Clown Face Bean Bag Toss. It was a great hit! Participants, mostly under teen age, had three chances... sometimes more... to feed the clown a bean bag hackie sack. Winners received some old fashioned fireballs, lollipops, and licorice stick candy.

However, this was no ordinary bean bag clown face. When Ada May Parmelee asked resident artist and architect, Hank Prussing, to paint a face, Hartland Historical Society came away with another treasure! Hank talked of his passion for the circus, his connection with Bridgeport, and his decision to paint the face of the most famous clown, Lou Jacobs.

Lou Jacobs was truly a Master Clown who performed with *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey*® for 60 years from 1925 to 1985. In the latter decades of his long life and career, Jacobs achieved well-deserved renown. His instantly recognizable auguste clown face -- cone head, tiny hat, tuft of hair, arching eyebrows and oversized mouth -- was featured prominently on posters, billboards, magazine covers, in television commercials, and even on a United States postage stamp.¹ He was inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame in 1989. He is credited with popularizing the clown car, which has been a staple of circus clown acts ever since. He is also often cited as the originator of the red rubber ball nose, which is used by many clowns today.²

1Ringling.com 2Wikipedia



Photo is of Hank Prussing helping with set up of clown face toss game



Hartland Mountain Singers

Gerry Gaylord

Dan & Julie Spagnesi

ANNUAL BLUEBERRY PICNIC CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY By Karen McNulty

Connecticut Yankees had no need to be concerned about the weather for the Hartland Historical Society's Annual Blueberry Picnic. Held on a most perfect summer day, August 10, the 25th anniversary opening of the remarkable Gaylord House Museum in West Hartland drew a crowd of 150. The Hartland Mountain Singers (including Sally Dewey, Ed Baldwin, Grace Jones, Ed Downs, Doug Carrier and Nicole Smith) set the atmosphere for a celebration of friends and memories. A duet with Dan Spagnesi (music teacher, Hartland School) and his wife Julie ushered in the mood for a leisurely lunch, aptly set on the grill by Rob Davis, Bud and Jared Groth, and served by Pat Davis and Irene Eseppi. Organizer and Emcee of the day was suitably our star curator and president, Joanne Groth.



Ada May Parmelee's handmade pins (*photo of Ada May with pins*) were worn by those who contributed in the initial years of the renovation. Mary Root and granddaughter Emily provided happily decorated floral straw hats. Louise Hayes and Megan Lindgren accepted blueberry desserts for the end of the afternoon, to be accompanied by coffee brewed by Josephine Yanchak. Judith Palinkas was kept busy selling HHS items throughout the day along with homemade ant traps for hummingbird feeders made by Chuck Osborn. Set up and various support was also given by George and Gloria Ryan, Lynn Osborn and Mandy Nurge, while Neil Mueller manned a video camera for oral history. Friends and guests visited, and had lunch, awaiting the main program and Mary Root's blueberry pickin' dance. Guests came from all over Connecticut: Mavis Davis from Simsbury, Sally Laubin from Avon and Russ and Peg Osborn from Coventry. Laura Guptil made it in from Boston and one branch of the Stoltze family came from Sturbridge, MA. Mavis and Sally, along with many others in attendance, such as Joan Winegar, Joe Kane and Al Lilliendahl, have supported the HHS for more than 25 years.

Hartland's own mixed and mingled prior to the program, such as original idea planners for the renovation of the Gaylord House Paul Eseppi and Joe Alicata. There were recollections of those passed: Paul Crunden, Jack Myler, Don Dewey, George Winegar, Leon Stoltze, Dick and Janet Pearson and many others. For Hartland residents, their families and guests, the golden sharing spirit of the afternoon was blessed by a community of ideas, building projects remembered, challenges overcome and friendships forged forever. Special guest Joan Stoltze awaited a special moment.

The main program included traditional blueberry stories told by Roxane Kane and Sally Laubin, followed by short speeches that tied together all the thoughts of the day. Marsha Ransom reminisced how she loved her heritage and her town, became involved in the 1980s, painted her heart out as the Gaylord House took on its final details, and has continued to be a lifelong supporter. Karen McNulty told of becoming curator through the force of Georgean Fiehler (and her team of Gert Lilliendahl, Eva Hoffer and Sally Dewey.) The collection took 4 years to be prepared for 1989, and Karen maintained and preserved it through the 90s. Lastly, Paul Crunden's granddaughter Heather (Winegar) Mudano spoke of deeply personal ways that Paul connected to Hartland and its folk, and to the house and its total and complete renovation. The talks closed with a moving and sentimental solo by Jerry Gaylord, a descendant of Nathaniel Gaylord and the Gaylord families.

But perhaps no moment of sentiment could have proved as emotional as the dedication and presentation to Joan Stoltze of HHS's newest publication, "Hartland Remembers." Joan has served on the HHS Board for 25 years and as President for more than 20. Her pure devotion, commitment and enthusiasm – which was more grit and determination than could be honored between fresh

pages – persevered through the renovation and will continue into the future of the HHS. With an earnest, loving introduction by Ronnie Alicata, this highpoint of the day was the icing on the blueberry cake. Everyone had a tear, except maybe Joan, joyous but composed from the bottom of her heart, the promise of her reassurance having created its own history (or legacy) for Hartland’s children and grandchildren.

The extraordinary Gaylord House has enjoyed many years of people of all ages and places passing through its doors --to be part of the magic that made it into a distinct and exceptional living museum that will always tell an everlasting story.

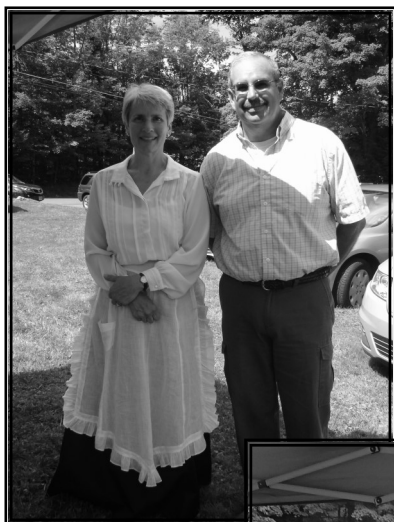


Speakers : 1st row: left to right Roxanne Kane with Joe Kane, Sally (Hayes) Laubin, Marsha Ransom with Joan Stoltze, Heather (Winegar) Mudano.

2nd row; Joanne Groth with Karen McNulty and Ronnie Alicata.

Other photos of HHS volunteers serving food and guests enjoying the day and waiting their turn for desserts!





Hats and Smiles Filled the Day at the Blueberry Picnic!

Please Note Book Correction

Did you buy a Hartland Remembers book at the picnic? Please go to page 26, Hartland School and make correction to cost of school. An extra 0 was added somewhere along the line. Should read \$600,000. Never know who might be reading your book years from now. Thank You.



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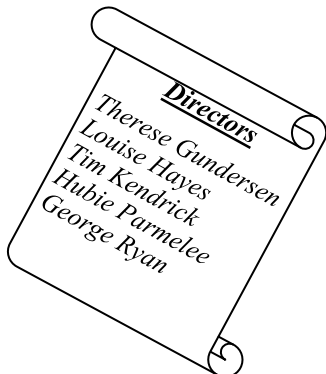
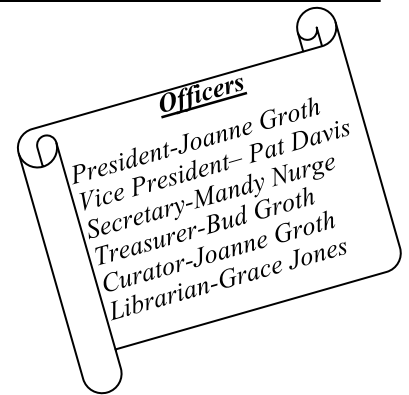
The Hartland Historical Society's mission is to discover, procure and preserve whatever historical facts may be available relating to the civil, military, literary, cultural, and ecclesiastical history of the town of Hartland; and to investigate and preserve such traditions and knowledge as now exist only in the memory of persons. The Society will be responsible for sponsoring and exhibiting the collection of historical articles, pictures and other items relating to the town.

Hartland Resident
Postal Customer

Mark Your Calendar

Santa Breakfast December 13, Saturday
8:00-11:00am E.H. Fire House

Eat all the pancakes you want. Sausages, coffee and juice will also be served. Of course, Santa himself will also be there waiting to listen to children's holiday requests and pose for pictures.



Contributing Writers:
Pat Davis, Karen McNulty,
Mandy Nurge

See inside....

- ◆ 25th celebration photos and story and more....

LET US KNOW IF

- ◆ you have a family story to tell about an instrument?
- ◆ Willing to exhibit family instrument for next year's exhibit